



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

WILPF Fresno Continues to Donate Jane Addams Book Award Winners to Local Libraries

The Jane Addams Children's Book Award Selection Committee has been reviewing and awarding children's books annually since 1953.

For more than 35 years, our local WILPF Branch has been purchasing and donating the award and honor books selected annually by the Jane Addams Peace Association. We share the values of the Selection Committee and believe that families in the San Joaquin Valley deserve to have books that "engage children in thinking about peace, social justice, global community and equity for all people."

Our WILPF Library Committee will continue to donate full sets of the award and honor books to five Fresno County libraries plus one full set to the Jane Addams Elementary School in Fresno. We support our local, independent retailers by ordering all sets from Petunia's Place Bookstore. When all the books are received, we will announce the donation details through our e-mail listserv and on our Facebook page. We look forward to you joining us in our award book donation events.

The Jane Addams Peace Association announced the 2025 Children's Book Award Winners and Honors Titles:

- 2025 Winner in the Picture Book Category: *They Call Me Teach: Lessons in Freedom* by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James E. Ransome. This is a powerful and poignant story that explores the transformative power of education as an act of resistance. A young enslaved man, affectionately called Teach, secretly learns to read, write and perform arithmetic alongside his enslaver's son Thomas. *They Call Me Teach* is not just about the liberation of a person but also the literacy freedom of a people who are legally denied the right to read. Cline-Ransome captures the significance of literacy, not only as personal liberation but also as a collective act of defiance against oppression.
- 2025 Winner in the Chapter Book Category: *Not Nothing* by Gayle Forman. A poignant and thought-provoking novel that skillfully explores the themes of compassion, rehabilitation, forgiveness and humanity through the intertwined stories of two unlikely companions: Alex, a troubled 12-year-old boy, and Josey, a 107-year-old woman living in a retirement home. The novel addresses complex issues with sensitivity and insight, offering young readers a meaningful exploration of personal growth, healing and the profound impact that human connection can have on one's life. The story artfully explores the transformative power of connection and redemption.

Two 2025 Honor Books were named in the Picture Book category:

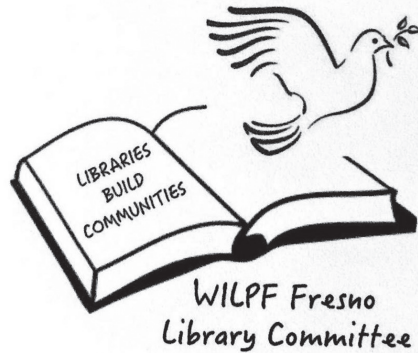
- *Small Shoes, Great Strides: How Three Brave Girls Opened Doors to School Equality*, by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson and illustrated by Alex Bostic, tells the story of Leona Tate, Tessie Prevost and Gail Etienne. Better known as the McDonogh Three, these girls were at the forefront of school desegregation in New Orleans, alongside Ruby Bridges.
- *A Map for Falasteen*, by Maysa Odeh and illustrated by Aliaa Betawi, describes a dilemma for Falasteen when her school class is tasked with finding their families' home countries on a map. Despite her determined search, Palestine is nowhere to be found. This absence sparks a journey of discovery, as Falasteen turns to her family for answers. Her grandparents, father and mother respond not with maps but with vivid stories, cherished traditions and enduring memories of their homeland.

Two 2025 Honor Books were also named in the Chapter Book category:

- *Black Star* by Kwame Alexander is an emotionally rich and beautifully crafted middle-grade novel-in-verse that immerses readers in the life of Charley Cuffey, a gifted young baseball player growing up in the segregated South of 1920s Virginia. It asks readers to consider how they can confront injustice in their own lives, foster empathy and work for equity and peace.
- *Safiyyah's War* by Hiba Noor Khan is a powerful blend of historical fiction and a compelling narrative that resonates deeply with the themes of peace, social justice, global community and equity. As seen through the eyes of Safiyyah, a young Muslim Parisian girl living in the Grand Mosque of Paris during World War II, the novel brings to life the courage and compassion of everyday individuals resisting the injustices of the Holocaust.

See more about the book awards at janeaddamschildrensbookaward.org.

Donated by the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) Fresno Branch



WILPF Fresno Condemns Israeli Genocide, Femicide and Crimes Against Humanity

A panel of UN experts has accused Israel of genocidal acts against Palestinians in Gaza through attacks on women's healthcare facilities, deliberately blocking medicine for pregnancies and neonatal care, and using sexual violence as a war strategy.

In a new report, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory writes that "Israeli authorities have destroyed in part the reproductive capacity of the Palestinians in Gaza as a group, including by imposing measures intended to prevent births, one of the categories of genocidal acts in the Rome Statute and the Genocide Convention."

The commission also documented the use of forced public stripping and nudity, sexual harassment including threats of rape and sexual assault as part of Israeli forces' standard operating procedure.

When this issue of the *Community Alliance* is published, Gaza will be at Day 30 of the Israeli total blockade of all supplies and cutoff of power. Israel is blocking food and medical aid to Palestine. They have cut off electricity so that water desalination plants cannot function and people have no water.

Netanyahu said that the block on aid was done "in full coordination" with U.S. President Donald Trump, who proposed an American takeover of Gaza—a plan that Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has said "is taking shape."

Israel is continuing to violate the ceasefire and kill Palestinians every day.

Israel is continuing to detain and torture prisoners, including children, women, doctors, aid workers, cultural workers and ordinary Palestinians.

Dr. Mark Perlmutter, a U.S. Jewish physician who has volunteered in Gaza, said, "I have a colleague, an orthopedic surgeon, specializing in pediatric orthopedics, who was abducted from the hospital, from the operating room, in February of 2024. He was just released.

"When he was arrested, he was strip-searched, marched naked in front of his colleagues, beaten on a daily basis in an Israeli prison, beaten more intensely when he asked to speak to a lawyer, and even more intensely after he spoke to his lawyer.

"He had his fingers broken and his hand. He had, while handcuffs on, guards step on the handcuffs to torque them into the nerves of his hand, ruining the nerves in his operative hands.

"And if the physical daily beatings and the loss of his hand function wasn't enough, the psychologic torture, which is their specialty, according to almost everybody who's been released—and there are still approximately 350 healthcare workers in Israeli prisons, all without charges—the psychologic torture is immense."



Come visit our booth at Earth Day Fresno on April 12th from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fresno City College! We will have a fun activity for kids and lots of good information about how to help our planet. See you there!



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

April 10 (second Thursday), 7 p.m., via Zoom and sometimes also at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. This meeting is open to all members. Watch your e-mail for an

announcement. For more information on the in-person option, contact Teresa at taca_03@ymail.com.

STIR IT UP-WILPF KFCF 88.1 FM

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

WOMEN IN BLACK

Women in Black and Raza Against War have combined actions on Wednesdays at noon at the Federal Courthouse. For more information, contact 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).