

WFWP, USA

Where American women meet the world.



Women's Federation for World Peace, USA ENewsletter

Early Summer/2008

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Inspirational Quote



The older I get, the greater power I seem to have to help the world; I am like a snowball--the further I am rolled the more I gain.

Susan B. Anthony
19th Century women's rights leader (1820-1906)

What is your Act of Service and Kindness?

Join us in recording our Acts of Service and Kindness for GPF 2008!

Go to www.wfwp.us and click on the gold banner to start today.

Dear WFWP,

Hello! We are bringing to each of you the latest edition of the WFWP, USA ENews edited by Laura Hornbeck in Texas and co-edited by WFWP's new executive director, Tamami Kawamura, in Connecticut. This issue includes a few articles from the 16th Anniversary National Assembly and some information about the upcoming Global Peace Festival in Washington, DC on August 9th. We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and that you all remain healthy and bright during these beautiful summer months!

WFWP-USA's 16th Anniversary National Assembly

Reported by Alexa Ward, WFWP, USA President

In honor of the sixteenth anniversary of WFWP, USA, two hundred and

thirty-seven guests from twenty states and the District of Columbia attended a national assembly in Whippany, New Jersey, from April 25-27, 2008. Four main events included a luncheon in the Delegates Dining Room of the United Nations; an evening with Dorothy Bush Koch; the national assembly; and a meeting for WFWP leaders and members.



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Dr. Lan Young Moon: Reflections on Peace

Dr. Lan Young Moon, president of WFWP, International, gave the keynote address at a banquet on April 26th for WFWP, USA's National Assembly. She spoke about her own experiences as a refugee of the Korean War, as well as changes taking place today on the Korean peninsula. Following are excerpts from that address.

In 1950, when the Korean War broke out, I was in the second grade of Wonsan Elementary School in North Korea. Since my parents hated communism, my family fled to the South in desperate circumstances. During our flight my father was captured by North Korean soldiers and I have never seen him again.

[Read more](#)

WFWP-USA and the Global Peace Festival 2008

The Global Peace Festival (GPF) was founded in 2006 with the vision of resolving conflict by building partnerships among organizations already working toward a culture of peace and service. The Global



Peace Festival promotes and celebrates people and programs that contribute to reconciliation, mutual respect, harmony and cooperation among the members of the whole human family. It works to create "One family under God" throughout the world. GPF Programs have been developed in nations such as the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Benin, Germany, and

France.

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Luncheon at the United Nations

Background on WFWP and the UN

In May of 1997, Women's Federation for World Peace was recognized as an



international non-governmental organization (NGO) contributing significantly to the goals of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. Thus the category of "General Consultative Status" was granted to WFWP, a distinction currently shared by only 139 non-profit organizations in the world. For the last eleven years, WFWP has continued to help build peace and to support ECOSOC through its unique approach, which infuses humanitarian work with a deeply spiritual culture of heart and love.

[Read more](#)

Meet the new WFWP-USA Executive Director

Hello, everyone. I was asked to give a brief introduction and describe my background. My name is Tamami Kawamura and in June 2008, I began working as WFWP-USA's executive director. I grew up in the suburbs of Chicago in Palatine, IL, and have been residing in Connecticut for the past few years.



[Read more](#)

We're excited to keep you updated on all our activities. Please send comments and suggestions to info@wfwp.us

Sincerely,

WFWP ENews
Women's Federation for World Peace, USA

Sixteenth Anniversary National Assembly
Reported by Alexa Ward, WFWP, USA President

In honor of the sixteenth anniversary of WFWP, USA, **two hundred and thirty-seven guests from twenty states and the District of Columbia** attended a national assembly in Whippany, New Jersey, from April 25-27, 2008. Four main events included a luncheon in the Delegates Dining Room of the United Nations; an evening with Dorothy Bush Koch; the national assembly; and a meeting for WFWP leaders and members.



Caroline Betancourt, Emcee for Friday night banquet

Proclamations and letters of support were received from:

Hon. Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the State of Washington

Hon. Robert Menendez, United States Senate, New Jersey

Hon. Frank R. Lautenberg, United States Senate, New Jersey

Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson, US House of Representatives, Texas

Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York

Hon. John L. Sampson, State Senator, 19th District of New York

Hon. Wayne J. Hall, Mayor of the Village of Hempstead, New York



*Doro Bush Koch (l.) greets
Darlene D'Souza, from Los
Angeles*

A representative from the office of the **Hon. Stephen Rothman, US House of Representatives**, from New Jersey, Ms. Alixon Collazos, attended the opening dinner. **Dr. Zal Velez, the Deputy Mayor**

of West Orange, New Jersey, also attended with his wife, Dr. Josie Velez.



Doro Bush Koch speaking at Friday night's banquet

sister-in-law, Laura Bush, to promote literacy. She also praised WFP for its affirmation of family as the central point for building peace in the wider world.

Norah Bagirinka, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide, collaborated on the Emmy-award-winning documentary entitled, *God Sleeps in Rwanda*. She spoke during Saturday's lunch of how she survived that tragic period of Rwanda's history, and then showed the gripping and inspiring film. The



Norah Bagirinka speaking at the Saturday luncheon



Kaye Allen, New York, and others enjoying a little dance after lunch

Three keynote speakers gave insight into the peace-building work of women around the world. The first speaker on Friday night was **Dorothy (Doro) Bush Koch**, literacy activist, author, and the **daughter of former President and Mrs. George H.W. Bush**. She mingled with guests and signed copies of her book, *My Father, My President*, during an evening reception. In her address, she stressed the importance of literacy, and described some of the work she does with her mother and

title of the film was based on a folk-tale in which God visits the rest of the world during the day but comes back to Rwanda to sleep at night because of the beautiful countryside there. Ms. Bagirinka inspired the assembly guests with a generous personal contribution in support of tuition for two students to attend WFWPI's school in Rwanda.



The Assembly offered a number of question and answer sessions.

Lan Young Moon, President of WFWP, International, spoke at the closing dinner about efforts for unification of the Korean peninsula. Beginning with painful testimony of her family’s suffering at the hands of the communists during the Korean War, she shared how she eventually came to love her “enemy” through the teachings and guidance of WFWP’s founders, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and

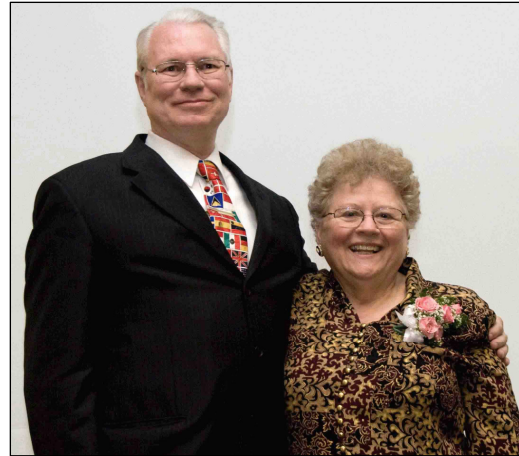
her husband, the Rev. Sun Myung Moon. President Lan Young Moon has been working with North Korean women leaders for ten years, having traveled to North Korea twelve times.

Other highlights of the assembly included a new five-minute introductory film about WFWP, USA; a report on United Nations activities; a film about WFWPI service projects; a panel on WFWP, USA’s ongoing national programs; a film about the 2007



Coffee breaks were good times for meeting new friends

youth service trip to Kenya; and a session on capacity building, which included the work of Byron Katie.



Nora Spurgin with husband, Hugh, after receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from WFWP, USA

Nora Spurgin, the founding President of WFWP, USA, and currently the Principal of **Bridgport International Academy**, was honored with WFWP, USA’s **Lifetime Achievement Award**. The Assembly closed with a moving candlelight ceremony. Washington DC will host the 17th Anniversary National Assembly in 2009.

Global Peace Festival

The Global Peace Festival (GPF) was founded in 2006 with the vision of resolving conflict by building partnerships among organizations already working toward a culture of peace and service. The Global Peace Festival promotes and celebrates people and programs that contribute to reconciliation, mutual respect, harmony and cooperation among the members of the whole human family. It works to create “One family under God” throughout the world. GPF Programs have been developed in nations such as the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Benin, Germany, and France.



Global Peace Festival-USA 2008 will consist of three main components: an international leadership conference, a social impact program, and a public celebration. That celebration will include entertainment, cultural activities, and inspiration on Saturday, August 9, 2008 on the Mall in Washington DC. www.globalpeacefestival.org

WFWP-USA is actively involved in two of the programs associated with GPF 2008: the *Children's Cloth of Many Colors* run by the Communities of Peace and the *GPF 2008 Acts of Service and Kindness*.

Acts of Service and Kindness

The GPF has set a goal to record one million acts of service and kindness to express the commitment to take small steps towards global peace and harmony. WFWP-USA is pleased to be a part of this effort. Please join us by sharing those acts of service and kindness that you extend to others. Go to the website www.wfwp.us and click on the gold banner there. Record anything you do to help or serve others – it can be large or small. This campaign can help to create an awareness of the power of kindness and service in ourselves and others.

Here is an example of one recorded act of service:

An elder in our church had been working in an area hours away from his home and found himself cited by a police officer for sleeping in his truck. His wife called our family and asked if we could help drive his truck back home because he was too exhausted and was not allowed to drive for the rest of the day. That is what we did today: We drove all the way to 127th St. in Chicago to fetch him and drive his truck back to the suburbs. We didn't feel it was an “act of service” because we feel connected and this is what family does for each other. But I went and wrote it down here anyway, in case it inspires anybody else to do the same for friends and family, as well as for the stranger in some foreign place.

D.K from Illinois

Children's Cloth of Many Colors



This is a project of Communities of Peace, which was founded by Ms. Gerry Eitner, an Ambassador for Peace of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF). Gwenn Bair, Ohio District Director, will be coordinating this project for WFWP. This project involves children decorating a one- yard square piece of cloth centering on what “peace” means to them. These squares are then sent to be linked together with all the others. At this time the Children’s Cloth is one-third of a mile long, comprised of thousands of squares from 25 countries and 22 states. Children who participate can do it as a family, as a Sunday school class, summer camp, etc. We encourage those of you who feel moved by this project to facilitate the making of these squares, which are made by children. More information will be sent in a separate e-mail very soon.

From Gerry Eitner, about the Children’s Cloth of Many Colors:

We noticed at one diplomatic event that when the children were sitting on the floor, drawing their pictures, their parents sat down beside them – again, it didn’t matter whether their countries were at odds with each other. Not only were the pictures the same, but “where the children go, the adults followed” It went beyond words: to the heart. Barriers fell.

http://www.communitiesofpeace.org/programs/childrens_cloth.html



Dr. Lan Young Moon, president of WFWP, International, gave the keynote address at a banquet on April 26th for WFWP, USA's National Assembly. She spoke about her own experiences as a refugee of the Korean War, as well as changes taking place today on the Korean peninsula. Following are excerpts from that address.

In 1950, when the Korean War broke out, I was in the second grade of Wonsan Elementary School in North Korea. Since my parents hated communism, my family fled to the South in desperate circumstances. During our flight my father was captured by North Korean soldiers and I have never seen him again.

My family and I met Father (Sun Myung) Moon in 1955, when I was in the first grade of junior high school. As refugees we had lost everything, the family was separated, and we had no hope for the future. But at that time Father Moon taught us that all human beings are one family, and that we are brothers and sisters under God, transcending race, religion, culture and ideology. He also taught us that the ultimate purpose of our life is to live for others.

Now our peace movement, which started under such a dire situation, is understood and followed by people in every corner of the world. Having witnessed all this, I have come to a firm belief in God and in the fundamental goodness of human nature, which originated from God....



*Refugees from the Korean War, around
1951*

In 2001, for the first time in 50 years, I was able to visit North Korea as one of ten women leaders. I was shocked by the desperate situation of the North. The women there kept referring to the "Great Leader" whenever they opened their mouths, and the economy was miserable. I felt tears rising as I realized what a very long way we had to go before unification could come about. We were shown to the best showcase kindergarten in Pyongyang. The children were of course well-dressed and well-trained, but they were slight and small for their age....

In May 2007, I attended a meeting with the Women's Department of the Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation (KCRC) of North Korea. The KCRC has a counterpart in the South with over 200 NGOs under it. This meeting was to discuss the 1% Love Share Project. The 1% Project is something I initiated in 2001 for the needy women and children of the North. Anyone can set aside \$1 a month. Women from around the world have contributed to this. The representatives of the North are very happy about this project, and have asked that the funds go to a state-run nursery. ...

WFWP has also organized field trips to the 38th Parallel area for women and children. The younger

generation needs to understand the similarities and differences between North and South, and they need to understand why the peninsula should be unified again.

We have been working with refugee groups in the South. Scholarships have been given to refugee students from the North, now studying in the South. An annual music concert with refugee groups helps to comfort their hearts. The number of refugees entering the South increases by the year, and the Ministry of Unification provides orientation for them to adjust to society.

We believe that external (material) and internal (spiritual) efforts need to go hand in hand. Thus, since the founding of WFWP in 1992, we have held a Prayer Meeting for North-South Unification close to the border every January. There is a lookout point where we can see the land of the North, and our members offer prayers at the beginning of the year...

In October 2007, the Eighth annual WFWP International Workshop was held outside of Seoul. Some 700 leaders from 50 countries attended. Following that, the group traveled by bus to the Mt. Kumgang Resort Complex in North Korea. There we held a convention in which women leaders of the North participated. It was the first time of course for them, to be with such a group of international women! Messages of Peace were given by leaders of North, South, the US, Europe and Japan. ..The Convention closed with a candlelight ceremony which brought everyone's hearts together....(See report in *WFWP, USA ENews, Winter 2008*)

We have experienced that the women of North Korea also care about the same things we do. Little by little, the North cannot help but open its doors and join the international community, the one global family.

Introduction to the new Executive Director of WFWP-USA

Hello, everyone. I was asked to give a brief introduction and describe my background. My name is Tamami Kawamura and in June 2008, I began working as WFWP-USA's executive director. I grew up in the suburbs of Chicago in Palatine, IL, and have been residing in Connecticut for the past few years.

I entered the University of Bridgeport in 2001 as a psychology major. As for many people, it was the first or second week of school that the September 11th attacks occurred. In the aftermath of that event, I began to puzzle out what was, for me, the mystery and power of religion. Eventually, I decided to major in world religions both because of the relevance to.... well, everything, as well as its potential to address the issue of human wholeness. I decided to continue my study of religion at the Yale Divinity School in 2005 and finished this May 2008 with a Masters of Divinity. Apart from my studies, I have a casual interest in health and nutrition. I have been studying Ayurveda, an ancient Indian practice (sometimes called the "science of life") and am an avid collector of vegetarian recipes (I still eat seafood). I have been chided for being compulsively clean and I am fond of planning get-togethers with my friends.

My new job has been enjoyable as well as challenging. There are many, many plans bubbling away on the backburner! In any case, I am hopeful and confident that we will be able to get to a place where our ambitions can become reality.

Luncheon at the UN

Reported by Karen J. Smith, UN Liaison



Background on WFWP and the United Nations

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Karen Judd Smith served as moderator for the luncheon

Luncheon in support of ECOSOC's 2nd Annual Ministerial Review

As part of WFWP's National Assembly, guests went to UN Headquarters in New York City on Friday, April 25, for a luncheon in a fourth-floor dining room. Sunlight streamed

through the wall of windows overlooking the Hudson River as participants enjoyed their meal. Women from around the US sat with UN representatives of far-flung nations, sharing stories of their respective communities.



*Grace Cerere, (left), Second Counselor,
Kenya Mission to the UN*

This luncheon provided an opportunity to present the efforts of WFWP in addressing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the United Nations. Numbers 1 and 2 of these goals, all with a target date of 2015, are to “Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,” and “Achieve universal primary education.” As showcased by the video presentation *Living as a Global Family*, WFWP’s worldwide efforts are directly focused on the achievement of those goals. Everyone present could see the worldwide outreach of WFWP volunteers, who are guided by the philosophy that “all people belong to one global family.”

Participants learned of the UN's upcoming Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), which is emerging as a high-profile forum for political engagement and knowledge exchange, as well as a prime opportunity for accredited NGOs to showcase their unique and effective activities. The AMR reflects the UN's ongoing endeavor to find projects and practices that merit scaling up, and WFP is working to earn that recognition. Last year, WFP was chosen to participate in the first AMR held in Geneva, Switzerland. (For a report, see WFP, USA ENewsletter, *Late Summer 2007*)

Speakers

The luncheon was moderated by Mrs. Karen Judd Smith, a long-time liaison to the UN. Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama described the purpose of the luncheon within the context of the WFP-USA's Annual Assembly. She also introduced the president of WFP, International, Dr. Lan Young Moon.



Some luncheon participants. Dr. Lan Young Moon, center (with scarf), Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama, next to her (in green jacket)

Keynote speakers were Mr. Bertil Lindblad, director of the New York Office of UNAIDS; and the Assistant Director of ECOSOC's Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) NGO Section, Dr. Michelle Federoff. They spoke about key developments in their respective areas of work. Mr. Lindblad described international efforts to eradicate the scourge of HIV/AIDS and offered some positive statistics on downward trends. The key, as always, is education and prevention, along with access to medication and healthcare.



Bertil Lindblad, Director of UNAIDS, New York



Dr. Michelle Federoff

This was a good opportunity for many women coming into New York's metro area for the WFP USA 2008 Assembly to interact with UN diplomats, UN Secretariat personnel and to visit UN Headquarters, many for the first time.



WFP, USA visitors outside UN Headquarters