

## **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**

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

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

#### WILPF Fresno SLATE OF CANDIDATES

All members in attendance at our September monthly meeting on 9/11/25 will vote for our Branch Executive Board positions.

Committee Chair positions are not voted on.

Note: Nominations accepted up to the time of the vote. Please consider taking an active role in our Branch by filling any of the OPEN positions.

#### WILPF Fresno Branch Board Positions **Executive Board:**

Branch Chair—OPEN Branch Co-Chair—OPEN Recording Secretary—Leni Villagomez Reeves

Corresponding Secretary—Nancy Hatcher Membership Chair—OPEN Membership Co-Chair—Kyla Mitchell Treasurer—Teresa Castillo

The following Issue Committee and functional positions are listed for informational purposes only; these positions are not voted on.

#### **Issue Committee Chairs:**

Advancing Human Rights:

Library: OPEN

Unpacking Racism: Dr. Jean Kennedy

Homeless: OPEN

Rudy's Soup Kitchen: Dr. Jean Kennedy Teatro de la Tierra: Patricia Wells-Solorzano

Comité de la Defensa del Pueblo/Committee for the Defense of the People: LVR

Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance:

Leni Villagomez Reeves Disarm: Carol Goiburn

Earth Democracy: Jean Hays & Kyla Mitchell

Legislative: Jean Hays Middle East: OPEN

#### **Functional positions:**

Women in Black: Sue Kern Raging Grannies: Nancy Hatcher Crafts Faire and Fundraising: OPEN Listserve: Kyla Mitchell WILPF International: Jan Slagter Community Alliance WILPF Page: LVR Stir It Up KFCF Radio show: Jean Hays Valley Voices for Peace Podcast: Carol Goiburn

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

Dear Fresno WILPF Members,

We are excited to announce that we have secured a venue for our Fall Planning Retreat! With many thanks to Fresno WILPF member Pat Wolk, our retreat will be held at her home on Saturday, October 4. We are hopeful that all of you will be able to attend.



10am-3pm Do YOU have:

Ideas for the program?

A potluck dish you'd like to share? Please email Kyla at kyla.noelle@gmail.com

Your attendance will be especially valuable and important as we move forward into our new year with many issues to address. We are actively seeking Board members to fill leadership positions and request your involvement and input. Also, your leadership experience in Fresno WILPF will help our branch in moving forward. As well, sharing your experience with those in attendance will help strengthen our organization in a time when our mission is more important than ever.

For this retreat to be successful, we need your help! Please reach out if you are interested

- planning the logistics of the retreat
- bringing a potluck dish
- setting up and taking down our materials
- providing leadership in breakout topics and discussions

We are eager to have you join us on Saturday, October 4!

Please contact kyla.noelle@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to help us make this event a success!

—In Peace, Nancy Hatcher, Jean Hays, Kyla Mitchell

## WILPF FRESNO NEEDS A NEW CHAIR!

No, not the kind you sit on. After many years of devoted service, of representing us well at demonstrations both in speech and in action, of hard work as both Fresno Branch chairperson and, for many years, also treasurer, Teresa Castillo has decided to "only" serve as our treasurer.

We are deeply grateful for Teresa's work and dedication over the years, and that is partly what this article is about. It's also about you: Do you feel you might have the skills to lead this branch? We're a bunch of sincere folks with love for our community, our environment, peace, social and racial justice, international mutual respect with an end to neocolonial exploitation. We give our time and support each other. In these times, it's good to have sisters (and some brothers) around.

Often in the past, we have had several co-chairs to share the work and decisionmaking. Do you-or "you plural" as two or three colleagues—feel you can work on helping us move forward as a group? We need you!

AND TO TERESA CASTILLO—THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



WILPF Fresno Chair Teresa Castillo Photo courtesy of Teresa Castillo



Teresa Castillo and Sukaina Hussain Photo courtesy of LVR

# **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!**

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.

E-mail questions and information updates to Nancy Hatcher at nhatcher46@gmail.com or Kyla Mitchell at kyla.noelle@gmail.com.

### **WILPF MEETING**

Aug. 14 (second Thursday), 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom (and usually 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. To check the in-person option, contact Teresa at taca\_03@ ymail.com or 559-360-8054.

## STIR IT UP-WILPF ON KFCF 88.1 FM

Aug. 27 (fourth Wednesday), 3 p.n 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**

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 or 559-349-3777.

**RUDY'S SOUP KITCHEN** By Dr. Jean Kennedy

It seems to me that more homeless persons are gathering quite frequently in zip code 93706. Many homeless folks go through a day with nothing or very little to eat. Not all can make it to the Rescue Missions or the Poverello House for a meal. Yet there are those in our society who hold fast to the philosophy that "...if a man doesn't work, neither should he eat." Or maybe you are one of those individuals that believes wholeheartedly that individuals "want to be homeless." Well, I'm not writing this article to defend or debate belief systems when it comes to humanity. I am my brother's keeper, and therefore we are a society rather than find scriptures to defend bad choices that "harm and hurt people," like defending wars that are taking lives of children and families—creating genocide silently all in the name of "holy scripture" while never placing ourselves in another person's shoes. As for myself, I'd like to think that I am a WWJD person.

'...I was hungry, naked and homeless, behind bars—but what did you people do to help me?" (Dr. Jean's version of that scripture: Matthew 25v42)

So to answer that question, a Soup Kitchen, in the name of a person, whom by the way, was a P.K. (Preacher's Kid) but found himself homeless, destitute and living the life of someone who had no shelter of his own. Actually found himself having to make life decisions while dealing with medical and mental issues—fighting his own demons quietly—a good soul. Someone who never hurt anyone. Someone who was once a successful businessman and had many properties in his portfolio. Yet lost everything over time, and died on the streets, on Valentine's Day. There are so many people on the streets that have similar stories. This person had a name, and I cried when I heard that my brother was dead.

I met with F.A.M.E. (Free AME) Rev. Dr. Floyd Harris, who agreed to house Rudy's Soup Kitchen at his church site and to help us support this new outreach effort. We have the support of the WILPF Fresno branch, and others are coming on board to promote and support the Rudy's Soup Kitchen collaborative effort.

We are hoping to be fully operational at 806 Collins Ave., Fresno, starting in the autumn of 2025. Times/days: TBA. We are also hoping that someone reading this article will donate a washer/dryer to accommodate those living on the streets who wish to wash their personal bedding/belongings. We also plan to build an outdoor shower that will be used by those who are living on the streets. We are blessed to have Rev. Harris, a very talented pastor who will help construct this shower (seeking donations and help).

Yes, we are asking a lot from those reading this article. It's going to be a word-of-mouth outreach program. We don't know how many people will begin to show up. Even if it's one person per day, we will treat them with dignity and respect. That is all people really desire—to be treated with respect, dignity and a little humanity. F.A.M.E. is a social justice progressive ministry that won't turn anyone away. It's an open arms ministry that is simply trying to practice the teachings of Jesus. It's a "whosoever will" ministry with lots of love to share. NOT all ministries are "whosoever will come" ministries. Sadly, there are too many ministries that are unwelcoming in this very city.

Dr. Jean Kennedy (myself) will be giving oversight to this special outreach program. I am an active member of the WILPF Fresno Branch and really want to see more younger people join our local branch. I serve on the WILPF national mini-grant projects committee and co-chair the Unpacking Racism group. "It's never too late to do the right thing for another human being" (Dr. Jean Kennedy). So we are looking for volunteers whose heart is to help and assist in outreach to our homeless "out-of-shelter folks," be it long term or short term. Homeless folks are chronic and in crisis, and the problem is NOT going away.

We need volunteers for food prep, cooks and food servers, and cleanup crews alongside us. So volunteer just a little bit of your time—please. This is a grassroots effort to bring people's attention to Rudy's Soup Kitchen. We want to support anyone that we can. We encourage high school, college and university volunteers (for school credits) at Rudy's Soup Kitchen.

Coordinator/contact person: Dr. Jean Kennedy (559-270-1023). Texting is encouraged with your contact information.

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).