



Winter ENews from Women's Federation for World Peace, USA

Dear WFWP,

Winter Greetings from WFWP-USA!

Marking the beginning of a new revolution of the earth around the sun, we traditionally survey the passing year and try to glean lessons for our future. The holy days of Christmas and Hanukkah are celebratory occasions for gift-giving. We rejoice together in our shared hopes for, "Peace on earth, good will to men."

How many times has the earth traveled around the sun without any tangible realization of that dream of world peace? Yet, for some wonderful reason, the dream will not die. Hope for peace lives in our hearts today, just as fresh as spring water. WFWP, USA encourages you to nourish that hope, strengthen your dreams, and work together in the coming year for the universal goals of peace, health and prosperity for all. We are truly one human family living together in our shared home, planet Earth.

May God be with you and your loved ones as you gather together during this sacred season. See you next year!



WFWPI 9th Annual Leadership Workshop

For the ninth consecutive year, Women's Federation for World Peace, International (WFWPI) held a conference for women leaders from around the world.



S California's Benefit for the Schools of Africa

WFWP Southern California held its Annual Benefit for the Schools of Africa at the classy Rio Hondo Event Center in Downey on Sunday afternoon,

WFWPI Forum at the United Nations

The United Nations Office of the Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) co-sponsored its fourth forum on Global Public Health and the Eradication of Poverty on

Last year the conference was held in Korea, and included a trip to North Korea for a meeting with women leaders there. The theme was, "The Role of Women in Building a Culture of Peace," because 2000-2010 was designated by the United Nations as the "decade of a culture of peace."

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WFWP Dallas Hosts Speakers from the Parents Television Council

Have you ever turned on the television hoping for an evening's relaxation, only to have your eyes and ears assaulted by foul language, violence, or sexually offensive behavior? Most likely you asked yourself, "How can they DO that on television?" If your children watch TV, how can you protect them from such destructive influences?

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Laura Hornbeck

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This issue stories were contributed by the following:

October 5th, 2008. The California chairwoman, Claudelina Smith, teamed up with Norma Foster and Nina Alexander to form the organizing committee. This group was able to bring the annual fundraiser to greater heights in every sense of the word.

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1% Love Share Project: School Life

Spring is the start of a new school year and students in North and South Korea alike get excited about beginning a new semester. Yet the long stretch of political and social separation has made the education systems of the North and South quite different. Exactly how different is school life in the North from that of the South?

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2008 Chapter Monthly Meeting Highlights

2008 was a year filled with activities and initiatives on the national and local levels. One notable development inaugurated during the national WFWP leaders retreat in

Tuesday, November 25th. This forum brought together members of government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and members of civil society to consider family as one of the most strategic focal points for fulfilling individual and collective health and economic needs.

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N California Benefit Committee Honored by UNA

The Benefit Committee for the WFWP Schools of Africa Project of Northern California was given special recognition by the United Nations Association East Bay Chapter. They were honored with a Global Citizen's Award at the annual United Nations Association (UNA) banquet for United Nations Day on October 24th.

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Quotes from Inspirational Women

When you find peace within yourself, you become the kind of person who can live at peace with others.

Peace Pilgrim
Spiritual Leader

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

Patricia Fleishman

Paula Fujiwara

Laura Hornbeck

Tamami Kawamura

JaeSuk Lee

WFWP, USA Chairwomen

January was the commencement of regular monthly meetings for each chapter. Highlighted here are some of those monthly meetings representing each area of the country, giving a taste of what local WFWP, USA chapters did in 2008.

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Anne Frank
Writer

We would like to wish you a safe and warm holiday season and thank you for supporting our programs and projects through the year. We look forward to continuing to further the cause of peace in the unique ways through which women work.

You receive this e-newsletter as a membership benefit on the level of Peace Friend, Peace Supporter, Peace Builder and Peace Benefactor.

Sincerely,

WFWP ENews
Women's Federation for World Peace, USA
203-333-5572

Chapter Highlights 2008

2008 was a year filled with activities and initiatives on the national and local levels. One notable development inaugurated during the national WFWP leaders retreat in January was the commencement of regular monthly meetings for each chapter. Highlighted here are some of those monthly meetings representing each area of the country, giving a taste of what WFWP, USA did in 2008.

February

Chapter: Jacksonville, FL
Location: Murray Hill Public Library

Follow-up from the WFWP national meeting in Texas in January. The meeting was a chance to discuss the new format for monthly meetings as outlined at the national gathering. It was conducted in the same manner suggested in Houston so that members could see how it works. Six piggy banks were distributed for the Schools of Africa Project.

March

Chapter: Miami, FL
Location: Johnson & Wales Culinary University

Members gathered to learn how to make pasta from scratch, cooking together and eating what they made. Discussion centered on how to take better care of our families through spending more time creating delicious meals. Food is a very important way a woman shows love to her family. New bonds of friendship were also formed by cooking together.

Chapter: Houston, TX
Location: Friendswood Public Library
Theme: “International Women’s Day”



Joy Theriot led the meeting, showing a video about the United Nations’ International Women’s Day and a PowerPoint presentation on the activities of WFWP. Brief messages were given on the topic of women and peace by Rev. Ethel Hayes of Gloryland



Missionary Baptist Church and Mrs. Nafisa Ahmed, representing a local Muslim women’s

organization. Joy Theriot then read a speech by WFWP's founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, from the tenth anniversary celebration of WFWP.

April

Chapter: Madison, Wisconsin

Wisconsin WFWP members reside in two main areas: Milwaukee and Madison. Because of the significant travel time between the two towns, they alternate monthly



meetings between them. Milwaukee is

a large industrial city and Madison is a smaller college town, and the two cities have significantly different types of populations. The April meeting in Madison was organized by Veronica Ferch, while Heidi Vetterli led the meeting. District Coordinator Margaret Figueroa gave the main speech. The Fill Me Up for Peace Piggy Bank Initiative was inaugurated there.



Chapter: Mobile, Alabama

Location: American Café, Mobile, Alabama

Theme: Teens Making the Right Choices

Guest speaker was O'Dessa Nixon, Executive Director, Helping Hands Ministry Foundation. She gave a presentation on teens making the right choices for their lives. It was a wonderful program to educate parents and teens.

Chapter: Norfolk, Virginia

Location: Windsor Woods Library in Virginia Beach

A transitional ceremony was initiated by Caroline Betancourt to pass on the leadership of WFWP in Norfolk, VA from Joan Mwamlima to Nobuko Peemoeller. The guest speaker was Zamira Hamidi from DC, who spoke on "Peace and the Afghani Women." The library meeting room was rather small, and it was packed with people. All the participants enjoyed the presentation, and many of them promised to come back.



May

Chapter: Puyallup, WA
Location: South Hill Public Library
Theme: “Intercultural Sisterhood & Bridge of Peace Ceremony”

Since the Benefit for Schools of Africa in November 2007, WFWP members in the southern part of Washington State wanted to have a Bridge of Peace ceremony of their own. Penny Frisk and Yuko Faris overcame many struggles before it could finally become a reality. Together, they created a beautiful program that inspired all who attended. Marya Gengray, a long-time diversity consultant in the Puyallup School District, was the keynote speaker. She spoke with passion and commitment based on her experience and life's work.

Chapter: Dallas, Texas
Location: Offices of DFW Technology
Theme: “The Body’s Amazing Ability to Heal Itself”

Keynote speaker was Pauline Chen, vice-president of DFW Technology, who enthusiastically spoke about her personal journey toward health. She experienced weight loss and much better health after embarking on a program of occasional fasting, eating raw and minimally processed



foods, and avoiding prescription drugs. Her mentor in this process has been a man named Ray Kent, (www.ourplaceinternational.com) who teaches people how to free their body from toxins in order to utilize the amazing power of the body to heal itself. After her talk in the conference room, Pauline took the group into the kitchen and prepared a delicious strawberry-banana shake. Sixteen women attended.

June

Chapter: Washington, DC



Location: UFC Building, 3224 16th St. NW, Washington, DC
Theme: “Women Facing War”

Dr. Katrin Michael had just come back from Iraq and gave a short talk, showing pictures of her experience in Iraq.

In the audience were four Ambassadors for Peace, including the main speaker, Ms. Marli Carvalho, an International Humanitarian Law instructor. She is now head of the Advisory

Committee for WFWP DC Chapter. Others on the Advisory Committee include: Dr. Lucia Vega, Powell School Principal, and Mrs. Amanan Dandi, founder & president of NGO Vision & Action of African Women against Wars and Ex-UNHCR social service worker.

Chapter: West Rock, New York
Location: Que Chula es Puebla Restaurant
Theme: “Changing Lives, Building Peace:” WFWP Schools of Africa Project

Athia Shibuya gave a power point presentation of her summer 2007 Service Learning Trip to Kenya.



Chapter: Rhode Island
Location: Warwick Public Library
Theme: WFWP International Leadership Conference in North Korea

Slide Presentation for the WFWP International Conference in Korea last year, centering on the trip to North Korea. Many questions followed, with a dynamic discussion of the purpose of WFWP. Angela Vitale has accepted the position of WFWP representative in Rhode Island, and the Boston Chapter will support her.



Chapter: Boston, Massachusetts
Location: Roslindale Community Center
Theme: “Why Wait?”



The Boston WFWP Chapter hosted a panel of three college students who have chosen to be sexually abstinent before marriage.



They gave their personal reasons for remaining abstinent, and then took questions from the audience. A short performance was given by the Worcester “Wait Team,” a group of students promoting healthy life choices.

Chapter: Seattle, WA
Location: Community Center at Mercer View, Mercer Island
Theme: “Relationship Champions-- Equipped to Make a Difference”

Guest speaker Michael Schindler presented “Relationship Champions,” a new program from Families NW dedicated to bringing life and health to families and marriages across the northwest. They are committed to train 6000 “Relationship Champions” in 3 years through organizations like WFWP. Their goal is to provide training and tools and resources “helping you to help others”.

Mr. Schindler is related to the protagonist in *Schindler’s List*. Families NW partners with communities to strengthen families and marriages, building stronger homes for children. [<http://www.familiesnw.org> , <http://www.couplecheckup.com>]



July

Chapter: New York Metro
Location: 4 West 43rd St. NYC, Oak Room

WFWP, USA President Alexa Ward spoke about the goals and direction of WFWP. Thirty-two people attended; eight became new members. It was a positive beginning.

Chapter: New Jersey
Location: Clifton Library
Theme: “Moving into the Sacred With Feng Shui”

The idea for this meeting came from Roseanne Cameron in Pennsylvania, who has been studying *Feng Shui* for a few years. She felt she wanted to offer her inspiration and knowledge to a greater audience, so she contacted WFWP. Roseanne is a creative and gentle woman married to an artist. She seeks to find balance in home and heart. Her understanding of *Feng Shui* was natural and easy to understand. Her lovely and peaceful spirit to our meeting inspired members to evaluate the flow of energy in their own homes.



Other Activities in New Jersey during July:



On July 18th several WFWP members attended the Hopewell Baptist Church for an event entitled, “100 Women in Red: Prayer for Peace Candlelight Service.” Women ministers spoke and led songs of praise. The WFWP “Bridge of Peace Ceremony” concluded the program. The evening was an inspiration to all that attended. Approximately twenty-five pairs of women from different faiths and ethnicities crossed the bridge to become Sisters of Peace, along with two men who were very inspired to become Brothers of Peace!

On July 26th members of the Universal Peace Federation and WFWP attended a barbecue sponsored by the local Kenyan immigrant community. Mrs. Toshiko Sato has been nurturing relationships with this group and she has made many great friendships.

On July 27th local member Cynthia Nakai held a regular “Book Nook” discussion group. Cynthia has been inviting friends and contacts to her home for several years, offering warm and wonderful ideas centered on WFWP. Now she has initiated a monthly book group that gathers monthly gather at a local diner to critique books they have read and share thoughts on various topics. She encourages the women to attend other WFWP activities as well.

Editors’ Note: The New Jersey chapter of WFWP has increased their membership this year by more than any other chapter. They now have 244 members. Congratulations to District Chair Jeannie Carroll and Vice-Chair Toshiko Sato!

Chapter: Columbus, Ohio
Location: Home of Gwenn and Roger Bair
Theme: “Presentation on Haiti and a Birthday Party for Paula”

Local husband and wife Hiro and Kayo Masuda went to Haiti for two weeks in June to join a service project organized by WFWP Florida and the International Relief Friendship Foundation. They gave a Powerpoint presentation filled with pictures and stories of their experiences in Haiti. About seven people attended. After the presentation, a birthday party was celebrated for Paula who has helped and worked so hard for WFWP.



WFWP volunteers preparing to paint front gate of school in Haiti

August

Chapter: Chicago, Illinois
Location: Ashland Church, Chicago

WFWP Chicago Chapter hosted a special event featuring Mrs. Norah Bagirinka, a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, who is a new member of WFWP currently living in Ohio. Her message was that everyone can and must make a difference in improving the lives of others. Around 60 members and guests attended, including some from as far away as Green Bay, Wisconsin. They viewed the award-winning film, “God Sleeps in Rwanda,” for which Mrs. Bagirinka was an interpreter. This film touchingly profiles the lives of five women who lived through the genocide of 1994. This inspiring event helped several people join and renew their memberships with WFWP.



October

Chapter: Northern California
Location: Bay Area Family Church
Theme: “Finding Balance, Peace and Bliss”

The guest speaker from Long Beach, California, was author and healer Suzanne Schafer. She held an interactive discussion about some of the difficulties women face in our daily lives and the need to nurture ourselves so that we have more to give to others. Suzanne has written a book that will be coming out very soon.



November

Chapter: Southern California
Location: Pasadena House, Pasadena, CA
Theme: “Women’s Federation for World Peace invites you to a Thanksgiving fellowship”

Kimiyo Anceney, WFWP national membership coordinator, spoke about the recent WFWP International Leaders Conference in Australia, and the October Global Peace Festival in Los Angeles.

December

Chapters Nationwide: Benefits for Schools of Africa. Reports coming in the next issue of WFWP ENews.

WFWPI Leadership Conference in Australia



For the ninth consecutive year, Women’s Federation for World Peace, International (WFWPI) held a conference for women leaders from around the world. Last year the conference was held in Korea, and included a trip to North Korea for a meeting with women leaders there. The year before, WFWPI members travelled to Bangkok, Thailand. This year, Australia hosted the event at the Collaroy Conference Center about 45 minutes drive from Sydney. The theme was, “The Role of Women in Building a Culture of Peace,” because 2000-2010 was designated by the United Nations as the “decade of a culture of peace.”

Twenty-three nations were represented at the conference; one hundred and twenty women attended, with fifty-five participants from outside Oceania. Attendees from the USA and Canada were Claudelina Smith; Debby Gullery; Jayne Wood; Veronica Ferch; Lily Tadin; and Kimiyo Anceney.

The first full day of the conference began with a Morning Peace Service led by Barbara Minett of WFWP New Zealand. Barbara spoke about being healthy-- physically, intellectually, emotionally and



spiritually—and played the flute during group meditation.

Reports were given throughout the day from national chapters including Japan, Europe, Korea, Middle East, Canada, USA, and the UN Office, and then later from Asia, South America and Oceania.

Lunch speaker was respected Maori activist Merekaraka Tipoki Caesar, who spoke on “Reconciliation and World Peace.” Guest speaker at the evening banquet was Mrs. Ruth Lini, wife of the Deputy Prime Minister of Vanuatu, who spoke on “The Role of Women in Pacific Island Culture.”



Friday October 24 – International UN Day

The Morning Peace Service was given by Leona Didsbury, WFWP New Zealand, who urged everyone to be “better, not bitter.” After a morning panel discussion on the Global Peace Festival sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation and co-sponsored by WFWPI, the conference moved to a hotel in Sydney.

That afternoon, the group went to the New South Wales State Parliament, where they were given a reception at the State Parliament lounge in honor of International United Nations Day. Hon. David Clarke, MP NSW Parliament, hosted the event. He warmly and



enthusiastically welcomed and praised WFWP International for their good work for peace, for their support of the family and promotion of family values.

Hon. Penny Sharpe MP then welcomed everyone to the Parliament on



behalf of the Minister for Women, Verity Firth MP. Ms Sharpe spoke about the founding of the UN and offered best wishes to WFP for their work.

A short DVD on WFP and the United Nations was shown, after which Dr. Lan Young Moon spoke

about the significant status of WFP with the UN. WFP is one of only 157 organizations world wide with General Consultative status. She stressed that women are playing an increasingly important and more active role in the world.

Guest speaker Mrs Ruth Lini spoke next, reaffirming Vanuatu's commitment to the UN. She touched on the issue of global warming and the vulnerable position of the Pacific Island nations. "A culture of peace can only come when we serve others," Mrs Lini stated as she commended the work of WFP.

The reception was very successful, bringing together around 50 community leaders and five Members of Parliament to commemorate UN Day with the WFP representatives.

The reception was followed by a banquet at the Peace Embassy. Everyone packed into the main hall for dinner. Les Saxby, an Aboriginal performer, entertained the group on the traditional didgeridoo and shared Aboriginal culture.

Saturday October 25

On Saturday morning Dianne Simboro gave a moving Peace Service about her experiences working with poverty-stricken people in Africa. She saw children dying because of insufficient medical support and poor nutrition. Everyone was reminded of the vast



amount of work that must be done to alleviate suffering before a peaceful world can be realized.



After breakfast, the group had a chance to go sightseeing at the Botanic Gardens and the architecturally unique Sydney Opera House.

The closing banquet on Saturday night featured a special “Living for Others” award ceremony which was attended by about 400 people.

Merekaraka Tipoki Caesar received the *Woman of Peace* award from WFWP.



Daughter of a Maori chieftain in New Zealand, Ms Caesar has been successful in business and international finance, as well as being an accomplished producer, dancer, choreographer, and scriptwriter. She encourages her Maori people to see that education is “the door that opens the way to freedom.” She has spoken in many venues promoting understanding and harmony among all people and nations.

Comments from North American representatives to the conference:

This was my first chance to attend an international leadership conference outside the US. I was grateful to hear from women representing chapters in



other parts of the world. There was much to be learned as we exchanged best practices. It was an important reminder to see first-hand the scope of our international presence and influence.

Debby Gullery, New York, director of the Marriage and Family Initiative of WFWP, USA, who gave the WFWP, USA report at the conference

We were warmly welcomed by WFWP Australian members, and I felt I had come to meet my sisters from all over the world. The relationships that the WFWP Australian members have achieved with members of Parliament who know what WFWP stands for and could speak positively about WFWP was truly inspiring.

Veronica Ferch, WFWP Wisconsin Chairwoman

I was inspired by the informative regional reports from around the world. The highlight of the conference for me was the speech by Hon. David Clarke, Member of the Legislative Council of NSW, who emphasized the principles and values that WFWP stands for.

Lilly Tadin, President, WFWP Canada

Congratulations to the hardworking WFWP members of Australia and New Zealand, especially main organizers Mamiko Rattley and Jynene Helland, for creating an unforgettable 2008 conference.

WFWPI Sponsors UN Forum on Global Public Health and the Eradication of Poverty



The United Nations Office of the Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) co-sponsored its fourth forum on Global Public Health and the Eradication of Poverty on Tuesday, November 25th. This forum brought together members of government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and members of civil society to consider family as one of the most strategic focal points for fulfilling individual and collective health and economic needs.

The program was supported by the Permanent Missions to the United Nations from the

following countries: the Republic of Belarus; Kenya; Trinidad and Tobago; Jordan; and Croatia.

All the activities of Women's Federation for World Peace, International center on establishing a culture of peace centered on the vision of humankind as one global family. The health – physical, emotional and economic -- of the family and community are oftentimes the responsibility of women. Thus, WFWPI seeks to encourage women through the dissemination of knowledge and skills.

International president for WFWPI, Dr. Lan Young Moon, gave welcoming remarks, and the chief of the UN NGO Section, Dr. Hanifa Mezoui, offered her greetings. The panel presented pictures of both positive strides in working towards the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and



Dr. Lan Young Moon, the president of WFWPI (left) with Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama, the international vice-president of WFWPI and director of the WFWPI UN Office (right)

the dismal situation of the world's sick and poor. Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama, international vice-president of WFWPI and director of the WFWPI UN Office, served as moderator.



Her Excellency Madam Purificacion Angue Ondo, Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea to the United States, was the first speaker. She expressed her appreciation for the work of WFWP in her country, as well as realistically describing the health difficulties, particularly malaria, and poverty faced by the people of Equatorial Guinea.

Dr. Christine K. Durbak, Chair and CEO of World Information Transfer, represented her organization, which began in 1987 in response to the tragedy and health crisis sparked by the nuclear power plant meltdown in Chernobyl.



Mr. Michihito Sano, Vice President of the Foundation for Sustainable Development in North and South America, gave a slideshow presentation of his organization's successes and efforts to develop a sustainable economy in the poorest areas of Paraguay.



Ms. Deborah Saidy, Director of the New York Liaison Office of the UN World Food Program, described some of the problems of food distribution in an increasingly destabilized global economy. Mr. Bertil Lindblad, Director of the New York Liaison Office of UNAIDS, talked about marked improvements in the area of AIDS education while also noting the ongoing problems of human trafficking and the still extremely profitable drug economies.

Ms. Karen J. Smith, UN Representative of WFWPI, gave an insightful summary of each of the speaker's main points and connected their contributions to the overall theme of the forum. She pointed to the UN's founding documents and noted that true and lasting peace can only come as a result of a considerable amount of invisible, social capital. That is, values such as friendship and care need to have a place in diplomacy and social work.



Kayo Derflinger Masuda, a participant from Ohio, commented that she particularly enjoyed hearing about the World Food Program. "It's what I want to do -- work in Africa for a few years

and start a clinic, so it was helpful for my future plans. But I wish I could have heard a little more about how we can be involved in these activities, how we can make a difference.”

Bettye Johnson, a new WFWP member from Washington State, stated, “As much as I enjoyed all the speakers, I thought Karen J. Smith's presentation was the greatest.... Karen spoke about tapping the underutilized resources of the human spirit, the human heart, love and all its attributes. This resonated with me, since I have created the *For Freedom Now Project* www.forfreedomnow.weebly.com asking people to become Shift-Changers by focusing once a day to send out love and gratitude around the world. I know that blanketing the world with these attitudes ... will reinforce all the great work being done by many organizations including WFWP.”



For more information on this forum, go to

http://www.wfwp.org/wfwp/library/unNewYork/Forum_Program112508.pdf

To learn more about the activities of Women’s Federation for World Peace International and how you can get involved in the issues of global public health and the eradication of poverty, go to www.wfwp.org

N CA Schools of Africa Benefit Committee Honored by UNA

The Benefit Committee for the WFWP Schools of Africa Project of Northern California was given special recognition by the United Nations Association East Bay Chapter. They were honored with a Global Citizen's Award at the annual United Nations Association (UNA) banquet for United Nations Day on October 24th. The International House on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley, was the location of the event attended by over 200 people.



2008 was the third year that Global Citizens Awards were given to organizations or individuals doing exceptional work in service to humanity. In presenting this award to the Schools of Africa Project Benefit Committee, the UNA recognized the excellent work WFWP is doing in Africa to provide educational opportunities for young people, as well as the work of local volunteers who raise funds for these projects.



Pat Fleischman, WFWP Chairwoman for Northern California, received the award on behalf of the committee. Other committee members were Tomiko Nojima; Kikuno Allen; Monika Kellett; Yukiko Zinke; Siew Lian LeRoy; Hisae Mori; and Bruna Allen. The committee members present are shown here with Herb Behrstock,

President of the United Nations Association East Bay Chapter.

The event also honored 23 scientists from the Lawrence Livermore Laboratories who received the Nobel Peace Prize for their collective work on the effects of global warming.

WFWPI 1% Love Share Project

In 2001, WFWP International and WFWP Korea started the North Korea *One Percent Love Sharing Project*. This is an effort to contribute to the realization of true world peace by building a foundation for the unification of North and South Korea. It asks participants to set aside 1000 won (less than 1 USD) every month to help the needy, starting with those in North Korea.

US WFWP members are encouraged to send in donations for this project to the US headquarters in order to save on bank charges. There is a minimum requirement of \$12 for the year. As part of this program, we include occasional articles about life in North Korea. We hope you will actively join this unique program of WFWP.

Life in a North Korean Farming Village

By Jaesung Lee

Excerpted from *Peace Women Magazine*

Volume 53, Spring 2007



Spring is the start of a new school year and students in North and South Korea alike get excited about beginning a new semester. Yet the long stretch of political and social separation has made the education systems of the North and South quite different. Exactly how different is school life in the North from that of the South?

Same homeroom teachers throughout Elementary School

Due to the longer winters in the north, schools start on the first day of April every year. In North Korea, children enter a four-year elementary school when they reach the age of six. Throughout the four years of elementary school, the homeroom teacher does not change. This is also the case in middle school, so the teachers get to know the students very well.



Students in North Korea must wear uniforms to school



Girl students wear a white blouse with a shoulder-strapped yellowish-red skirt and a ribbon in their hair. Boy students wear a white shirt with dark-yellow pants. Classes start at 8:00 in the morning and they are two hours long, after which students gather in the field for physical exercise. The students have many subjects to cover, including the morality of communism, Korean, mathematics, nature, music and physical education. Besides this, they have extra-curricular activities after school.

1st and 2nd grade elementary school students do not take tests. After the 3rd grade, there are midterm and final exams for each subject. Report cards are normally handed out to parents during parent teacher conferences. A failing grade will result in having to retake exams during the holidays.

After graduating from elementary school, students move on to a 6-year middle school.

Middle schools, just like elementary schools, start at 8:00 AM. Classes normally end at 2:00 in the afternoon and are longer than in elementary school. In both North and South Korean middle schools, classes become more specialized. There are a total of 23 subjects including: Party Policy, the



Revolutionary Activities of President Kim Il Sung, History of the Revolution, Korean,



Morality of Communism, Chinese Characters, Foreign Language, History of Chosun, World History, Geography of Chosun, World Geography, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Music, Art, Physical Education, Engineering, Electrical Engineering Lab.

The frequency of exams increases as does the number of classes. The students take written and oral exams throughout the year including weekly, monthly and semester exams.

Schools for the Gifted

Schools for the gifted are gaining popularity in the South and the same is true in the North. Schools for the gifted are typically called the 1st Middle Schools, as in the 1st Middle School of Pyongyang. Qualifications to apply for the entrance exam include a recommendation from the principal of the previous school. The exam is well known for its high level of difficulty. However, once admitted, these schools provide an educational environment much superior to regular middle schools.

These schools for the gifted focus on mathematics, sciences, and foreign languages. The students are exempted from mandatory farm support work and they are allowed to apply to university without taking a pre-examination, something which all other middle school students are required to take. However, if the students in the 1st middle schools do not make good grades, they will be expelled. Middle school students in the regular schools do not have to face this problem.

(Read WFWP, USA ENews for future exclusive articles about life in North Korea.)

Dallas WFWP Hosts Speakers from the Parents Television Council

By Laura Hornbeck

Have you ever turned on the television hoping for an evening's relaxation, only to have your eyes and ears assaulted by foul language, violence, or sexually offensive behavior? Most likely you asked yourself, "How can they DO that on television?" If your children watch TV, how can you protect them from such destructive influences?

Millions of Americans have asked that question and have turned to an organization working on this problem. The Parents Television Council (PTC) is a nationwide grassroots organization with chapters around the country. National headquarters are located in Los Angeles, the epicenter of most of the television and movie programming in the country.

The PTC monitors network and basic cable broadcasts in prime time, meticulously logging inappropriate incidents or programs. The information is used to compile e-mail reports to members, as well as monthly newsletters, and in-depth studies. Researchers also use the information to educate sponsors about program content. Their website contains a wealth of information: www.parentstv.org

Texas WFWP Director, Laura Hornbeck, has been a member of the PTC for over ten years and is inspired by their work. She arranged for the Dallas-area chapter leaders to speak at the October monthly meeting of WFWP in the downtown Dallas area.



Ruth Cosby

Ruth Cosby, local PTC chapter director, gave the first presentation. She joined PTC in 2004 because of her concerns over the coarsening culture. As the mother of seven (7!) children, she was worried, not just for her own but also for those children whose parents don't supervise television in their homes. Within weeks of accepting the position of

Dallas-Fort Worth chapter leader, Ruth found herself in the middle of a national controversy: Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" at the Super Bowl. Suddenly Ruth was in the spotlight and on camera, being interviewed by local

media for PTC's position on the incident. She said she went from being a new volunteer to "official spokesperson" overnight. Since then, her children have expressed pride in their mother's activism, saying that they appreciate her efforts to protect them.

Ruth also explained something very simple: The networks are public property and as such do not have the right to air offensive programs. The main reason for the proliferation of offensive programming is that the average person does not complain, either to the government or to the advertisers on those shows. PTC makes it very easy to contact advertisers and is a great resource for parents wanting more information on programming content.

Many people now pay for expanded basic cable because of the wider variety of family-friendly programming. But when you pay for educational and family-friendly networks like Disney or the Discovery Channel, you are also forced to subsidize channels such as MTV, FX, Comedy Central, and others with offensive content. PTC has launched a “Cable Choice” campaign, petitioning the FCC and Congress to pass laws allowing consumers to pay for cable channels they choose and quit paying for child-destructive programming. They have launched a website specifically for this purpose: www.HowCableShouldBe.com.



Teresa Weaver speaking to WFWP group

The second speaker was Teresa Weaver, a mother of three who recently became involved with the PTC. She gave a PowerPoint presentation showing statistics about the influence of sexually suggestive and explicit scenes on TV, particularly on those cable channels aimed at youth: MTV, BET, and others.

Scientific studies are proving that teenagers are influenced by the sexual values portrayed on television programs. A fantasy world of sexual libertinism without negative consequences is created by irresponsible Hollywood producers and writers. Teens can get the false impression that “everybody’s doing it” because of the way relationships are portrayed on TV.

PTC also gives their “Seal of Approval” to selected television shows and movies, such as “Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?”, *High School Musical 3*, and *Beverly Hills Chihuahua*. Two of the best advertisers, in terms of the quality of programming they support, are the Coca-Cola Company and Campbell Soup.

Parents must take a stand against the greedy men and women of Hollywood who have no higher value than the Almighty Dollar. The good news is that parents and responsible adults do have power, and there is strength in numbers. The PTC is a force to be

reckoned with because of their large membership. Anyone can join by simply submitting your name and address. There is no membership fee, although donations are welcomed to continue the work.

For more information, visit the website www.parentstv.org and learn how you can join the struggle to make the media more child and family-friendly.

**WFWP Southern California
Luncheon Benefit for Schools of Africa**
by Paula Fujiwara



WFWP Southern California held its Annual Benefit for the Schools of Africa at the classy Rio Hondo Event Center in Downey on Sunday afternoon, October 5th, 2008. The California chairwoman, Claudelina Smith, teamed up

with Norma Foster and Nina Alexander to form the organizing committee. This group was able to bring the annual fundraiser to greater heights in every sense of the word -- from the emceeing by Norma Foster to the auctioneering by Claudelina's husband, Gregg Smith, to the songs by Naoko Hiraki and Junko Hiroshima, dedicated Japanese WFWP volunteers who helped pioneer the schools. A video presentation about the Schools of Africa project helped attendees feel the spirit of service that has given hope to so many African women, children, families and communities.





The Keynote speaker this year, Consul General of Kenya, Mary Nyambura Kamau, shared about her childhood opportunities for education, and her desire to help the development of Africa through education. After her remarks, a short DVD of the recent Kenyan Global Peace Festival (GPF) was shown. The emcee then invited the audience to attend the GPF to be held on October 9th here in Los Angeles.

The luncheon program allowed for plenty of time to peruse the extensive variety of silent auction items, from clothing and accessories to handcrafted gifts to gently used items. Lucky Draw tickets sold like hotcakes, and “Fill me up for Peace” piggy banks were turned in and given out as well. Norma Foster had the good idea to ask each table to discuss ways to help WFWP schools in Africa—particularly about what we can do to help in more concrete ways.





The atmosphere of the occasion was very high, as all enjoyed every aspect of the event. The participants seemed to have come to “See and be seen” judging by who contributed their time

and talents. The printed program laid out by Robert Brown was exceptionally well done. All the volunteers are to be highly commended for creating such a wonderful opportunity to reach out to Africa.

We raised more than \$6,000 from different sources such as: Silent Auction, Lucky Draw, Program Ads, Special Donations and the Entrance fees.



Mwadi Mabika--- a Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) player