



WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE USA
Living by the Logic of Love

WFWP USA E-Newsletter **March - April, 2013**



President's Corner

Dear friends of WFWP,

The pain and outrage over the Boston bombing are still in our bones. As we keep going on about our lives, we come to realize more and more that the police, government, and other institutions are rather limited in what they can do to effect REAL CHANGE for the better.



What can we, WFWP and you do about it? We can do more than we think! Looking over this month's edition of our newsletter, and reading between the lines of the articles, I especially sense that women are the answer! Once having dealt with their own pain successfully, once having healed themselves and equipped themselves with spiritual and scientific knowledge, they have the capacity and most of all the HEART to turn pain into purpose. Such women of victory can then devise creative solutions for even the most hideous crimes, such as human trafficking and other violence against women, and for even the most dreadful scenarios, such as war.

In this year's women's leadership retreat in San Antonio, Texas, we focused on the very theme of "Spirituality, Healing, and Service" inspired by our founders' example of "Living by the Logic of Love" and "Living for the Sake of Others." They - and we - encourage all women at this time to reeducate their families and their greater community in sound family and moral values, demonstrating the power of love in action and mentoring the next generation.

WFWP will put new initiatives in place to facilitate that, and we hope for your support and involvement as well.

With warm wishes,

Angelika Selle

NGO CSW 57 Forum Parallel - WFP International *Women Standing Up to Violence: Finding Ways Through Hope and Connections*



From left to right: Dana C. Jack, Abaynesh Asrat, Mrs. Lisa Carol Williams, Ms. Sreerupa Chaudhury

On March 4, the Armenian Convention Center in New York attracted fresh faces in anticipation of inspiring talks from four expert panelists. The event served as a forum for the panelists to share how they prevailed over violence and its effects. Representing their work in Africa, South America, Asia, and the United States, they included best practices for facing and overcoming domestic violence and spoke of successful work to rescue and support girls and women who are victims of sex trafficking. They presented perspectives from the areas of education, the law, psychology, and grassroots service and advocacy. The room was full with 200 participants.

As the panelists each spoke from the podium, audience members listened to the harsh statistics on violence against women. Ms. Lisa Williams, founder and president of Circle of Friends and Living Water for Girls, representing the United States, opened the session with a reality check on how human trafficking is also alive and well here in this country, based on her own experience. She put out a strong call to action to create awareness and pointed out possible solutions to the problem (see her speech on www.wfp.us). In fact, all panelists presented their own personal

connections to violence, including visual presentations and passionate step-by-step suggestions for change. All the issues at hand in various parts of the world were communicated to emphasize the themes of connection and hope.

Wearing a hand-woven sari crafted by rape survivors, Ms. Sreerupa Chaudhury, president of the Women's Federation for World Peace India and chairperson of the National Institute for Gender Justice, first introduced the news story of a brutal rape of a 16-year-old paramedical student in New Delhi last December 16 that riveted the world's attention. She explained certain challenges that included violence against women in areas of armed conflict and disputed borders.



Keynote speaker, Ms. Lopa Banerjee, chief of the Civil Society Section of UN Women, gave a riveting speech on progress toward Millennium Development Goals. It has been a struggle, she said, to fulfill

some of the aspirations in areas of women's health and education. The goals for gender equality are still far from fulfilled. There is gender parity in primary schools, she said, but gender inequality still exists in work, education, and the economy. Ms. Banerjee insisted there be a commitment to achieve gender equality, especially moving forward into the post-2015 development agenda.

She suggested that there should be strong goals to achieve women's rights. She hopes that women can exercise their voice through the efforts being made at the UN.

When asked how WFWPI could support the work of UN Women, she strongly recommended connecting with UN Women's over 50 in-country offices or the more than 70 affiliate offices around the world, and particularly stressed joining together in the work of forming the post-2015 development agenda.

*Ms. Williams received the WFWP USA HerStory Award at the 20th Anniversary National Assembly of WFWP USA last year in Las Vegas.

By Melissa Gontijo

2nd Annual GWPN (Global Women's Peace Network) Assembly in Seoul Korea *February 23, 2013*



Dr. Jean Augustine, Fairness Commissioner, Canada
Prof. Akiko Yamanaka, Former Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan
Dr. Sreerupa M. Ghaudhury, Chairperson, Women's Empowerment Committee, India
Ms. Carolyn Handschin, IVP, WFWP Europe
Ms. Ellen Sauerbrey, Former Asst Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration, USA
Ms. Nada Abdallah, Social Affairs Officer UN-ESCWA, Lebanon
Ms. Christina McKelvie, Member, Scottish Parliament, Scotland

**Please read the article on the international website,
[click here!](#)**

Three USA participants reflect:

Rep. Sheila Jones, Georgia (US) House of Representatives

"It was great to hear what women from different countries are thinking, feeling, and doing. I took lots of notes about the content of the Assembly. There was so much good information!"

**Dr. Daisy Khan, former Minister for Social Welfare and Chief Official Representative
at UN PWLA**

"The event was quite well organized. The two emcees, Mrs. Angelika Selle (WFWP USA) and Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, (WFWP Europe), were good and conducted themselves well, which is the basic requirement for the success of any event, The speakers were well chosen and spoke well. I felt that everyone, presenters and participants alike, wanted peace. The participants were all involved, well motivated men and women."

Hon. Ellen Sauerbrey, Former Asst Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration, USA

"During the first part, I enjoyed very much the presentations by the first ladies, especially the first lady of Palau, because she spoke from the heart, as she was talking about the lack of intimacy between mothers and children these days."



Mrs. Alexa Ward, Hon. Ellen Sauerbrey, Mrs. Angelika Selle

CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles *Why Clean Water Is a Basic Human Right*



On March 17, more than 40 people gathered to participate in LA's monthly meeting. The focus was on the issue of safe, clean water as a basic human right.

The speakers included Charles Trevino, member of the Board of Directors of the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, and Mr. Ortega, an environmental engineer.

"There are more problems to eliminate toxins continuously, as much of the

water is reclaimed rather than coming from pure sources," Emma Reed said. "Also, the infrastructure for processing water is over 100 years old and not meant to support the large population we now have. [Mr. Ortega] predicted that the cost of water will soon be higher than the cost of cable TV for most citizens."

The main speaker was Hadiara Diallo, director of microfinance at Wells Bring Hope, an organization that strives to provide clean, safe water in Niger, one of the most water-deprived countries on the planet.

In Nigeria, women and girls as young as 5 walk far distances to fetch water for their homes, and the trips often take several hours.

"Hadiara presented a viable solution to the problem," Reed said. "Capped wells can be provided and maintained at minimal cost. One well can support up to 600 families. The time saved frees the women and girls for other productive activities. They can go to school, learn a trade, learn how to operate a business, and spend quality time with their families. Their health and life expectancy are greatly improved."

If you would like to learn more about efforts to provide clean and safe water in Niger, visit wellsbringhope.org



GEORGIA Atlanta

"The New Paradigm of Love, Sex and Marriage-Part 2"



Pastors, youth pastors, and educators were invited to a seminar to discuss why sexual abstinence is important from a spiritual standpoint.

"Sister Margaret Muhammad gave the Islamic view, Rev. Samuel Mosteller presented the Christian view, and Rev. Jack Whedbee presented the Divine Principle view," Nandi Moton said.

The presentations were able to give the audience a sense of seriousness about the physical and spiritual consequences of premarital sex.

"Sister Jo Ellen Paige said she was so inspired by the program she went home and had a deep and honest discussion with her daughter about how to dress. She said she just had to empty herself out and share with her daughter and husband what she heard," Moton said.



The Atlanta chapter plans to distribute more Pure Love curriculums for the community.

by Nandi Moton

OHIO, Columbus *Celebrating Women's History Month With a Principled Perspective*

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Ohio Chapter of WFWP held a program called "Her Story: A Divine Principle Perspective." This was



modeled after our WFWP USA's President, Angelika Selle's successful program. However, the PowerPoint was changed to include founding mothers of different religions.

The evening began with an introduction to WFWP by Thea Schlichting, whose mother is the WFWP president in Germany.

Ms. Schlichting, representing the WFWP Ohio Chapter, was able to give "a very impressive introduction from the heart."

"It moved all who had come to support this event," Marcia Schlichting said. The PowerPoint, titled, "Her Story: A Divine Principle Perspective," was next on the agenda, given by Caryn Olsson. All the major religions were covered, with the founding mothers introduced.

"The thing that struck me the most is that, publicly, all religions had men at the forefront. However, we know that behind even the most successful man is a woman," Ms. Schlichting said.

by Caryn Olsson



MINNESOTA, Minneapolis

The Power of Healing Through Feminine Wisdom



On March 23, the Minneapolis chapter held a group discussion on WFWP USA President Angelika Selle's video presentation, "Her Story."

"In the video," according to participant Vicky Pehling, "Mrs. Selle reviewed how the Divine Principle plays a role in WFWP, saying, 'Father and Mother Moon have been teaching parent-ism to overcome conflict.' She also explained the role of Eve in the biblical human Fall, and how Eve's behavior in the past affects women living in the present."

Those who attended felt inspired by the message and even came up with ideas on topics that the organization can focus on.

Attendees like Mrs. Rose felt that the video expressed the need for women to stand up.

"I was thinking that throughout the years, women have been held back from doing things that we are capable of doing," she said. "It has really been women who have been behind many of the world's great achievements. What she [Mrs. Selle] was saying was to use the power that women have. It's groups like this that give us the courage and power to do those great things."

Announcements!

THANK YOU to Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama

We thank Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama, the **outgoing Deputy Director of the WFWP International UN office!**

We express our deepest appreciation and love to Mrs. Sugiyama who has

faithfully and productively served for 15 years in her role at the UN office together with her team. Mrs. Sugiyama has established many strong relations with the UN on behalf of WFP International and left behind a historic legacy.

She will officially end her long years of sacrifice and service on June 1, 2012, and will be succeeded by Mrs. Alexa Ward.

Welcome and Congratulations to Mrs. Alexa Ward

We welcome and congratulate **Mrs. Alexa Ward**, former president of WFP USA, to her appointment as the **incoming Deputy Director of WFP International at the UN office in New York City!**

Mrs. Ward has worked and served WFP for more than a decade and is most qualified to take on this new role.

New Beginnings **Women Leaders' Retreat & Seminar** *April 11-14, 2013, San Antonio, TX*

Participants from across the country came together to not only experience a beautiful retreat in San Antonio, Texas, but to also come up with action steps for the next year including plans for the national conference in October.

"The new type of leadership is by showing love through service and example. It's not about positions and leadership," President of WFP USA Angelika Selle said. "If we bring back the past, we'll destroy what we already built.



In the New Jersey chapter, led by Denneze Nelson, she shared how doing local projects contributed to their

success. But also believed that there needs to be more programs geared to educating /raising young women leaders.

Nelson also shared the important of working with a team, and thanked Marguerite Johannsen-Dabis and Joy Lascarifor the team work that they were able to create for the chapter.

Alexa Ward stopped by the retreat to not only share about her new position as Vice President of Family Federation USA, but to also remind the participants how important this time is.

"When I was on the plane with True Mother, I can remember her saying '...please make this worth it for me.' She didn't cry when she said it, but I felt the weight... And I was able to connect with her even more that day, the burden she now has to carry... We need to support True Mother, in any way we can."



And that meant taking Women's Federation for World Peace to the next level. And every participant felt more determined to help lift that weight.

At the end of the retreat, the participants got together to come up with a theme for this year's conference. And the group came up with the title, "The New Woman Leader in Action." The title is not official, but the conference is planned to have a day of action where attendees can participate in a community project.

So for 2013 the women of WFWP want to create more programs geared towards young women, mentoring and enrichment programs for high school students, and start a WFWP College Chapter initiative to get more young women involved in the organization.

San Antonio

A poem

*The beauty I cannot capture
It brings my heart to rapture
The atmosphere of God's creation
Must soon fill the whole nation
A walk by the river, San Antonio
With flowers and colors that glow
With a gentle breeze, cooling the warm night
Raises all through me a sparkling light
The grandeur of the cypress and the oaks
Sends messages of peace: Remove your cloaks!
Enjoy the splendor before you
Drink it in, and right through
Mother Earth can teach us much
When we reach for her touch
Absorb her heart and remain
There is more than we know to gain*

-Chairwoman Fran Krefft Mackay



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Your Chapter?**

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Tamara Starr with any
story ideas for the next
issue!



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