



Raging Grannies L. to R.: Anne Bettancourt, Nancy Hatcher, Gioa Frank, Paige Sanders, Valerie Forward, Sandra Iyall, Patty Bennett

WILPF FRESNO BOOK CLUB WELCOMES AUTHOR ANGELICA SHIRLEY CARPENTER

On March 9th, the Wilpf Fresno Branch Book Club welcomed the Raging Grannies and author Angelica Shirley Carpenter to help us celebrate International Women's Day. With Jean Hays on dulcimer and lead by Patty Bennett, the Grannies sang "We're Not Giving Up," and "Now You've Pissed Off Grandma." (Please contact Patty if you'd like to join the Grannies. We rehearse twice a month.)

Angelica Shirley Carpenter discussed not only the inspiring story of the Grimke sisters, activists in the Abolition and Women's Rights movement of the early 1800s, but also the process of getting a book published. We encourage you to read Arm in Arm The Grimke Sisters' Fight for Abolition and Women's Rights. The Afterword includes an update on the struggles against racial prejudice and injustices today's women face. Angelica points out that it was Sarah Grimke who said, "I ask no favor for my sex. All I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks."

Women in Black Protest Wednesday, April 1 @11AM-1PM

2500 Tulare St

For more info contact Sue:
skern@netptc.net or 559-349-3777

WILPF Monthly Meeting Thursday, April 9 @6:30PM

Fresno Center for Nonviolence
1584 N Van Ness Ave

For Zoom link email: lenireeves@gmail.com
Open to all! please join us.

Stir It Up on KFCF Wednesday, April 22 @3:00PM

Tune in to 88.1FM as Jean Hays highlights people and events
important to our WILPF community

Call for Donations

There are many local orgs currently requesting donations for
distribution within our communities. Bring all of your donations to
us, and we'll split it up between orgs depending on their needs.
DM @FresnoWILPF on Instagram for more info.

Donation requests from WILPF:

- empty containers
(i.e. yogurt containers, tupper wares, spaghetti sauce jars)
- clean warm clothing for mxn, womxn, and
children-warm outerwear (i.e. gloves, scarves, hats)
- personal hygiene for mxn & womxn (i.e. 3-in-1 body wash, menstrual
products, deodorant, razors, toothpaste and brushes)

CUBA SUFFERS BUT WILL NEVER SURRENDER

"In Havana the blackouts can last 12 hours but in some of the provinces the periods without electricity are up to 40 hours." Yamila Gonzalez Ferrer is one of the Cuban representatives able to secure a visa for the UN Commission on the Status of Women 70th session. She is not only Vice President of the Union of Cuban Attorneys and Judges, she is a principal author, educator and implementer of the revolutionary Families Code adopted by popular referendum in 2022. She went on to describe some of the even more serious effects of the current state of siege imposed by the US on Cuba. For childhood cancers, Cuba had achieved a survival rate of 80%, but due to the economic, commercial and financial blockade Cuba has not been able to get the necessary medicines, equipment and replacement parts. The death rate has increased markedly. She also pointed out, "In Cuba we have deaf children who have had cochlear implants and who have been hearing normally for years. Now the batteries are wearing out and we cannot get new batteries...." The translator started to tear up at this point and had to pause. Dr (of Laws) Gonzalez Ferrer is an expert on the UN CEDAW Panel (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) and she discussed some of the effects on women of the blockade and its current state of siege warfare. "There are many couples, both heterosexual and homosexual, who need assisted reproduction techniques to have children. Cuban laws give them the right to this, free of charge like all medical care. But when hospitals are barely able to perform the most urgent lifesaving surgeries, due to lack of everything, this is a right that exists only on paper." Many other rights become theoretical when there is no transportation and no resources. And without electricity communication is cut off also. How can a woman report domestic violence or get access to a court?

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US would-be dictator Trump boasts that he is going to take Cuba and do what he wants with it. Cubans have heard that song before and they are not impressed, however much they are hurting. I was told long ago in Santiago de Cuba "Everyone in Cuba complains, but if there is ever an invasion, everyone will pick up a gun and fight for our sovereignty." The heritage of Carlota, an enslaved woman of Yoruba origin, who led the rebellion at Triunvirato plantation in Matanzas in 1843, of Jose Antonio Aponte, who organized the first uprising against Spanish rule and slavery in 1812, of José Martí who was not only the intellectual author of independence but who died fighting the Spanish in 1895, of Antonio Maceo, the general of the war of independence who understood that the fight against slavery and for independence were inseparable: these all are part of the Cuban basic popular imagination and psychology. And the Cuban people are an educated and armed people who will fight for independence and win. Fidel and the revolution have taught them that sovereignty and freedom from foreign domination are possible and they will never go back. Resistance IS possible, and that, along with the advances of healthcare, education, and opportunity, is the Cuban "unusual and extraordinary threat" to the US. But as Cuban Revolutionary leader Commandant Juan Almeida said when surrounded by Batista's forces, "Aqui no se rinde nadie, carajo" Here nobody surrenders. Cubans have had freedom from foreign domination and will never go back. But the suffering that they are having to endure due to the cruel actions of the US government is frankly heartbreaking.

Leni Villagomez Reeves - Report on UN CSW - She was there as part of the WILPF Local to Global - last month.