



# WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

## STIR IT UP—WILPF HOSTED BY JEAN HAYS

If WILPF founder Jane Addams were still here today, she would probably be hosting *Stir It Up—WILPF*, which airs each fourth Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on KFCF. This station, owned by the local Fresno Free College Foundation and associated with KPFA Berkeley, is based in Fresno at 88.1 FM and generously offers time each Wednesday to various peace organizations to air their topics and promote upcoming peace events.

As WILPF has several Issues Groups, there's always an appropriate topic looming large. We try to bring in people to interview who are quite knowledgeable. An example of this is Pat Elder, retired military, who is making people aware of the dangers of the forever chemical, PFAS. Pat came to Fresno to do a workshop on PFAS and did *Stir It Up* while here. Find out more at [militarypoisons.org](http://militarypoisons.org).

*Stir It Up—WILPF* has also interviewed our WILPF-US president, Darien De Lu, and our own Jan Slagter, who is our WILPF-Americas representative to WILPF-International. Jan and Loretta Kensinger, both from the Women's Studies Department at CSUF, also did a *Stir It Up* interview on Women's Herstory Month in March a couple of years ago. Dr. Jean Kennedy, chair of our branch Unpacking Racism Issue Group, has been our *Stir It Up* guest several times, providing important information on that topic.

The Raging Grannies are affiliated with WILPF-Fresno and have serenaded the listening audience on two occasions for the holiday edition of *Stir It Up*. They sang alternative thought-provoking words to familiar holiday carols!



Raging Grannies serenade and inform *Stir It Up—WILPF* listeners. Photo by Evonne Waldo

Whether it's interviewing WILPFers remotely at our International Congress or talking with an Indigenous Mono tribal member about how tribes recognize so-called Thanksgiving, we always try to educate and broaden the minds of our listeners, as well as inform them of what means are available to them to help make the world a better place. Jane Addams would be smiling to know this!

—Jean Hays, *Stir It Up—WILPF* host



Photo by LVR

### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW! HERE'S HOW:

Send dues to WILPF-Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755.

WILPF-US membership is \$35/year. WILPF-Fresno sponsors a low-income rate of \$20.

For questions and information updates, contact Nancy Hatcher at [nhatcher46@gmail.com](mailto:nhatcher46@gmail.com) or Kyla Mitchell at [kyla.noelle@gmail.com](mailto:kyla.noelle@gmail.com).

### WILPF MEETING

Feb. 8 (second Thursday), 7 p.m., via Zoom (and sometimes also at Fresno Center for Nonviolence,

1584 N. Van Ness Ave.). Open to all members. Watch your e-mail for an announcement. For info on the in-person option, contact Teresa at [taca\\_03@ymail.com](mailto:taca_03@ymail.com).

### STIR IT UP—WILPF KFCF 88.1 FM

Feb. 28 (fourth Wednesday), 3 p.m. Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.

### WOMEN IN BLACK

Check first with Sue Kern for February at [skern@netptc.net](mailto:skern@netptc.net) or 559-349-3777.

## BEVERLY FITZPATRICK

Beverly "Bev" Fitzpatrick was an extraordinary woman, I was honored to be her friend.

Beginning at the end: She passed from this life on Saturday, Dec. 28; we celebrated her on Jan. 11.

Late July 2022, Bev was bitten by a mosquito carrying the West Nile virus.

She is one of the less than 1% of WNV cases who developed neuroinvasive symptoms, which caused partial paralysis in her legs and other health complications.

In September 2023, Bev was diagnosed with Valley fever. Obviously, Bev's poor body and lungs were severely compromised.

Despite the major health restraints she suffered and the complete change in her mobility and living circumstances, Bev maintained her bubbly, caring spirit and she remained involved in all the issues and groups she cared most about—all the way until her last days: Extraordinary!

My friendship with Bev began in the summer of 2012 when she was president of Peace Fresno. I joined their event with Medea Benjamin on her book tour for *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*. That summer, Bev's energy drew me in. From her, I realized that there was so much to be involved in locally and she seemed to have a connection to nearly everything.

Bev was a retired kindergarten and first-grade teacher and mentor for the Fresno Unified School District, so she seemed to enjoy being happily busy with her week filled with meetings and events for peace, social justice, human rights and political work.

By the fall of 2012, I joined WILPF-Fresno, only to find that Bev had also recently joined the Branch. At that time, in addition to Peace Fresno and WILPF, Bev had been involved with the local Occupy group, Progressive Democrats of America, the Democratic Central Committee, the Dakota Eco Garden, the *Community Alliance* newspaper, the UU Church of Fresno and Overpass Light Brigade, to name a few.

Bev was so dedicated to help she even delivered toilet paper and a care bag to homeless people every week with a UU Church friend, Karen. Out of the connections she made with homeless individuals, she co-founded an important nonprofit, Wings Advocacy Fresno.

Her circles of friends overlapped widely, and with her ability to see no one as a stranger I saw her get to know something about everyone she met. I saw the compassion she spread. Through Bev, I am forever connected to so many incredible people. She was one of the most genuine people I've ever met. Even though she was so involved, she made time to be with friends and prioritized being with her family. She loved spending time with her grandkids and always shared what they were up to.

I enjoyed being a peace and social justice warrior with Bev. We danced in flash mobs, stood on street corners during the day and freeway overpasses at night to spread awareness about important issues. We protested and lobbied, attended events and generally got in the way to create needed change locally and globally. Bev was always ready to be out there, to help those who needed a voice. Through WILPF, she learned about Israel's oppression of Palestinians; wearing her keffiyeh, she supported a Free Palestine.

She didn't just talk about the problems in our local and global communities, she worked tirelessly to bring change especially for the voiceless and marginalized communities. She even continued this advocacy after she got sick!

All of her nurses and caregivers, wherever she was, commented on how she was always preparing for a meeting or participating in something via Zoom or sending e-mails and she shared what and why so that they all knew the important work she was doing. I think we all were inspired by her tenacity.

As her friend, I saw how she brought her special love and light to the people around her. She held space for everyone. Hearing her stories, I knew that Bev was this dedicated, caring, adventurous soul her entire life. She jumped in, got involved and brought others with her. She opened her heart to spread her special gifts.

Even though my time with Bev was relatively short, I loved her as my chosen sister who accepted me, flaws and all. Bev gave meaning to the phrase: You can't add days to your life, but you can add life to your days.

She will forever be in my heart and will be by my side as I continue on.

—In peace, love and light,  
Teresa Castillo



Teresa Castillo and Beverly Fitzpatrick. Photo by Teresa Castillo



Raging Grannies sing honoring the life of Beverly Fitzpatrick. Photo by LVR



Beverly Fitzpatrick and Teresa Castillo. Photo by Teresa Castillo

THE CONTENT IN THIS SECTION IS PAID FOR BY WILPF. THE WILPF PAGE IS USUALLY COMPILED AND EDITED BY LENI VILLAGOMEZ REEVES ([LENIVREEVES@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LENIVREEVES@GMAIL.COM)).