



# WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

## OCTOBER 4 WILPF FRESNO RETREAT AT WOLK FOLK GARDEN!

Saturday, Oct. 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

We'd like you to bring your lunch, your ideas and enthusiasm, and a friend who is interested in what we do and might do to bring about a world of peace, justice, dignity, disarmament and human rights for all. We will also hold elections for the coming year. If you have questions, please e-mail [kyla.noelle@gmail.com](mailto:kyla.noelle@gmail.com).

## FRESNO BRANCH WILPF RETREAT— AND YOU'RE INVITED!



Our Fresno Branch Fall Retreat is an opportunity for us to review the activities of the past year as well as plan for the future. All of our Committee Chairs will give reports and explain opportunities for involvement in the coming year. In addition, this year we will hear from the Executive Director of WILPF-US, Linda Low.

The Raging Grannies will open our Retreat. With playful energy, humor and passion, Raging Grannies provide a positive example of channeling rage and despair.

There are many efforts to address our concerns about Human Rights, both here in our community and around the world, particularly in Gaza. Protests, programs and lobbying activities all are needed. Hear about what we've done and contribute to what we can do in the future. Human Rights Day is Dec. 10.

We will hear updates on Jane Addams Peace Award books, which are presented annually to our Fresno County Library system. Volunteers are needed to continue this work.

Our Earth Democracy Committee will discuss such activities as World Water Day in March and Earth Day in April.

Other committees that will present their work include Advancing Human Rights, with Rudy's Soup Kitchen and Teatro de la Tierra, as well as the new Committee for the Defense of the People; the Legislative Committee; and Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance. We desperately need a chairperson for the Middle East Committee!

Have you heard about our podcast? Carol Goiburn has produced "Valley Voices for Peace" on SoundCloud, interviewing local activists. You will learn more and can provide suggestions for upcoming interviews.

And we've been on the radio for many years: Jean Hays has been presenting WILPF news and views and bringing in interesting guests on KFCF 88.1 on the fourth Wednesday of each month with *Stir It Up-WILPF*.

Our Zoom with Linda Low, the new Executive Director of WILPF-US, will happen after lunch. She wants to learn about our Fresno Branch and will answer questions you may have.

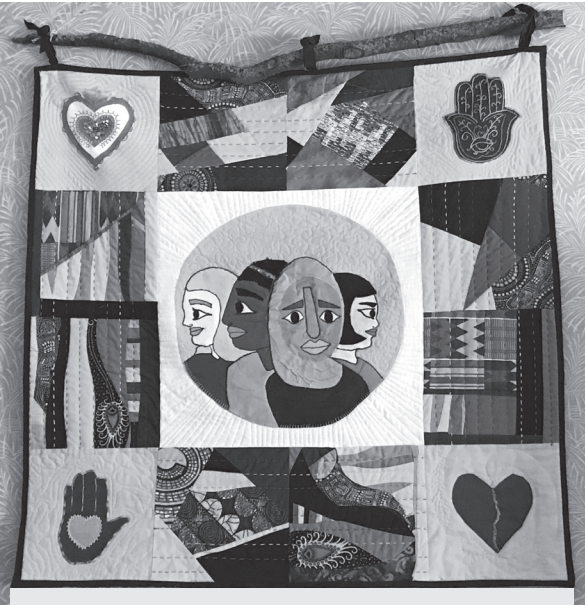
There will be much more! Come to the Retreat to learn about the Fresno Branch of the oldest women's peace organization in the world as we strive to work for peace, justice, dignity, disarmament and human rights for all. Help us build and strengthen relationships and movements that challenge the root causes of oppression, especially racism, sexism, heterosexism, militarism, economic disparity and political disempowerment.

—Sandra Iyall

## EVONNE WALDO'S SOLIDARITY WITH WORLD'S WOMEN QUILT

This is the quilt our WILPF Fresno member, Evonne Waldo, lovingly worked on in 2024 and completed in 2025 in time to hold up as a form of solidarity with women around our world. Evonne carefully selected every fabric piece, the colors and each design detail including the different sewing styles throughout the piece. She made it to share her vision of togetherness with love; her hope that our country's leaders will someday embrace and respect all of us. Evonne shares her beautiful quilt with all of us. Watch for it to continue to be present at gatherings as well as protests.

—Teresa Castillo



Quilt created by WILPF Fresno member Evonne Waldo in solidarity with women around our world. Photo by Teresa Castillo

## THE US IS TRYING TO START A WAR WITH VENEZUELA

As of this deadline, the US has attacked three Venezuelan small boats in international waters, killing at least 14 people. This is evil and must be resisted. WILPF Fresno, WILPF-US and WILPF Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance Committee have issued the following statement:

### NO U.S. WAR ON VENEZUELA! RESPECT VENEZUELAN SOVEREIGNTY!

The United States is making false claims about drug trafficking by the Venezuelan government as an excuse to carry out regime change in the country and take its vast oil reserves. According to UN data, Venezuela is not a drug trafficking country. The deployment of 8 warships, 1,200 missiles, 10 F-35 fighter jets, and a nuclear submarine—all to threaten Venezuela—move our country dangerously close to war. WILPF members and the people of the US do not consent to the use of our country's resources for yet another regime change war.

President Trump and Secretary Rubio say that US forces blew up a boat carrying 11 Venezuelan drug traffickers, yet they have provided no evidence that the vessel was carrying drugs or even departed from Venezuela. As they describe it, however, the US strike would constitute murder on the high seas in violation of international law, and an act of war in violation of the authority of the US Congress.

The truth behind the administration's lies about Venezuela:

- **NO DRUG CARTELS:** According to UN data, Venezuela is not a drug trafficking country and the "Cartel of the Suns" is a US-invented myth to justify sanctions, like the alleged Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq in 2003, while *Tren de Aragua* is a small prison gang, not a state-sponsored threat.
- **NO DICTATORSHIP:** Venezuela holds free and fair elections every year, and is giving more and more power to the people through local communes. The people decide how government resources are spent in a country that provides free healthcare and education and has eliminated homelessness.
- **RESOURCE THEFT:** The U.S. seeks to plunder Venezuela's vast oil and mineral resources.
- **DISTRACTION:** A war with Venezuela would push Trump and his Epstein/pedophile guilt off the front page, wouldn't it?

We demand respect for the Venezuelan people's right to peace, development, and self-determination. All three branches of the US government must urgently act to prevent any illegal US attack on Venezuela, and to preserve peace.

Signed,  
WILPF-US Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance Committee  
WILPF Fresno  
WILPF-US

Contact your Congressperson! Call them every week! Tell them you're with WILPF—a national organization has power.

### NO WAR WITH VENEZUELA

We most sincerely and strongly urge you:

- to take action to restrain the unlawful actions of the Executive branch, including extra-judicial killings, attacks on boats in international waters, and any attempted sneak attack or bombing of Venezuela.
- to work to negotiate peaceful and respectful co-existence with all nations in Latin America, including Venezuela.



### BLOCK THE BOMBS TO ISRAEL

Write your Representative and ask them to cosponsor H.R.3565, the Block the Bombs Act. Urgent Action Needed!

Go to <https://www.blockthebombs.org> for a "click and send"

#### Representative Jim Costa

E-mail at <https://costa.house.gov/contact>  
Fresno  
2440 Tulare Street  
Suite 420  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Phone: (559) 495-1620

#### Washington, D.C.

2081 Rayburn House  
Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-3341

#### Senator Alex Padilla

E-mail at <https://www.padilla.senate.gov/contact/contact-form/>  
Fresno  
2500 Tulare Street  
Suite 5290  
Fresno, CA 93721  
(559) 497-5109

#### Washington, D.C.

Hart Senate Office Building #331  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-3553

#### Senator Adam Schiff

E-mail at <https://www.schiff.senate.gov/contact/get-in-touch/>  
Fresno  
2500 Tulare Street  
Suite 4290  
Fresno, CA 93721  
(559) 485-7430

#### Washington, D.C.

Hart Senate Office Building #112  
Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-3841

### 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 RETREAT OCTOBER 4 —SEE INFO ON PAGE

#### WILPF MEETING

Oct. 9 (second Thursday), 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom (and sometimes also at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave.). This meeting is open to all. Watch your e-mail for an announcement.

### STIR IT UP-WILPF ON KFCF 88.1 FM

Oct. 22 (fourth Wednesday), 3 p.m. Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.

Listen to our new monthly podcast! "Valley Voices for Peace" can be found on SoundCloud and YouTube, thanks to host Carol Goiburn and a mini-grant from WILPF US.

#### WOMEN IN BLACK

Oct. 1 (first Wednesday), 11 a.m.–1 p.m. We are now joining Raza Against War's protest in front of the Federal Building at 2500 Tulare St., Fresno. Check with Sue Kern at [skern@netptc.net](mailto:skern@netptc.net) or 559-349-3777.

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)).