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# WFWP Newsletter

## WFWP President's Remarks

Dear Readers and Friends of WFWP USA,

What an amazing and wonderful conference we had at the beginning of August, as we not only investigated the topic of "We' - Unlocking the Power of Relationships" through our outstanding speakers and presenters but also experienced the 'We' among ourselves. We



will make the many materials and tools of this conference available to you on our website and in your local area. Thanks to all who contributed in any way to make this assembly such a success!

In the wake of Hurricane Irene thrashing up the coastline from Florida to Maine to do a thorough "cleansing," we hope and pray that those who live in those areas are safe and sound, as is my family, who only had to deal with the inconvenience of having no electricity for two days.

Actually, as my family sat at our candlelit dinner table, surrounded by darkness, our oldest son remarked that he liked moments by the campfire and candlelight, because it creates an atmosphere in which family members and people in general tend to share more deeply from their hearts. I am mentioning this to you as a possible suggestion to once a week to turn off all lights, computers, iPods, and phones, and spend dinner around the kitchen table with candlelight. This makes for a wonderful 'We' experience.

Looking forward to next year's assembly, which will be held in Los Angeles in October 2012! Have a wonderful end of the summer!

With warm regards,

*Angelika Selle*

## Four Days of Service and a Taste of Haiti



This year's project was our 4th Annual Service Project in Haiti, the second one since the 2010 earthquake. Our focus to help those suffering from diverse health problems and poverty became more vital and intense following the flow of earthquake victims to Cap-Haitien, the second-largest city in Haiti.

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## 19th National Assembly Gets Rave Reviews



The Annual Women's Assembly in New York City (Aug. 4-6, 2011) was a breakthrough convention for the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) on several counts. The turnout of 380 participants was more than double that of the previous year, and the income from the paid registration brought the event close to the break-even point.

At this assembly 20 featured speakers explored the hidden power of women in relationships and explained the value of immediate action in becoming the peacemaker in relationships. The three-day long conference was designed to give practical advice about what women can do in their everyday lives to empower themselves and to provide a better idea of the opportunities for service that WFWP offers. "A week's worth of content was packed into one weekend," said President of WFWP USA Angelika Selle, "because time is at a premium for these ladies, most of whom have families and have jobs to go back to."

The audience of more than 380 women in age ranging from 18-75, included the elders of the WFWP Mrs. Nora

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*Attendees enjoy the networking fair*

Spurgin, Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama, Mrs. Marie Ang, and chairwomen from around the country, approximately 25 VIPs, including Sister Claudette Mohammed from the Nation of Islam, representatives of the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC), representatives of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), journalists, and more than 50 young ladies. More than 30 men also participated in support of the event.

"The best part of the program was the diversity of the speakers," said attendee Ulrike Zomorod. "I believe everyone found some inspiration, and I am most inspired when I see ideas are put into action."



*Ms. Nia Lyte giving a talk on inner beauty.*

The Assembly began on the evening of August 4<sup>th</sup> with a memorable introduction to the WFWP by its International president, Professor Lan Young Moon. Mrs. Angelika Selle then explained the WFWP USA's new vision, which focuses on developing the grassroots WFWP in the United States, addressing the problematic state of the nuclear family, and raising the next generation of young women who will strive to create peace in the world.

On Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> Rev. In Jin Moon encouraged her audience to exercise peace in a familial context: "Only by understanding how to accomplish peace in a family setting can we truly create peace on a world level." Her message continued with insights as a mother and advice to "clean up" in order to unlock the power of relationships.

Another speaker, Ms. Nia Lyte, a Colombian-born talk show host and former Ms. Hispana from Los Angeles, spoke about the "inner beauty" of women and how she, an entertainment celebrity, decided to reject offers to pose nude for financial compensation.



*From left to right: Nia Lyte, Shin Koyamada, Angelika Selle and news anchorwoman Brenda Blackmon*

that no one can take my or your inner beauty away."

Mrs. Sandra Lowen, a professional counselor and trauma therapist, provided insights on the importance of communication. "Communication is the life water of relationships," Mrs. Lowen said. "The tongue has the power of life and death. How do you react when someone can't speak your 'language'? Saying what you said with more force is not the best way to communicate; doing the same thing day after day, and expecting a different response is a sign of insanity. We're out today to

stop the insanity. Let's be a beautiful daughter, sister, and mother, who brings this message home to our spouses."

Dr. Gita Bangera, a microbiologist and the principal administrator of ComGen: The Community College Genomics Research Initiative, introduced a new method of how to instill in women confidence and the sense that they deserve an education, especially in science.

"Everyone deserves a perfect relationship," said Dr. Bangera. "Women have a preconceived notion that they are not good enough in science; they don't always get the respect that they deserve. We as women need to be contributing to the world. Take yourselves seriously – do not take your power for granted. No relationship can be strong unless the woman can be strong. Let's challenge ourselves. Mothers, teach your girls to be resilient." Toshia Shaw-Lacy, founder of Purple



*Toshia Shaw-Lacy giving a short presentation about Purple WINGS*

W.I.N.G.S. (Women Inspiring Noble Girls Successfully), spoke of the importance of having the courage to let go of the past and to forgive oneself. "It's intimidating to take on the task of implementing change, especially when you think you're so small you can't do anything," she said. "I'm here to tell you that you can. God will give you courage to face those who do not believe in your mission, and He will cloak you from evil. If God can forgive us for all we've done and still do, surely we can do the same. Every girl should know that she's beautiful, and we should not have to persuade her that she is."

The afternoon session featured 10-15 minute presentations by women who had made a difference in their communities through projects they had initiated by helping other women.

"Hearing from women who are really doing something was really inspiring," said another attendee, Mrs. Kim Dadachanji, "which makes it seem possible to run with the vision we each have."

Later that night, ladies and gentlemen gathered in the Grand Ballroom of the Manhattan Center for a benefit gala organized to raise money for women and children without shoes with the help of Soles4Souls organization.

Mrs. Angelika Selle then introduced the "Her Story" Award, which was presented to Mrs. Kayo Masuda from Ohio, who despite suffering from Lupus for many years, continued to serve humanitarian missions in Africa and in Israel without complaint.



*Kayo Masuda receiving the first "Her Story" award from WFWP USA President, Angelika Selle (left) and WFWP International President, Dr. Lan Young Moon (right)*

For the complete story, visit us at [www.wfwp.us](http://www.wfwp.us) ☆

## Relief Team Arrives in Japan, as Promised



*Volunteers filling bags with debris in Ishinomaki neighborhoods.*

Four volunteers sent by WFWP USA in July to do dusty, sweaty relief work in the tsunami disaster area in Japan returned with stories of destruction and loss, but also of transformation and hope. (See their full and detailed, day-by-day

testimonies at [www.wfwp.us](http://www.wfwp.us).)

Shoveling mud and debris into heavy bags amid a stench of oil, sea salt, and decayed vegetation, the WFWP USA members worked as part of a team of eight. They spent several days cleaning up in and outside of one family's home in Ishinomaki City. They noted that so many other buildings remained to be dug out or demolished.

Mr. Abe, the owner of the home, told the team "stories of some of his friends killed by the tsunami, and about families and neighbors affected by it," said Miwa Yokoyama, who lives in Vienna, Virginia, near Washington, D.C.

And if Mr. Abe's situation and that of his neighbors was not bad enough, the team drove just 20 minutes away and saw the site of the real destruction, where no cleanup has

yet reached. "It was so deserted and mutilated that this whole experience felt surreal," said Miwa.

Another volunteer, ChunMi Araki from the Seattle area, reported in a similar vein: "The main disaster site was a deserted graveyard of broken buildings, cars, and houses. The scale of the destruction was overwhelming and left me speechless.

"Walking away from the team," she continued, "I just hugged my body and prayed in tears for the people who had lost everything because of the tsunami. We can never know the true value of life until we see how easily it can be taken away. I had never seen such a site before! And, as a team, we felt much more in our hearts that, through our service, we could pour out the love these people so desperately needed." ☆



*"It was not until we drove just about 20 minutes away, and I saw the real,*

*testimonies at [www.wfwp.us](http://www.wfwp.us).)"*

## Haitian Relief Team

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Cap-Haitien was already straining to care for its citizens. Last year, based on the people's request, WFWP promised Cap-Haitien Mayor Fritz Joseph that we would provide a health education seminar and a mobile medical clinic with ALHMEDA, the volunteer medical doctor team we have worked with since we began our projects in Haiti.

This year, we were joined by 11 outstanding volunteers representing a wide range of age and professional medical experience from across the United States. We traveled to and met at the Ft. Lauderdale International Airport before boarding a plane for Santiago, Dominican Republic and then to Haiti, and thence to our quarters in Cap-Haitien. We were blessed to have a large guesthouse waiting for us, with six bedrooms in three stories overlooking the city.

We were struck by what a tropical paradise Haiti is—also by the grinding poverty of its people.

For two days, we presented a health education seminar at a local gymnasium to about 250 Haitians. We taught about hypertension, diabetes, infectious diseases, dental hygiene, and malnutrition. We also had a section on first aid, CPR, and the Heimlich Maneuver. Finally, one nurse spoke about homeopathic first aid and handed out 40 samples of homeopathic medicine and foot reflexology charts, explaining how all the systems of the body can be affected positively by properly massaging the feet. The audience was amazed

and excited about using this technique at home to heal themselves.

For two additional days, we operated a mobile medical clinic in Nan Banaan and Conasa, two very impoverished sections of Cap-Haitien.

People came to us with all kinds of ailments. Our team of nurses worked seamlessly with the doctors from ALHMEDA and saw some 300 patients in all. We also found time to hand out toys



*Haiti Relief Team after 4 days of service*

to children at a small elementary school, explain dental hygiene to eight classes at the Baptiste Evangelic Ebenezer College, and provide toys, flip-flops, toothbrushes, and toothpaste to about 40 children at the Stella Home orphanage.

On our final day, we relaxed on the beach. (Haiti has some of the most beautiful beaches anywhere.)

Summing up the team's experience in Haiti, volunteer Gudrun Gavin said, "Being able to work together during our service project opened up their world a little more [for us]. We will not forget them." ☆

To donate or get more information on these service projects, visit our website: [www.wfwp.us](http://www.wfwp.us)

## Seattle Holds Pure Love Celebration

This year Pastor Robert Jeffrey of the Seattle New Hope Baptist Church hosted a "Pure Love Celebration" to promote chastity, a life style with no sexual relations of any kind before the proper and committed marriage. The Annual Pure Love Celebration brought over 100 young adults and their parents to participate in a purity ring ceremony, a chance to win over \$2,000 worth in prizes, enjoy a gospel showcase provided by Greater Baptist Church Praise Team and Choir, hear "Bliss", a well-known Christian rapper, and other musicians.

The program began with a prayer and welcome from Associate Pastor Rev. Rick Thurston followed by a unique praise



dance by the Greater Baptist Church Praise Team, a moving and inspirational praise dance depicting

the beauty of abstinence. The theme of this year's faith and abstinence program was "plan, promise, and purpose," which was delivered by Minister Dorrie Hepzibah, who also shared her life experiences and gave a very detailed description of purity and innocence using the metaphor of a crystal glass that gets smudged and finally shattered by improper relations started by seemingly innocent actions.

Her main message was based on 1 Peter 2:11 which says, "Abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul." Minister Hepzibah continued her message by saying, "We have two powerful but demanding appetites: the need for food and the passion of sexual desire." She encouraged listeners to settle the battle in their minds first then explained the promise of giving oneself to one person is to please God. In 2 Corinthians 10:4 it says, "For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses."

During the purity ring ceremony, Rev. Richard Rivers of

the Greater Shiloh Community Church explained the meaning and importance of keeping pure and innocent, while participating church representatives came forward, prayed, and anointed those who made the promise. All the participants read a Pure Love Promise I framed, freely and sincerely declaring,

"Love the Lord my God with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, love and honor my parents, to keeping my faith and fulfilling the Pure Love Promise: love and honor my future spouse, my future children and myself by saving all sexual relations until the day of my marriage ceremony."

Yvonne Silva - Benevides, introduced the legacy of Dr. Joy (Pearl) Ellen Byrns, whose short life was the inspiration to create the Celebration and to have an annual Pure Love Essay contest open to all students in the community. A video clip of Dr. Joy, then 16 years old, was shown of her preaching on abstinence and pure life style at the "Speaker's Corner" at Hyde Park in London in 2000 during the Pure Love Alliance European Tour. "Only by giving your 100% effort into the relationship is there a guarantee for success," she expressed during her speech.

This year's Pure Love Essay Contest topics were as follows: How can being sexually abstinent before marriage help you to achieve your potential? How would having sex before marriage affect your relationship with your parents, siblings, friends and peers? What are the challenges of remaining sexually abstinent and how can you overcome them? Explain any all the major religions teach about sexual purity before marriage and fidelity in marriage. Excerpts from the winning essays are available on [www.ultrachoice.org](http://www.ultrachoice.org) ☆



(Continued from page 2) Volunteers were able to see over 300 patients in Haiti, many of whom were anemic, suffering from malnutrition and worms. Most of the infected lacked the basic necessities of life that include clean drinking water, sanitation, food and shelter.



## New York Hosts Relief Concert for Victims of Recent Natural Disasters

On Saturday, July 9 at the Lovin' Life Learning Center in Manhattan, the New York chapter of WFWP held a Relief Concert for the victims of the tsunami in Japan and the tornadoes in Alabama. Chairwoman Beryl Green and her team hosted over 100 guests, including a representative from the Japanese Consulate in New York City, along with 13 performing artists, raising over \$1,000 for the Red Cross and the victims of the recent tragedies.

"We've had a few events like this before and included a wide a variety of performances, but I really think people want to just support causes like this. That's what made this event so successful," said Tal Zorer, an event organizer who's been a WFWP volunteer for two years.

"But," she added, "we also understood that our heart and prayers are with the Japanese people, not just our money."

For a \$10 donation, guests enjoyed song and dance from a variety of performers. There were also Japanese sushi, a display of art, and reports about the current situation in Japan. Several speakers said they felt compelled to come, and had a desire to serve and connect with brothers and sisters who are suffering and to show their compassion for those elsewhere in the world.

"The concern is really global; every region should try to help," commented Chairwoman Green. "We are all interconnected, we are all one family under God, and we should care. When families are going through this, it's important to show our love. No matter who we are, wherever disaster strikes, we need to show compassion," she added.

The New York chapter will continue to make a conscious effort to care and is planning on hosting more benefit concerts in the next few months. Tal pointed out that it took her a long time to join a women's organization in her native country, Israel, because of the political agenda that predominated. "But the reason I joined WFWP is because they were making a difference and had a deeper cause and understanding of human nature." ☆

For complete articles and previous newsletters, visit our website!

[www.wfwp.us](http://www.wfwp.us)

## WFWP USA Claims New Territory

Clifton, N.J.—On July 9th, Kodan leaders, pastors, regional chairwomen, our WFWP president, and excited guests participated in the new office opening at Venue 521 on Van Houten Avenue. Energized and inspired by the opening of the Las Vegas office a few days before and now of the New Jersey office, President Angelika Selle claimed she felt God was planting two feet into the Earth for WFWP USA.

"I feel that a new day has dawned," agreed local WFWP Chairwoman Mrs. Dabis. "Having an office shows that, with our unity, we can accomplish anything. This is a huge deal for us and probably bigger in more ways than we can understand, from God's point of view."

In Mrs. Selle's congratulatory speech, she articulated the importance of women accessing their potential as leaders during this "Age of Women." She gave congratulatory remarks but beautifully acknowledged former WFWP leaders to whom, she said, "we are deeply grateful for persevering in the good fight."

Las Vegas, Nev.—Those at the launch of the new WFWP headquarters in Las Vegas said they felt a new source of dignity and service had been delivered to the Las Vegas community through the opening of their new office. "You could feel how proud we are to be woman," said Chairwoman Heidi Iseda, "and how happy we are to have met each other and the WFWP founder. You could see it in our smiles."

During the launch party, Mrs. Iseda showcased her chapter's ongoing projects in Southern California these past six months (which can be seen on their website, [www.beautyinsideout.us](http://www.beautyinsideout.us)) and asked members to brainstorm how they could reach out to more people and offer more service in the Las Vegas area. This year, they aim to collaborate with organizations like Purple WINGS (Women Inspiring Noble Girls to be Successful) in its effort to provide the "pure love" education program to the city's youth. ☆

Cake cutting at the new Las Vegas headquarters



(Left to right) Dr. Ann Iparaguire, Chairwoman Denneze Nelson, and President Angelika Selle



Chairwoman Heidi Iseda (far left) with her two assistants during the opening of the new Las Vegas headquarters.



## WFWP Representative Awarded “Most Outstanding Migrant Award in Community Service”

In recognition of almost 20 years of wide-ranging experience with service and leadership in the U.S.-based Filipino immigrant community, WFWP International representative Merly Barrete-Barlaan received the “Most Outstanding Migrant Award in Community Service” on June 25th during the 6th Annual People’s Ball in Washington, D.C.

Hosted by the Migrant Heritage Commission, the People’s Ball is an annual event highlighting MHC’s “most outstanding migrants,” who hail from organizations that are at the forefront of promoting migrant, human, and women’s rights.

As part of the Migrant Heritage Commission’s vision to participate in international partnership and service work, Ms. Barrete-Barlaan, who resides in New Jersey, was acknowledged for her work as CEO of the Center for Wisdom and Character Excellence, a nongovernmental organization that provides



*(From left to right): WFWP UN Representative Cynthia Shibuya who received award on behalf of Merly Barrete-Barlaan; event coordinator Janet Salazar; and WFWP USA President Angelika Selle*

education to poor children in developing areas.

In addition, Ms. Barrete-Barlaan has been serving other organizations with deep conviction to bridge gaps between social, racial, and economic groups. But Ms. Barrete-Barlaan’s most recent involvement in WFWP International as its UN Representative and her work in WFWP’s UN Liaison Office is where she believes she can provide the right kind of leadership to make a difference.

The Migrant Heritage Commission has long been advocating immigration rights, but this year, like WFWP, the organization will focus on the role of women and youth in illuminating pathways to becoming peacemakers through relationships. The purpose of MHC’s celebration reflects the theme of WFWP’s 19th National Assembly: to culminate the dream of peace in relationships, regardless of diversities in culture and history. ☆

## Wheatland, California Chapter Hold Fundraiser for Japan

On May 15, well over 200 people gathered at the Bear River Middle School in Wheatland, Calif., a rural town of about 3,000, to attend a piano recital and fundraiser for victims of Japan’s recent earthquake and tsunami.

Maree Gauper, a piano teacher and recent founder of a Women’s Federation for World Peace branch, organized the event. Looking back, Maree, a New Zealander whose family was near the epicenter of a devastating earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand, on February 22 of this year, empathized with the Japanese people and felt compelled to help in some way.

With the assistance of Wheatland High School Music Director James Achilles and parents of her piano students, the WFWP chapter in Sacramento was able to raise \$723 for the WFWP Japan Relief Fund.

Twenty-four piano students performed, from sixth-

generation Wheatlanders to recent arrivals at the nearby military base. The Advanced Choir and Chorus from Wheatland High performed inspirational songs such as “How Can I Keep From Singing”, “All My Trials”, “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”, and “Bridge Over Troubled Waters”. The school’s Symphonic Band also performed several numbers.

Japanese WFWP members from Sacramento greeted guests at the entrance table. Profits from admission and sales of freshly prepared sushi went directly to the fundraiser.

One member of the military, who had one of his six daughters performing and who also had been stationed in Japan, commented on how inspiring it was to see so many people of different backgrounds working together for a noble cause. ☆



*Proceeds from food sold go directly to WFWP Japan Relief.*



*The Wheatland High School Choir performs several inspiring songs, touching the hearts and minds of audience members.*