



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

EARTH DAY—EVERY DAY—WILPF

WILPF's booth at the April 22 Earth Day Fresno event was both interactive and informative: a FUN place to stop by, learn and get involved. There was something for just about everyone! There were free children's books, thanks to the Library Issues Group.

From two kiddie wading pool "oceans," one could clean out plastic wrap, cans, bottles and other debris, reminding us what garbage receptacles our oceans are becoming. There were two boards on which one could write a sentence/draw a small picture about their relationship to Mother Earth and her beauty. All this to heighten our awareness of taking care of our home planet while we still can do so.

Just about everyone visiting the booth became very engaged in conversation. Some people knew little or nothing about WILPF. Our handouts and membership brochures explained our multifaceted 100+-year-old organization, founded in 1915 by Jane Addams and a small group of other women.

Our Raging Grannies provided thought-provoking songs on the main stage. By the end of the day we were energized. There is much work to be done to expand our relationship with Mother Earth, not just on Earth Day, but EVERY day!

—Jean Hays



The WILPF Booth on Earth Day.
Photo by Kyla Mitchell



The wonderful Raging Grannies sing at Earth Day Fresno. Photo by Kyla Mitchell

MUSICK CREEK CONFLUENCE

Much good work is happening at Musick Creek! The Musick Creek Confluence, a nonprofit made of dedicated forest lovers, is busy cleaning up the place and planting trees all over the 134 acres of beauty. Their wise forest management choices helped to stop the Creek Fire of 2020 from destroying many trees on the property as well as saving neighboring land. They welcome visitors and volunteers! For more information, check out www.musickcreek.org.

WILPF Fresno's Earth Democracy Committee may organize a tree-planting event there soon. Watch for it here!

—Kyla Mitchell

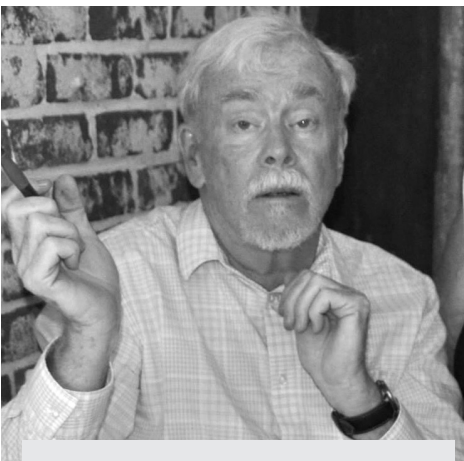


Jemmy Bluestein at Musick Creek.
Photo by Kyla Mitchell

JAY HUBBELL, IN MEMORY

During Pride month and while we participate in the Fresno Rainbow Pride Parade and Festival on June 3, our WILPF Branch remembers Jay Hubbell, who passed away in January of this year. As a member of WILPF, Jay served as our Treasurer and Crafts Faire Chair for several years. We miss Jay's dedication to justice for the marginalized people in our community and the world. RIP Berl Jay Hubbell (1946–2023). Peace!

—Teresa Castillo



Jay Hubbell. Photo by Howard Watkins, 5/28/2015

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.

HONORING THE MEETING OF REVOLUTIONARY MINDS

Birthday of Malcolm X el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz and the Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba
May 15, Free AME Church, West Fresno

First, we planted a tree for Malcolm X el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz, whose birthday is May 19, and people spoke to his legacy. We also acknowledged that this was the 75th anniversary of Nakba, the expulsion of Palestinians from their own land by settler-colonial apartheid Israel, and that just as Cuba sacrificed over the decades to defeat apartheid, defend Angola and free Namibia, which was a triumph of principle and ethics over expediency, we must defend the rights of the Palestinians even if it's not easy or safe.

Reza Nekumanesh, who gave our keynote speech, the National Director of Clergy Organizing for Faith in Action, and scholar of the life and work of Malcolm X el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz, and Juan Rafael Avitia, local and national Brown Berets leader, planted the tree. This was a historic occasion, the first time any physical commemoration of Malcolm X el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz has been done in Central California.



Event organizers Dr. Jean Kennedy, Ralph Avitia, Rev. Floyd Harris and Hajj Reza Nekumanesh, with photojournalist Peter Maiden. Photo by LVR

We went inside and people got food—congrí, tamales, fried chicken—and the Raging Grannies sang to us, including the world premier of a new song written by keyboard player Jean Hays, "Malcolm and Fidel, Showing the Way to a Better World." We beamed in Rosemary Mealy, author of *Fidel and Malcolm X, Memories of a Meeting*. We presented a copy of her book to Rev. Floyd Harris, pastor of the Free AME Church where the event was held and auctioned off another copy, won for \$80 by Phillip Alexander, author of *Rx for Racism*.



Planting a tree for Malcolm X at the Free AME Freedom Garden.
Photo by LVR

Hajj Reza Nekumanesh spoke about Malcolm X, expounding on his life and work in truth rather than mass media fiction. Ralph Avitia, Dr. Jean Kennedy and Leni Villagomez Reeves spoke about the IFCO Pastors for Peace and about Cuba.

The aims of Pastors for Peace are as follows:

To deliver material aid to support the victims of U.S. aggression in Latin America.

To offer this aid as solidarity, not charity.

To campaign for a more just and moral U.S. foreign policy in our hemisphere.

A Pastors for Peace Caravan takes aid, mostly medical aid, to Cuba. The message of the Caravan is "end the U.S. embargo = blockade."

The blockade is a violation of the most fundamental principles of humanity. It is trying to starve people into submission. It is our duty as citizens and as human beings to oppose this policy and to help, in a small way, to alleviate some of the suffering caused by it. The Ecumenical Distribution Committee, made up of pastors and leaders of various denominations and religious organizations in Cuba, receives and distributes the aid.

The power of Cuba is the power of its revolutionary ideas, the power of its example.—Fidel

The United States is afraid of that example. The U.S. government doesn't want to allow you to go to Cuba and see for yourself. That's a good reason to do it.

We had a Q&A, then the raffle—everybody won.

Thank you to all who worked to make this event happen, including Fresno WILPF Unpacking Racism organizer Dr. Jean Kennedy, Fresno WILPF President Teresa Castillo and Rev. Floyd Harris, Fresno WILPF member and pastor of Free AME Church. And much love to the Raging Grannies!

—Leni Villagomez Reeves

WILPF MEETING

June 8 (second Thursday), 7 p.m., online and in person at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Watch your e-mail for an announcement with a link and a call-in number. For more information, contact Teresa at taca_03@yahoo.com or Leni at lenivreeves@gmail.com.

STIR IT UP—WILPF KFCF 88.1 FM

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

UNPACKING RACISM

June 25 (last Sunday), 6:30 p.m. With Dr. Jean Kennedy. To join and get a link, RSVP with your e-mail address to drjeankennedy@yahoo.com or text 559-270-1023.

WOMEN IN BLACK

June 7 (first Wednesday), Courthouse. Check first with Sue Kern 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).