



**Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**  
United States Section  
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## **Cape Cod WILPF**

**July/August 2005**

No summer doldrums for us! We had a splashing good time at Dorothy Carver's -- see **Midsummer Night's Dreaming** for details, including Pushkin Carver overseeing the agenda. You'll find much of this issue having to do with the U.S. war against Iraq. Since education and action are inseparable, come to the **Cape Codders for Peace & Justice forum on Iraq and WILPF's Labor Day action** on the Mid-Cape Highway. And of course there's our annual **Hawks' Nest retreat**, to make new plans and renew our energy for the coming program year. Cape Cod is playing a key role in the new **Save the Water** campaign, and seven of us are headed to the **US Section Congress** next month.

In assembling this newsletter, I've reflected yet again on the inevitable militarism required to sustain patriarchal/power-over cultures. It was no coincidence that I dug to the bottom of my t-shirt drawer and have been the toast of Yarmouth, wearing: *The problem is dead soldiers, not gay soldiers. Ban the military!* What do we need to defend ourselves from? What is the source of real security? And in reading *The Women of Gitmo*, I wondered: Is it ok to dehumanize our boys and men in the name of "defense" -- to preserve the rule and wealth of a few? Amidst such musings, I'm all the more grateful to be part of a vibrant branch community -- hope to see you Labor Day weekend, to plot and play together. Bring a friend; it's a great time to get involved. *Mary Zepernick*



## **Hawks' Nest Ret**

**September 2 & 3:** 6 p.m. Friday for potluck dinner, singing, discussion (breakfast provided for over-nighters); 9 - 4 Saturday for a day of planning, swimming and kayaking. If you only come on Saturday, bring a potluck for lunch. The 2005-2006 meeting schedule will be set, so if you know of a standing engagement in the coming year, call Lynn Hiller, 508-349-7355, or Dianne Ashley, 508-255-2752. If the water currently lapping the steps of the lodge doesn't recede by the end of August, we have another location in mind. Look for word on the Cape Cod WILPF listserv and website at the end of the month; if you aren't on the listserv and would like to be, e-mail your address asap to [helenhelper@hotmail.com](mailto:helenhelper@hotmail.com). If you aren't online and plan to attend the retreat, leave a message for Laurie Gates, 508-432-4245.

# MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAMING



**Roses** to Laurie Gates & Nancy Munger for planning and facilitating the June evaluation and the Midsummer meeting!

The annual branch planning retreat at **Hawks' Nest** will be September 2 and 3 (see page for details).



Treasurer Lynn Hiller reported a balance of \$3188, with the Jami Sieber concert not yet fully accounted for. Additional expenditures are expected for Save the Water curriculum. We decided to make a gift of \$1090 at next month's US WILPF Congress, for the 90th Birthday Challenge Fund.

**Envisioning....**Save the Water campaign....visit Jerusalem....establish a relationship with a WILPF section in the Global South....build stronger community....have more fun....reach more young women....collaborate with Cape Codders for Peace & Justice on anti-war work....support for Peace in Space and anti-war marches....increase WILPF's visibility....Peace & Justice Theater Festival....sponsor discussion forums in different towns, bringing different viewpoints and sometimes outside speakers together....more meeting time for political discussion....spread around Cape Cod more....strengthen ties with the wider WILPF, especially in the Northeast....improve welcome, follow-up and orientation with new people....more working group breakfast meetings....print a branch brochure....more people taking responsibility for the work of the branch.

## Goals....

- hold a Save the Water study group this fall and one for the general public next spring
- establish a relationship with a Latin American or other Global South WILPF section
- continue support for the Human Rights Commission
- re-energize our meetings
- increase membership to 90 paid members
- outreach to young women in every event and action
- sponsor community gatherings on Save the Water and on the Middle East, and other topics, such as wind power
- continue anti-war work in coalition

## Decisions....

- have a WILPF table at the July 28 CCPJ event on Iraq
- hold a Labor day anti-war action (see calendar)
- hold an event with New England WILPFers to follow up on geographical meeting at Congress
- discuss our financial philosophy at the September meeting
- Elenita will design a "responsibility" survey for Hawks' Nest

**With sadness and gratitude to Helen Helfer, we recognized that this was her last Cape Cod WILPF meeting....for awhile. We wish her well in San Diego and promised to visit her! We also send Margy Dowzer and Myke Johnson our hopes for their new life in Portland, Maine. You'll all be missed!**

# CALENDAR

**Thursday, July 28:** Families stand for Peace, the Truth about Iraq, Tilden Auditorium, Cape Cod Community College, 7 p.m.; organized by Cape Codders for Peace & Justice. Please copy and distribute the flyer.

**Saturday, August 6 & Tuesday, August 9:** 60th anniversary of the bombing of **Hiroshima and Nagasaki**.

**August 9 - 14:** U.S. WILPF Congress, San Francisco State University. Laurie Gates and Elenita Muniz have done yeowoman duty as co- chairs of the program committee. Other Cape Codders going are Jackie Fields, Sandy Nichols and Mary Zepernick. The branch has helped fund Falmouth Academy student Mia Mitchell to attend the Leadership Institute, and her sister decided to go as well.

**Sunday, August 14:** Wellfleet Library, 8 pm; chanteuse **Pavia** accompanying herself on accordion, with special guest Brian Morris on acoustic guitar. \$15 at the door. This program celebrates the release of Pavia's new CD, and will include music from New York, Paris, Mexico, Italy, Germany, Eastern Europe.

**September 2 & 3:** Hawks Nest retreat, 6 p.m. Friday; 9 - 4 Saturday (see front page).

**September 5:** Labor Day; copy and distribute the flyer in this issue, and bring your signs and holiday guests to help send the departing tourists home with our message of : **END THE WAR/ OCCUPATION IN IRAQ! SUPPORT OUR TROOPS: BRING THEM HOME NOW!**

**"To be truly radical is to make hope possible rather than despair convincing."**  
Raymond Williams, 1921-1989, Welsh novelist

## Save the Water



Members of our branch have been involved in this new U.S. WILPF campaign from its beginning. Water was one of the themes at last summer's International WILPF Congress in Sweden, and Jackie Fields became part of the leadership team that submitted the proposal that made **Save the Water** one of the two new national campaigns, along with the **Middle East**. Late last fall some Cape Codders began meeting to explore a variety of water issues here, from keeping water as a public resource and pollution, including from the military base, to bottled water and personal/group actions. For months, Nancy Doutriel, Elaine Ehrlich, Laurie Gates, Lynn Hiller, Nancy Munger, and Mary Zepernick have been working on a study curriculum that will be used here and by others as part of the campaign. It was sent to Philadelphia on July 9, to be copied and shipped to the Congress in San Francisco. We plan to organize a study group this fall, in preparation for going public next year with more groups and actions here on Cape Cod. Don't be a drip -- begin collecting water articles and information now!

# Military mom supports troops, opposes the war

THE REGISTER THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2005

By Joe Burns  
jburns@cnc.com

Mimi Evans' oldest son has just returned from serving in Iraq. Her youngest son will be deployed there next month. The West Barnstable woman supports them and all the other sons and daughters in Iraq and Afghanistan. She doesn't support the war. And neither do her sons.

"My sons and I share the same political feelings. We've never wavered," says Evans a member of Military Families Speak Out, a nationwide organization with more than 2,000 members.

"I'm tired of people making assumptions about 'military families,'" Evans says of her reason for joining the group.

Evans' oldest son, who is 34, is a humanitarian aid worker who's served in Kosovo, Serbia, Afghanistan; and Iraq. Her youngest son, 29, is a Marine Corps captain and a JAG lawyer, who will report to Falujah next month. Evans is divorced from their father, a Vietnam vet, who also opposes the war in the Middle East. Evans does not have the same last name as her sons and she declined to give their names out of concerns for her son now serving in the military.

Evans' anti-war stance stretches to the Vietnam war. But for Evans, who met her husband after the war, Vietnam was an abstract. "He was the first person I knew who was in Vietnam. I was a fortunate son," says Evans, quoting a line from an anti-Vietnam war song by Creedence Clearwater Revival that referred to those shielded from the draft because of wealth or position as fortunate sons. She has not been shielded from the war in the Middle East.

Evans' son was already in the Marines on Sept. 11, 2001 and she was working for UNICEF in New York City. "I knew people who died that day," says Evans, who was and remains equally opposed to U.S. military actions in Afghanistan. "I felt then that attacking Afghanistan was just striking out at the most convenient target," she says. "Informed people knew that Sept. 11 was instigated, not by the Afghan people or by the Afghan government. It happened to be a convenient hideout for a bunch of Saudis."

Evans says she and her oldest son protested the war in Iraq before it began.

"I remember we were in the middle of this protest in New York. We were right on the front lines right in front of a New York City policeman and my son said to him 'we're doing this so my brother doesn't have to go to war.'"

Evans says that when her oldest son went to Iraq as a humanitarian, "It was almost as if he was trying to take his brother's place."



Mimi Evans will soon see her second son go to Iraq.  
Staff photo by Joe Burns

She says her youngest son was working in southern Iraq near the most dangerous areas, although he would make trips to Baghdad.

"He's not afraid of anyone and he never has been," Evans says. "He really enjoyed the Iraqi people. He used to make me so nervous because he would go out and hang out on the river or go and hang out in the little towns," she says.

"He would write me wonderful letters and took wonderful pictures of just ordinary people in Iraq going about their lives," Evans says, describing how they coped with the occupation and ongoing conflict.

"They would try to do the work that was in front of them and not think about the military presence," she says. "They just needed to survive day to day."

Evans' opposition to the war in no way conflicts with her support for the troops.

"I am so proud of my son, and all military people, whether they're in Iraq or not," Evans says.

Evans has shown that support for the troops doesn't have to mean supporting the war. She says that it also isn't merely a matter of sticking a yellow ribbon magnet on your car.

"When I see those yellow ribbons on cars that say 'Support the Troops.' I want to stop them and I want to say 'what are you doing to support the troops?' says Evans, who is producing a concert in New York to raise funds for injured civilians in Iraq.

"Unless you're really doing something - writing the troops a letter, sending them a CARE package. You have no right to have that on your car."

# *A Labor Day Action for Peace and Justice*

Please join the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom to:



**END THE WAR/OCCUPATION IN IRAQ**

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS:  
BRING THEM HOME NOW!**

**Monday, September 5, 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

**Bring your friends, signs and banners to  
the rest stop on Route 6 between exits 2 & 3**



# Capitol crimes

By Mary Zepernick

I recently spent a week in Washington, D.C., cat and dog sitting while my former housemates were on vacation. It's been more than 40 years since I moved there from Ohio. Now a reconstructed U.S. history teacher, doing penance, I returned to the nation's capitol with different eyes and sensibilities.

Longtime friend Barbara joined me from Seattle and I saw the city through her eyes as well. We visited the FOR Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam

## Guest Commentary

Wall. Words and their absence: quotes from Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt about war and social justice, all the more pertinent today; silent bronze soldiers trudging in greatcoats and helmets through the Korean winter; more than 58,000 names etched into the black granite. I found Walter Drosd, whose mother I worked with in the 1960s. Foot-weary and heart-sore at the end of the day, we saw a young man in the Metro Station with "Bring Them Home" hand-stenciled on the back of his T-shirt. When I said I liked his shirt, he turned around, looking young enough to be my grandson. On the front was "Support Our Troops." He told us he was a Marine who has seen two tours in Iraq. "I couldn't take it anymore, and we should do all we can to end it."

Barb and I returned to the house to find a phone message from a Mr. Roberts, wanting to talk to Andrea about what the Marines could do for her during her upcoming college experience. A recruiter had called her older brother at his college this spring, extolling the benefits of Marine summer camp.

Mr. Roberts phoned again the following day and will no doubt continue calling, given the reports of recruiting challenges and techniques. An article in that morning's Washington Post explained that the Defense Department has contracted with a private marketing firm for a multi-million dollar database of some 30 million 16- to 25-year olds — complete with Social Security and other identifying information — to "help the military identify potential recruits in a time of dwindling enlistment in some branches."

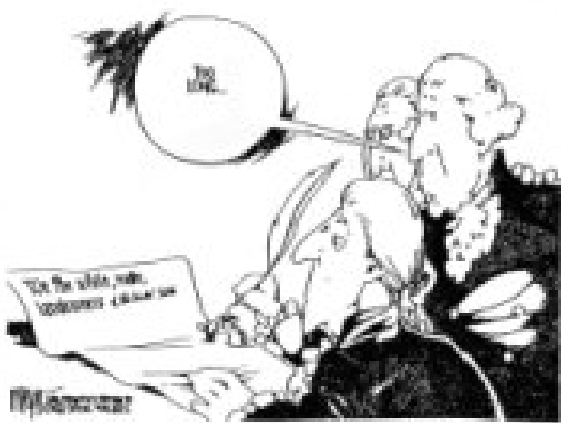
Privacy advocates are objecting to this circumvention of laws restricting the government's right to collect and hold such citizen information. We the taxpayers should object to funding this privatized intrusion via corporate contracting — having little or nothing to do with defense.

Bob Herbert's New York Times column of June 27 quoted Sandra Lowe, a school board member in California who found parents complaining that "the military recruiters were on campus all the time," sometimes handing out 'things that the parents did not want in their homes, including very violent video games.'" Lowe and others use the Web site leavemychildrenalone.org for information on the rights of young people and their parents.

Herbert points out that despite "lowering standards, raising bonuses and all but begging on their knees, the Army hasn't reached its recruitment quotas in months. There are always plenty of hawks in America. But the hawks want their wars fought with other people's children."

All this while the Bush administration not only sought inadequate funds for veterans' health care in next year's budget, but recently acknowledged that the Department of Veterans' Affairs is \$1 billion short for covering current needs.

Who is serving and who is being served?  
*Mary Zepernick lives in South Yarmouth.*



## “The Women Of Gitmo”

New York Times editorial, 7-15-05

There are countless reasons to be outraged about the abuses of detainees at American military prisons. But there is one abuse about which there can surely be no debate, even among the die-hard supporters of President Bush: the exploitation and debasement of women serving in the United States military. This practice must come to an immediate end, and the Pentagon must make it clear that such things will never be tolerated again.

Surely no one can approve turning an American soldier into a pseudo-lap-dancer or having another smear fake menstrual blood on an Arab man. These practices are as degrading to the women as they are to the prisoners. They violate American moral values - and they seem pointless.

Does anyone in the military believe that a cold-blooded terrorist who has withstood months of physical and psychological abuse will crack because a woman runs her fingers through his hair suggestively or watches him disrobe? If devout Muslims become terrorists because they believe Western civilization is depraved, does it make sense to try to unnerve them by having Western women behave like trollops?

Yet those appear to be the operative theories at Guantanamo Bay, where military jailers developed the "aggressive" interrogations that were later exported to the Abu Ghraib prison. A Pentagon report released Wednesday contained page after page of appalling descriptions of the use of women soldiers as sexual foils in interrogations. One officer ordered a soldier to buy some perfume at the PX and rub it on the arm of a detainee "to distract" him. The report said that in response, the prisoner tried to bite her, "fell out of his chair and chipped his tooth." It doesn't say that he was moved to divulge any secrets.

There were several instances when female soldiers rubbed up against prisoners and touched them inappropriately. In April 2003, a soldier did that in a T-shirt after removing her uniform blouse. Following up on an F.B.I. officer's allegation that a female soldier had done a "lap dance" on a prisoner, the report described this scene from the interrogation of the so-called 20th hijacker from the 9/11 attacks: A female soldier straddled his lap, massaged his neck and shoulders, "began to enter the personal space of the subject," touched him and whispered in his ear.

To us, that sounds a lot like what Mayor Rudolph Giuliani tried to ban from Times Square. But the Pentagon seemed utterly unconcerned with the fact that women in uniform had been turned into sex workers at Guantanamo. The report's only conclusion was that whatever the female soldier might have done, it wasn't really a lap dance. Another instance, in which a female interrogator touched a prisoner with red ink and told him it was her menstrual blood, was judged out of order - but only because the interrogator had cooked up the scheme to get back at the prisoner for spitting at her. The report said "retaliatory techniques" had to be approved in advance.

The report talks about how guards forced a captive to wear a bra, put thong underwear over his head, made him stand naked in front of women guards, put a dog leash around his neck and forced him to do stupid pet tricks. If that sounds familiar, it should. We all saw photographs of this exact behavior at Abu Ghraib.

Indeed, the abusive interrogations at Guantanamo Bay were developed under Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller, who later reorganized Abu Ghraib. To their credit, the authors of the report suggested that General Miller should be admonished" over the interrogation of the 20th hijacker. But they were overruled by his commanding officer, Gen. Bantz Craddock, whose previous job was as Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's military aide.

Religious conservatives have made their presence felt in so many other parts of the Bush administration, but they have been strangely quiet about these practices. And where are the members of Congress who wring their hands over the issue of women in combat? It's obvious that the Bush administration will never offer a real reckoning on the prisoner abuse, or that the Republican Party will demand one. But surely the dehumanizing of America's military women is a nonpartisan issue.

*The most heroic word in all  
languages is revolution."  
-Eugene Debs*



OUR STYLE DIFFERS FROM OUR  
FOREMOTHERS'  
BUT WILPF'S PRINCIPLES REMAIN THE SAME.



WE ARE PROUD OF WILPF'S 90 YEARS OF  
LAYING BARE THE LIES OF THE POWERFUL,  
WITH A CHEEKY AND COURAGEOUS SPIRIT!

CAPE COD WILPF

[www.capecodwilpf.org](http://www.capecodwilpf.org)

This is Cape Cod's ad for the U.S. WILPF Congress program; appropriately enough, it will grace the inside *back* page.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom: Cape Cod Branch  
Make Peace and Justice a Reality! Join WILPF!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ e-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

♀ WILPF MEMBERSHIP:       New       Renewal  
 \$35 Individual       \$40 Household       \$15 Limited Income

♀ CAPE COD BRANCH NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION:  
 Member: sliding scale \$5 to \$50 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Send form & check, payable to WILPF, Sandy Nichols, 320 Wood Rd., S. Yarmouth MA 02664.

Since its founding in 1915, the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom has connected women around the world in affirming that peace and justice are inseparable. Two of our founders, Jane Addams and Emily Greene Balch, were awarded Nobel Peace Prizes. WILPF has sections in 30 countries, branches in over 30 U.S. states, and consultative status at the United Nations. We continue to take action based on the interconnections of war, poverty, racism, sexism, heterosexism, classism, and economic exploitation as forms of violence in our countries and communities.

For more information, visit [www.wilpfcapecod.org](http://www.wilpfcapecod.org) or call one of the 2005-2006 branch conveners: Jackie Fields, 420-4143; Nancy Munger, 255-6869; Mary Zepemick, 398-1023



Women's International League  
for Peace and Freedom

**Cape Cod**

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*If we don't do the  
impossible, we  
shall be faced with  
the unthinkable.*

Petra Kelly  
1947-1992  
German Green  
Party co-founder;  
activist; politician.