

WFWP, USA

2009 Activities Report

The Women's Federation for World Peace, USA is a dynamic organization that provides women the opportunity to contribute to lasting peace in the world. From grassroots activity to gala evenings, from chapter meetings to international conferences, WFWP, USA is active and involved.

With approximately 1,000 members and donors, WFWP, USA maintains a national office in Bridgeport, Connecticut, with four full time staff; twenty six active chapters that hold quarterly or monthly membership meetings; and a calendar full of interesting and meaningful programs.

In 2009, Rev. In Jin Moon presented keynote addresses during WFWP, USA's 17th Anniversary National Assembly in New York, as well as the 10th WFWPI International Leaders Workshop in Las Vegas.

The heart of WFWP, USA can be found in its twenty – six chapters. This is where members gather; guests meet WFWP for the first time; dynamic speakers enrich the participants; projects are initiated; everyone benefits, learns, and grows. In 2009, WFWP, USA chapters sponsored a total of 140 monthly or quarterly meetings. The topics of these meetings ranged from an annual membership tea in Southern California; caring for a refugee family in Columbus, Ohio; co-sponsoring a Women of Faith event in New Jersey; learning the basics of public speaking from a trainer and coach in Seattle, Washington; and learning about Plumpy Nut, a nutritional supplement for the mal nourished, in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

In March, WFWP, USA members and friends participated in the 53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at the UN headquarters in New York. Activities included a parallel event on March 2, sponsored by the WFWPI UN Office; a luncheon in the UN Delegates Dining Room on March 4, with Under Secretary General Kiyo Akasaka as the main speaker; as well as attendance of the UN International Women's Day commemorative event on March 5, with a special address by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. Dr. Lan Young Moon, president of WFWP, International, and Alexa Ward, president of WFWP, USA, had an opportunity to meet and speak briefly with Mrs. Ban Soon Taek, the wife of the UN Secretary General.

On March 12, WFWP, USA was a co-sponsor of the 5th Annual International Women's Day program, along with Peace X Peace and UPF. The event, entitled "Women as Peacemakers: Building a Culture of Peace," was held in the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington DC. With more than forty countries and twenty-three embassies represented, the event included welcoming remarks; a keynote address by H.E. Ezra Houda Nonoo, the Ambassador of Bahrain to the US; a "Water of Peace Ceremony;" the moving Bridge of Peace Ceremony; concluding with a rendition of "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

On April 17, WFWP, USA leaders and guests attended the 2009 Women for Peace Gala, at the Metropolitan Club in New York. Speakers included Mrs. Ban Soon Taek, the wife of the UN Secretary General, and Mrs. Anna Birgis Hanneson, the wife of the Ambassador from Iceland to the US. Two women were honored that evening, Queen Noor of Jordan and Jodie Williams, the 1997 American Nobel Laureate.

For the fifth time, Alexa Ward attended the annual First Ladies Luncheon, on April 30, at the Washington Hilton in Washington DC, sponsored by the Congressional Club. With three thousand women in attendance, including spouses of member of President Obama's cabinet, First Lady Michelle Obama has the honored guest.

On May 4, Alexa Ward attended a meeting of the World Affairs Council in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, that featured Ambassador Condoleeza Rice, who served as US Secretary of State (2005-2009). Alexa had an opportunity to speak briefly with the Ambassador.

On May 11, eight WFWP, USA leaders and friends enjoyed the annual Maryland Celebration of Reading event, held at the Music Center at Strathmore, in Bethesda, Maryland. This program is part of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and was founded by Doro Bush Koch, the daughter of former president and Mrs. George Bush. WFWP, USA has been a sponsor of this event for the past five years.

On June 3, WFWP, USA participated in the 100th birthday commemoration for former UN Secretary General U Thant, held in the Delegates Dining Room of the United Nations.

On June 4, a delegation of ten WFWP, USA leaders and friends participated in the 11th Annual Uncommon Heights Awards Gala, held at the Washington Hilton in Washington DC, and sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). With WFWP, USA as a sponsor of the event, the famed civil rights leader Dorothy Height, the president of NCNW, gave the keynote address. Oprah Winfrey was honored with an award.

In the middle of June, WFWP members from Florida, as well as from the WFWP student chapter at the University of South Florida, sponsored a young adult service trip to Haiti for the second year in a row. Working with the International Relief Friendship Foundation (IRFF), a team of thirty Haitians and Americans planted Moringa tree seedlings and helped a medical group in a mobile clinic.

For the ninth year in a row, WFWP, USA sponsored a season of benefits in support of the Schools of Africa Project. Over the years this project has supported WFWP sponsored schools in Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda and Uganda. The 2009 season will end on March 1, 2010. Approximately \$30,000 has been raised toward an annual goal of \$50,000. To date a total of \$258,000 has been raised for these schools.