



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM
 WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

**"ACTION IS INDEED THE SOLE MEDIUM OF EXPRESSION FOR ETHICS."
 —JANE ADDAMS**

On Sept. 6, local WILPF members gathered at the Jane Addams monument in the Fresno State Peace Garden to celebrate Jane Addams's 164th birthday, in an event organized by Jean Hays. We shared quotes and stories about Jane Addams, and Jan Slagter presented this overview of her life, work and current relevance:

The person most responsible for making this possible is Claudia Nolan, the artist who studied sculpture here. Her careful review of Jane's life brought us this crowning achievement of the Peace Garden. We see Jane holding aloft a small immigrant girl, who in turn holds up the world. Ms. Nolan believes that "The ability of human beings to discover ways to live together in plural societies based on mutual tolerance and respect" is today's critical issue. And we need public monuments to remind us of those who have done that work.

Jane Addams was a social philosopher who developed the embodied (rather than abstract) philosophy of Sympathetic Knowledge wherein you learn, from the communities where you work and live, what needs to be done for residents to prosper. And so it went in the Hull House complex, the intentional community she built and lived in. She took it all on.

A pioneer in social research, she is considered the mother of the field of social work in the U.S. She and her coworkers devised and published some of the earliest community studies, based on door-to-door research on the social conditions of Chicago's South Side immigrants.

Many of the injustices she worked on a century ago persist despite having been reshaped by contemporary forces. Presently, we are under assault by retrogressive, authoritarian, right-wing, misogynistic, racist, anti-immigrant, homo-



Fresno WILPF at the Jane Addams sculpture. (L to R) Carol Goiburn, Melissa Fry, Teresa Castillo, Jan Slagter, Sandra Iyall (kneeling), Ann Merrill, Rich Rollin, Jean Hays, Kyla Mitchell (kneeling) and Evalee. Photo by LVR



Honoring Jane Addams on her birthday. (L to R) Carol Goiburn, Melissa Fry, Jan Slagter, Teresa Castillo, Leni Villagomez Reeves (kneeling), Ann Merrill, Rich Rollin, Jean Hays, Kyla Mitchell (kneeling) and Evalee. Photo by Sandra Iyall

and trans-phobic, warmongering, greedy, small-minded, confused, nationalist, fascist forces.



Dr. Jan Slagter, professor emerita and former chair of the Fresno State Women's Studies Department, celebrates and discusses Jane Addams. Photo by LVR

What follows are 10 examples of contemporary struggles we are engaging with and how these issues appeared during Jane's life and work for freedom.

1. Who we can be intimate with despite gendered norms. Jane's intimate relationships were all with women—first, Ellen Gates Star, co-founder of Hull House (HH), and after that with Mary Rozet Smith, her companion for 40 years. Her love letters to Mary survive.
2. What books we can read and which ones libraries can contain are under attack. Among the 13 buildings Jane and her sister workers built at HH was a library. Jane was a voracious reader and prolific author of 11 books and 500 articles. She also built a book bindery at HH.
3. Immigrant treatment and rights: Who is allowed to come to this country and how can they live? The HH neighborhood was poor and populated by immigrants. HH had a theater, a concert hall and public meeting spaces used for union organizing and other events. Hull House provided citizenship and literacy classes. Cultural differences and arts were honored through presentation of music concerts and dances from many cultures. Among its 13 buildings, Hull House had an art museum, a gymnasium and a pool.
4. Housing: Many immigrant workers were single women, and HH included a cooperative residence for women workers, complete with resident healthcare.
5. Day care: These workers needed it, and Hull House provided it.
6. Labor reforms for immigrant workers: Hull House activists developed—and got passed—legislation regulating labor conditions in the factories and built a labor history museum in their complex.
7. Attacks on education: Hull House had the first kindergarten in the state. Jane and her coworkers wrote and got passed laws requiring schooling for children and curtaining child labor.
8. Attacks on the ability to vote: Politicians in many states are wiping millions of voters off the rolls. Hull House conducted voter registration on site. And Jane was a leader of the women's suffrage movement, vice president of the National American Women's Suffrage Association. She wrote articles, appeared in public debates, organized a massive parade to disrupt Woodrow Wilson's inauguration and spoke throughout the country.
9. Confronting racism, Jane worked with W.E.B. DuBois and was a founding member of the NAACP. She worked with anti-lynching journalist Ida B. Wells-Barnett. Ida B. educated her on the racist lies whites used to justify lynching Black men. Jane worked closely with Mary Church Terrell, an early Black woman college graduate and teacher of languages. Terrell was the first president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs and a founding WILPF member.
10. Stopping endless wars: In 1915, there was a Women's Peace Party in the United States, aimed at keeping the United States out of and stopping WWI. Jane was its chair. A lifelong pacifist, she was leader of the delegation of women from the United States who sailed to Europe in 1915 to meet with other global women leaders to try to stop WWI. These women met with presidents, prime ministers, and kings and lobbied them to stop invading, shelling, killing. Despite the war's persistence, the women met again a few years later in Zurich, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) was born. Jane was its first president. Today, there are thousands of members of this 105-year-old worldwide organization with sections in 40 countries.

If Jane were here today, you can be assured she'd be campaigning for an end to Israel's war on Palestine; the war between Russia and Ukraine; the wars in South Sudan, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and the rest of our current 114 armed conflicts (see the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights website). She'd be protesting the genocide of the Palestinian people, which our taxes fund and our war machinery commits.

The takeaway from Jane's era to ours? The many struggles for justice are never over. We must work for peace and everyone's freedom again and again and again.

—Jan Slagter



The Fresno Raging Grannies are still unstoppable! They recently sang for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU 521) luncheon. Brady United has invited the group to sing at their Enough Gun Violence event on Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. at the St. James Episcopal Church. "Union Maids" (L to R) Myrna Stone, Anne Betancourt, Jean Hays, Patty Bennett, Evonne Waldo, Nancy Hatcher, Kathy Adamcik and Nancy Godwin. Photo by Nancy Hatcher

**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 or Kyla Mitchell at kyla.noelle@gmail.com.

WILPF MEETING

Oct. 10 (second Thursday), 7 p.m., via Zoom and usually also at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. Open to all members. Watch your e-mail for an announcement. For information on the in-person option, contact Teresa at taca_03@gmail.com.

**STIR IT UP—WILPF
 KFCF 88.1 FM**

Oct. 23 (fourth Wednesday), 3 p.m. Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.

UNPACKING RACISM

With Dr. Jean Kennedy. Free AME Church Pastor Appreciation Day on Oct. 20 beginning around noon at 806 Collins Ave. in Fresno.

WOMEN IN BLACK

Oct. 2 (first Wednesday), noon, Courthouse. Check first with Sue Kern at skern@netptc.net or 559-349-3777.

FRESNO PEACE COALITION

Recognize the perseverance and determination of the Palestinian people. Check social media for date, time and place.

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WILPF Fresno: facebook.com/Wilpf-Fresno-395764603812264/

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