



# Women's Federation for World Peace, USA Newsletter

Early Spring 2009

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## Inspirational Women

"...each war carried within itself, the war which will answer it. Each war is answered by another war, until everything is destroyed...That is why I'm so wholeheartedly for a radical end to the madness...Pacifism simply is not a matter of calm looking on; it is work, hard work...those lovely small apples out there...everything could be so beautiful if it were not for the insanity of war...one day, a new idea will arise and there will be an end of all wars...People will have

Dear WFWP,

Welcome to spring! In Bridgeport, the weather is slowly working towards a pleasant spring season.

During the past few weeks, our small ENews team has been working to put together this early spring edition of the WFWP, USA ENews. You'll note on the side the many wonderful contributors to this latest issue.

We hope you enjoy reading about: the benefits for the Schools of Africa project throughout the country; the Value of Mentoring as well as Working with the Younger Generation; and we offer a glimpse into men-women relations in North Korea in our 1% Love Share Project series.

We welcome your comments and questions. Write to us at [info@wfwp.us](mailto:info@wfwp.us).

## San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Holds Successful Benefit for Schools of Africa



The 2008 Benefit for the Schools of Africa in the San Francisco Bay Area was held on Sunday evening, December 7th. It was held at the Bay Area Family Church in San Leandro, which offered a free facility to the Northern California Women's Federation for World Peace chapter.

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## Working with the Younger Generation

It has been an invigorating experience for me to work side by side with college-age women over the last two years. Since I began volunteering with WFWP in 1992, the Columbus chapter has been run mostly by women of my generation - "Baby Boomers," for the most part. Our chapter began reaching out to younger women by inviting a few of them to volunteer in small ways at WFWP events over the years.



to work hard for that new state of things, but they will achieve it."

Kathe Kollwitz (1867 - 1945)  
Artist

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When given specific tasks, they realized how much they enjoyed contributing to the good causes of WFWP.

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### The Value of Mentoring

I have benefited greatly from the mentoring I have received from Gwenn Bair. She took me under her wing several years ago when I first started working with WFWP in Columbus, offering guidance whenever I needed it. Gwenn doesn't treat me like just another co-worker or WFWP member but rather as a daughter. Our relationship is very comfortable.



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### International Women's Day and the Lives of North Korean Women

*The following is excerpted from the WFWP, International magazine, Peace Women, vol. 57, Spring 2008. Ms. Seo Yoosang is the author.*



North Korean women are more likely to be involved in their society than South Korean women... because of the social system in the North... But when we look more closely, the notion of patriarchy prevents the society from taking advantage of the system. The North Korean government finally came up with something that could turn this around. They created an annual "men's cooking" holiday.

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### US Benefits for the Schools of Africa 2008

In 2008, Women's Federation for World Peace, USA chapters across the country held over 16 events to raise money for the Schools of Africa Project. What follows is a summary of some of the projects held in Oregon/Washington State, Texas, Norfolk, Virginia, New York (West Rock) and Ohio.

[Read On!](#)

### Washington, DC Chapter Benefit 2008

The Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Virginia, was the venue for December's dinner benefit for the Schools of Africa sponsored by the Washington, DC, chapter. The hotel offered a very



attractive location,  
and everyone was



encouraged to enjoy the evening while helping a good cause. The program included a DVD presentation about WFWP, followed by a PowerPoint on the Schools of Africa Project.

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## **New York Metro Chapter Benefit 2008**

The location may have been midtown Manhattan, but participants got an experience of Africa at the December 6 benefit hosted by the NY Metro chapter of the Women's Federation for World Peace. Guests learned about seven African schools founded by WFWP volunteers.



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We have many exciting events coming up in March (the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations, International Women's Day at Capitol Hill in Washington DC) so you can look forward to those and other stories in the next issue in late spring/early summer 2009!

Until next time...

**Sincerely,**

WFWP ENews

Women's Federation for World Peace, USA

You are receiving this message because you are supporting Women's Federation for World Peace, USA on the levels of Peace Friend, Peace Supporter, Peace Builder or Peace Benefactor! Thank you!

## West Rock, New York Chapter

West Rock, New York Chapter held its 5th Annual Benefit for the schools of Africa in December. The program included a showing of the WFWP DVD, *Securing the Culture of Heart*, followed by a luncheon, and a Powerpoint Presentation about the Schools of Africa.



Guest speaker was Marie Claudine Mukamabano, a Rwandan genocide survivor and founder of the **Kuki Ndiho Rwandan Orphans Support Project**. Her inspirational talk moved the audience with its hopeful attitude. Afterwards, a silent auction was held, with time for socializing with friends, both old and new.



Reported by Renate Sato

## Oregon & Washington State Chapters



Portland (Oregon) State University provided a beautiful venue free of charge at their Multi-cultural Center. The Sun of Mozambique School was featured along with visual documentation about the country of Mozambique.

Vicky Martin was an excellent emcee who held the event together from beginning to end. Leah Stenson, a community leader in Portland and friend of Stephanie Herremans, gave a moving keynote speech.



Inspiring entertainment was provided by Rita Asaoka and African Drummers kindled the spirit of Africa. The silent auction was lively and presented in 3 parts, with the most expensive items last.

Reported by

Stephanie Herremans & Friederike Buczyk



## Ohio Chapter



Some of our happy staff members at the end of a wonderful program



The Ohio Chapter held their benefit for Rwanda in the Embassy Suite Hotel in Columbus, Ohio



Mexican dancers as part of the entertainment

Photos provided by Gwenn Bair



## Dallas Chapter

WFWP, Dallas held its fourth annual Benefit for the Schools of Africa on the evening of December 7 at the Activity Center of DFW Technology, a company owned by Ambassadors for Peace **Charles and Pauline Chen**. The evening included a delicious dinner prepared by chef Daniel Castillo, assisted by Esther Vasquez and others. Tickets were \$40 each, and approximately 50 people were in attendance.



Falun Dafa Dancers

Laura Hornbeck, WFWP Texas Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation showcasing the seven schools being supported. Ending the presentation was a DVD filmed in Kenya.



A professional fashion show hosted by Ambassador for Peace Ester Davis featured evening wear as well as attractive designer suits for business. The fashion show and parts of the program were filmed and broadcast on Ester Davis' weekly television show on ION TV channel, as well as on the local free access cable channel. Lively entertainment was

provided by the local Japanese Sakura Choir led by Ann Tanimoto; Lola Somemoto, who performed a jazzy Brazilian Watermelon Dance in which she balanced a watermelon on her head; and a graceful "Flower Fairies" Dance by Shirley Wu and other

representatives of the Southern USA Falun Dafa Association.



Lola Somemoto performing Watermelon Dance

A silent auction was held, along with a drawing for a quilted wall hanging made by local WFWP member, Debbie Sand. The winner was Charles Chen. Total proceeds for the evening were close to \$3,000.



(L-R:) Laura Hornbeck, Debbie Sand, Ester Davis

### Norfolk, Virginia Chapter

The Norfolk, Virginia chapter held two benefits for the Schools of Africa Project in November and December. Both events were held at the beautiful home of Meredith Wenz. The November event was a luncheon program which featured a showing of the DVD of the WFWP interns trip to Kenya. Mrs. Joan Mwamlima, who served as chaperone for that trip, gave a report of her exciting experiences, as well as an explanation of our activities at the United Nations.

In December, a dinner program and silent auction were held. Beautiful items were donated by Meredith Wenz, Nobuko Peemoeller and Mr. Mwamlima (banana leaf art). One of the WFWP interns, Kay Peemoeller, spoke of experiences of during the WFWP Youth Service Trip to Kenya.

**Other Benefits and Activities for the Schools of Africa Project in 2008**

Connecticut Chapter – Program and Silent Auction

Florida Chapter – Presentation and Silent Auction

Maryland Chapter – Raffle

Massachusetts Chapter – Health Fair & Fundraising Letter

New Jersey – Japanese Cultural Night & Holiday Bazaar

Virginia – Program

Southern California's chapter's benefit was in the December 2008/January 2009 ENews.

Northern California, Washington DC, and New York Metro are featured in this ENews

## Washington, DC Chapter Dinner Benefit

Reported by Eny Reed and Elizabeth Aihe

The **Sheraton National Hotel** in Arlington, Virginia, was the venue for December's dinner benefit for the Schools of Africa sponsored by the Washington, DC, chapter. The hotel offered a very attractive location, and everyone was encouraged to enjoy the evening while helping a good cause. The program included a DVD presentation about WFWP, followed by a PowerPoint on the Schools of Africa Project.

Eighty-one people attended, including such distinguished guests as **Dr. Dorothy Height**, long-time civil rights activist and President of the **National Council of Negro Women** from 1957 to 1997. She is 96 years old and still working for the cause of peace and justice. Dr. Height was introduced to the audience and gave a brief talk.

Two Washington, DC, ambassadors also attended the benefit: Her Excellency **Purificacion Ondo**, representing **Equatorial Guinea**, and His Excellency **Armando A. Panguene**, representing **Mozambique**. WFWP sponsors schools in both of their countries.



( L – R:) H.E. Purificacion Ondo, Ambassador for Equatorial Guinea; Marli Carvalho, President, Advisory Board of WFWP DC Chapter; H.E. Armando Panguene, Ambassador for Mozambique

The DC chapter decided to share the proceeds of the benefit with a local organization, **Youth Net, Inc.**, which is helping students with tutoring, mentoring and life skills training. **Reverend Harriet Jackson**, Associate Pastor of Student Ministries at Northwest Community Church in Washington, D.C., founded Youth Net, Inc. in 2002. She was appalled that high school graduates couldn't read; at the same time, violence by and against youth was escalating in the District.



Youth Net, Inc students

Reverend Jackson, a native of Washington, D.C. and a product of its public schools, saw the need for an organization that would develop young leaders to serve as positive role models and agents of change in their communities.

Rev. Harriet Jackson was awarded \$1,000 for Youth Net, Inc., and she was also honored as an **Ambassador for Peace** by the Universal Peace Federation, the parent organization of WFWP.





Ambassador Ondo (L); Rev. Randall Francis (M); Dr. Dorothy Height (R), well known Civil Rights Activist, long-time President of National Council of Negro Women.

**Mr. Bruce Kim**, President of the local Korean American Chamber of Commerce, joined WFWP that evening, becoming their first male DC Chapter member. Several organizations supported the benefit by purchasing tickets, making donations, and sending representatives. Main sponsors included **Rev. Randall Francis**, local representative of UPF, who sponsored one table and **H. E. Ambassador Purificacion Ondo**, who donated \$1,000.

The program was a great success with the delicious dinner, a silent auction, and a DJ.

Everyone was literally dancing at the close of the happy occasion.

## **Working with the Younger Generation**

### **The Next Step for WFWP, USA**

by Gwenn Bair, Columbus, Ohio

*Editors Note: Gwenn Bair has been involved with WFWP, USA since its inception in 1992, and she is the longest-serving district director. She and her husband, Roger, are the parents of two daughters; their eldest was blessed in marriage at the end of January. Gwenn has been working with younger women in the Columbus area and is contributing this report on her mentoring activities.*

It has been an invigorating experience for me to work side by side with college-age women over the last two years. Since I began volunteering with WFWP in 1992, the Columbus chapter has been run mostly by women of my generation – “Baby Boomers,” for the most part.

Our chapter began reaching out to younger women by inviting a few of them to volunteer in small ways at WFWP events over the years. When given specific tasks, they realized how much they enjoyed contributing to the good causes of WFWP.

Kayo Derflinger Masuda, now age 22, is an action-oriented person more than willing to get her hands dirty to achieve success in any endeavor. She got interested as soon as she started working with WFWP and started participating in all the planning and regular meetings. She kept me on my toes with suggestions for new and interesting activities. How could I say no to her enthusiasm?

Before long, Kayo was not only offering great ideas but also backing them up with a willingness to see them through. Eventually, we asked her to be the coordinator for the Columbus Chapter of WFWP. She accepted, on the condition that I would continue to work side by side with her.

I was thrilled that the first thing she did was delegate responsibilities! She persuaded two other college students to take staff roles: Yusun Abrahams became treasurer and Mika Takenaka accepted the job of secretary. Recently, another young woman, Adonia Bratti, replaced Yusun as treasurer. Although Kayo is about to graduate from nursing school and works at night, she always finds time to plan and work with WFWP.

As one can imagine, the young women bring a fun and active element to our chapter. While working together, we all get to know each other. We talk freely about our families, our pets, and everything else. This new youthful spirit has also inspired the other volunteers. Just recently a new volunteer (from my generation) commented, “I’ve been having a love affair with the Women’s Federation for World Peace, and I want it to continue.”

For monthly meetings in 2009, the Columbus chapter has decided that each staff member will take a turn hosting and choosing the focus and location of each meeting. Both generations of women are going to take responsibility. Sounds like a pleasure, doesn’t it?

I’m very grateful to Kayo for pioneering the pathway as the first college-age woman in America to serve as a WFWP Chapter leader. I wish the same kind of development for all the other chapters. There may not be any less work for the leaders, but they will definitely be more fun!

## **The Value of Mentoring**

By Kayo Derflinger Masuda, WFWP Chapter Leader, Columbus, Ohio

I have benefited greatly from the mentoring I have received from Gwenn Bair. She took me under her wing several years ago when I first started working with WFWP in Columbus, offering guidance whenever I needed it. Gwenn doesn't treat me like just another co-worker or WFWP member but rather as a daughter. Our relationship is very comfortable.

I believe it is vital for a mentor to listen to the other person and to help the other person grow. How do they grow? People grow by taking responsibility and feeling ownership of their ideas and inspirations.

Too often people in a leadership position will hear a comment or suggestion from a young person and basically just blow it off. They might say, "Oh, that's nice," but never really listen and try to understand what the other person was trying to offer.

I feel that young people usually have a more exciting and hopeful approach to issues than older people. Many times I have shared my dreams or goals with Gwenn and she has never treated them as silly. Although my ideas might have been unrealistic, or there might not have been enough money in the budget, Gwenn has always at least considered them. Sometimes she has encouraged me to follow through with my ideas, and sometimes she has had to bring me down to earth a bit.

I'm also glad to say that the relationship is not totally one-sided. There have been many times when I was able to support and encourage Gwenn's ideas and visions and together we have been able to make good things happen. We are a perfect pair: I am a person of action...I think about something, I discuss it, and then I do it. Gwenn is sometimes more hesitant or she has a lot of things on her plate and gets distracted. I can remind and spur her forward.

Working with Gwenn as my mentor has been one of my best experiences, not only as a member of WFWP but also in my personal life. She is like my second mom, and I believe that kind of familial feeling is the necessary key to creating successful relationships within WFWP. I hope more young women can benefit from the kind of support and guidance I have received from Gwenn over these past few years.

## New York Metro Chapter Benefit 2008

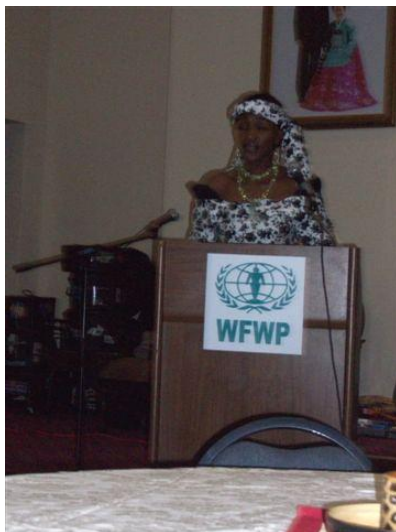
Reported by Donna Howell



The location may have been midtown Manhattan, but participants got an experience of Africa at the December 6 benefit hosted by the NY Metro chapter of the Women's Federation for World Peace. Guests learned about seven African schools founded by WFWP volunteers.

The seven schools, located in Kenya, Mozambique, Uganda, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Rwanda, were founded between 1994 and the early 2000s. Most have had considerable growth and development. Some were started simply as dressmaking classes or AIDS prevention classes. As needs of the communities became more apparent to the Japanese volunteers who went to the various countries, the idea for starting schools took shape.

Enlisting the help of the worldwide network of WFWP, funds were raised and these schools were built. Most of the schools are co-ed, and about half are elementary (K-6) and half are secondary (middle and high school). The Rwandan school is a technical school with programs in dressmaking, hairdressing, cooking and knitting/embroidery to give women skills to support their families and run a country which is now 70% female.



Every year, the US chapters of WFWP hold benefits to help these schools expand. The main speaker at the Manhattan benefit was Evelyne Mukasonga, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide which claimed the lives of her entire family. Although she was able to escape the country and flee to neighboring Congo (then Zaire), her troubles were not over. In Congo her husband was told to divorce or kill her. He refused and had to leave the Congolese army and join the rebel army. Evelyne was imprisoned with a one-year-old son in Congo for seven months before being rescued by the UN and allowed to come to the US.

With perhaps every reason to be resentful toward those who killed her family and imprisoned her, Ms Mukasonga spoke instead of forgiveness. She implored the audience to liberate their souls by forgiving, and to

work with her and WFWP in building bridges to heal the animosity that breeds the kind of genocide she experienced.



After this sobering advice, the audience was invited to bid on silent auction items, and to enjoy the food which had been donated by area delis and bakeries. The program closed with four musical numbers from an African reggae band, *Bolomba Stylee*, whose members were from Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Brooklyn and Japan.

Participants grabbed maracas and danced to the lively rhythms. Since

the schools are in Africa, supported by Americans and founded by Japanese, it seemed fitting that this particular band of musicians from Africa, Japan, and the USA should play at the benefit.



## San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Holds Successful Benefit for Schools of Africa

by Pat Fleischman - WFWP Chairwoman

The 2008 Benefit for the Schools of Africa in the **San Francisco Bay Area** was held on Sunday evening, December 7, at the Bay Area Family Church in San Leandro. Previous benefits had been held at a local civic community center, but fee increases last year made that location counter-productive, and the new location was offered free of charge.

With a **silent auction, raffle, and entrance tickets**, the goal was set by the planning committee for \$7,000, with 15% of that to be donated to the **Urojas Community Services** for homeless people, a local non-profit in Oakland.

During the months leading up to the benefit, only a few WFWP members were able to help because many were involved with other activities. Just a few weeks before the event there were still very few donations for the **silent auction**, and a certain amount of nervousness began to set in.

But somehow, like magic, everything started coming together in the days before the event. One woman received a donation of **twenty large baskets** from a store going out of business. Someone else took four of those baskets and filled them with gift items as her donation; the group made others into gift baskets using donated and bought items. In all, **thirteen gift baskets** were ready for the silent auction. At the last moment, many good-quality items were donated.



The chapter sent out letters and directly approached businesses for donations. All told, they gathered about **40 gift certificates** and about **80 silent auction items**. They also offered direct sale items – things that were too small for the silent auction.

A new technique in 2008 was to sell **raffle tickets for a cash award** of \$300. For about six

weeks ahead of the event, tickets were sold in various venues, but most of them were sold the day of the event and during the event. A profit of almost \$1300 was earned from that activity.

Entrance tickets sold for \$15 per person in advance and \$20 at the door. Many tickets were purchased by people who wanted to support the benefit but didn't intend to attend. In all about **ninety people** came to the benefit, an appropriate number for the facility.



A festive atmosphere was created during the program through the universal language of music. **African songs** were performed by an elderly immigrant from **Nigeria**. The founder and director of **Urojas Community Services, Pastor Lowery**, spoke briefly and members of his church offered hymns and other uplifting music. A local **Japanese women's choir** also performed.

**Pat Fleischmann** gave a presentation showing photos of all the schools of Africa, detailing their past achievements and budgetary needs for the future. Then participants watched a video made by local WFWP member **Aurora Kamins** during her 2007 trip with other young women to the WFWP school in Kenya. Following the video, Aurora spoke to the group about some of her experiences in Africa.

The raffle drawing at the end of the evening created a lot of excitement. In the final minutes before the drawing, people were buying raffle tickets like crazy.



Not all items from the silent auction were sold, so the chapter sold them after Sunday Services in December at the Bay Area Family Church.

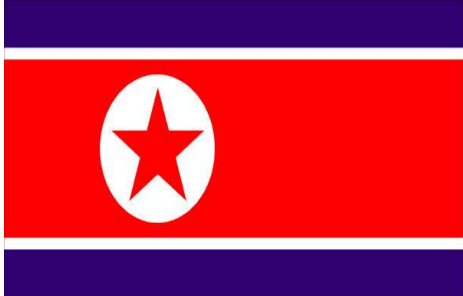
All told, \$6,296.61 was raised, of which \$945 was donated to Urojas Community Services. As always, the experience of

planning, organizing and holding a benefit was educational for everyone involved. The Bay Area chapter is already looking ahead to 2009 and anticipating bigger and better results for the Schools of Africa.



## International Women's Day and the Lives of North Korean Women

*The following is excerpted from the WFWP, International magazine, Peace Women Magazine, vol. 57, Spring 2008. Ms. Seo Yoosang is the author.*



North Korean women are more likely to be involved in their society than South Korean women... because of the social system in the North... But when we look more closely, the notion of patriarchy prevents the society from taking advantage of the system. The North Korean government finally came up with something that could turn this around. They created an annual “men’s cooking” holiday.

### Working mothers face difficulties

In August 2005, I was reporting on the Youth Federation that came from the North to participate in the Incheon Asian Track and Field Championships. The cheerleaders, who were college-aged girls, were beautiful and lively. I had a chance to speak with one of the officials who came down with them, a 40-year-old man who had a lot to say about the women he met during the North-South exchange program. ... He claimed that he had had some conflict with many of them simply because they were too powerful.

I understood him until he said the following phrase: “A crying hen will ruin the family. A woman has got to be submissive to her husband. Just imagine how the family will turn out when she wants to be on top of her husband all the time.” I just smiled since I couldn’t quarrel with a man I’d met for the first time, but his words surely did stick in my mind. A crying hen will ruin the family... He was brave enough to utter the words that no reckless South Korean man would dare say.

This doesn’t mean all North Korean men are like that. In fact, I met many young men in Pyongyang who claimed that they helped out with housework. Some even said they assume all the kitchen duties for their wives. This surely is a change in men’s view of women and housework. Nonetheless, the majority of North Korean men still believe in the “Hen Theory.”

At least that is how it seems to me, a South Korean career woman in her 30’s.



Two young women in Pyongyang

## Women account for up to 50% of the labor force

North Korea, by law, pursues gender equality.....There are side effects, however, to the promotion of women's status. There's the "superwoman" dilemma, which forces women to do work both inside and outside their homes...

### **"You are too negligent of housework"**

... It is more difficult than they (N. Koreans) thought to completely change the traditional value that "housework is for women," despite recent social changes. ...

The 3-episode Chosun Joongang TV drama aired in March of 2002 in North Korea, called "Do Not Wake Up The Mother," depicts this situation realistically. The main character is a researcher in the field of food science, and is also the mother of two children, whose husband takes frequent business trips. She ... ends up quitting her work after many complications. ...Her husband ... expressed anger when his appointments were interrupted by (his wife's) work.



Inside a North Korean home

"I always wanted to try to go through with this... But you're simply too oblivious of housework. I have work to do as well and I shouldn't be the one caught up with housework. It was the same situation with the children. The last thing I want to do is hurt our little children's hearts."

Fortunately, the two eventually reconcile ... but the fact remains that the lives

of working parents are difficult in both the North and South. Maybe it's more difficult for North Korean women because, in reality, North Korean men have a more intense idea of patriarchy than do South Korean men. Above all, many North Korean women hold certain ideas that regulate what they should and should not do. The North Korean official I met said that even a sick wife would be reluctant to have her husband help her out with housework.

### **On International Women's Day, "Hen-Theorists" stay quiet**

There is one special day when even stubborn North Korean "hen-theorists" cannot speak a word against women. This is the annual (United Nations) International Women's Day, observed every March 8th. While there is no national commemoration ... in South Korea, it is a different story in the North. North Korea rules this day a "socialist national

holiday” and celebrates it on a national level. They claim that International Women’s Day ... emphasizes the global unity of working women in order to realize “peace, socialism, and democracy.”

North Korean men prepare gifts for their wives, ask them out to restaurants, or even cook for them. A North Korean official I met in Pyongyang last year told me how some North Korean men spend International Women’s Day showing off the cooking recipes they have kept hidden all along. This event is apparently fairly effective in breaking the patriarchal mind-set of the North Korean people, at least for one day out of the year.



The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual WFWPI Leadership Workshop in North Korea in December 2007