



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

## E-News

*May 2014*



Month of Mothers and New Flowers!

### ***President's Corner***

Happy Mother's Day Month 2014!

Dear Friends,

How do you feel about the abduction and sale into sex slavery of the 300 young girls in Nigeria? And would you think for even a moment that a mother or mothers would be able to do such a thing? I do not know any single mother of any culture who would even conceive of taking someone else's children and putting them through a hell like that. ...

Therefore as we consider our role as women and mothers, especially at this time in human history, we can clearly see the need for change and positive influence. We might not be able to make a big impact right away on a big level, but we can start right where we are in our own families and communities to raise up a different kind of generation of children and adults who will cherish one another in heart, and value each other's differences in race, religion, and nationality.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, in an interview a few years ago, talked about his own mother when he was a little boy. He was riding on her back, and would pull her left ear to steer her left and her right ear to steer her right, and she would cheerfully comply--and she thus made him feel so close and comfortable and safe with her. His mother in India is a very simple woman, with no education. But she gave him a treasure for life! He concluded by saying he felt sad that in today's culture such intimacy between mother and child, or between father and child, has been, more often than not, lost.

He therefore called on all women, the simple mother, any mother, to go outside her household into the neighborhood and community and share her simple heart of love with others, taking care of them, showing compassion and generosity.

This is also exactly the call of WFWP to women of all ages, to let our parental heart guide us and to express to others such a pure and simple love of a mother. And as this occurs more and more around the world, I am certain we will one day never again hear of news such as that in Nigeria!



Let your motherly heart shine!

Angelika

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## A Poem

### Mothers

By Mr. Tossa Cromwell

From the fires of love  
To the storms of birth  
A mother is born when  
A babe breathes its first

Bringer of new life  
Calmer of all pains  
Hope of all hopes  
Harbinger of all faith

A mother is born  
And the world rejoices  
None may gain life  
But by a womb's embrace

Oneness with our Heavenly Parent  
Is the source of a mother's true worth  
Harmony and joy in a family  
The just rewards of a mother's labor

Let us all remember  
The source of our life  
The center of our love  
And the makers of our lineage

Mothers, we thank you!  
Mothers, we rejoice!  
Mothers, be strong!

And be in Heavenly Mother's embrace!

Editor's Note: For this issue of the newsletter, one of our goals is to celebrate Mothers and Motherhood. To accomplish this, we asked two young ladies and one older lady who is young at heart to write something about their mothers. Ms. Angela Ruf, Ms. Sancha Ogden, and Ms. Alicia Ponce's contributions are included.

In subsequent newsletters we will be asking our Younger Ladies to contribute articles to give the newsletter a fresh look and feel, as we honor the up and coming generation of ladies who are teaching us so very much about life and love.

\* \* HONORING MOTHERS \* \*

## My Mother - My Best Friend

By Ms. Angela Ruf

There is no relationship in the world quite as extraordinary as the one you can have with your mother.

In the past 21 years (plus 9 months of living luxuriously inside of my mother's belly), I was lucky enough to be born with a best friend from the very beginning of my life. My mom has always been my biggest supporter, whether it's going to every single soccer game I ever played, laughing as she filmed me after I got my wisdom teeth taken out, playing board games together and her being far too excited whenever she won (always repeating "I won! I won!"), or pouring chocolates on my desk when I'm stressed studying for exams.

But aside from being my mentor and supporter, she has also just been a true friend in my life. Some of my most treasured moments are the times when I'm with my mom and we're laughing so hard we're crying, because we always end up in unique situations. Such as the time we went horseback trail riding together but were far behind as the last two people because our horses kept using the bathroom, or traveling as tourists in the dungeon of a castle with actors that were supposed to scare us, but all we could do was laugh the entire time.



Angela and Zena Ruf



Visiting Stonehenge, England

My mom has always been my role model and my rock. Her sense of humor makes her someone I could laugh with for hours, and she is always looking at life positively and pushing me to go for my dreams. Whenever something is going wrong, my mom is always there to help me through it, no matter what she may be going through herself at the time. She always puts me before herself, and I'm always striving to be more like her, for there is no relationship more valuable to me than the one I have with my mother.

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The Mother I Never Knew

By Ms. Sancha Ogden

The bond between a mother and a daughter is a universal, powerful relationship. The love my mother has given me over the years has been consistent and unchanging. She has always loved me and in turn I have always, on some level, loved my mother, but the love has grown and changed over time.

As a child, I saw my mother as perfect and invulnerable, but I never realized she was also a person. She is a woman who has dreams and desires and wants to accomplish great things. She is not just my mother who cooks food or cleans the house but she is an amazing, strong woman who does great things every day.

The moment this dawned on me was when my mother and father had just returned from Brazil. My mother is from Brazil, and it was the first time she had seen family in over 15 years. My parents sat all the kids down and showed us photos and videos clips of all the places they had visited and all the people they had seen.

The best video clip was of my mother laughing and talking with her sisters. In the video, she was with her two sisters and they were having coffee and freely speaking in Portuguese. I had never seen my mother so free. She had a light in her eyes I had never seen before.

In America there was always that barrier of language, and when she spoke to me in Portuguese I usually answered in English. But in that video I saw my mother as the woman she was, a strong, confident, and free woman. That is why I love my mother forever, because she is more than my mother. She is a woman I am striving to be in every moment- strong, confident, and freely able to love.

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Relaxing with Mom!

## In Honor of My Mom: Maria Delgado-Ponce

By Ms. Alicia D. Ponce

I love my mother very much, and even though she has passed on, her spirit still lives in her children. I remember while growing up seeing my Mom happy, sad, and peaceful. She



loved her kids, all 13 of us, and did the best she could. My mother didn't speak much English, because she and my father emigrated from Mexico. To learn English, she used to read the dictionary and watch English TV programs. She especially loved watching Carol Burnett, *I Love Lucy*, and the *Lawrence Welk Show*.

My mother was an amazing, gentle soul who wanted the best for her children. We grew up in the projects in East Chicago, Indiana, a city just a bit southeast of Chicago. Even though she didn't have a high school education, she encouraged us to do well. I'm so proud of my Mom and her commitment to us, because each of us is now living a healthy, good life.

I love my Mom and miss her, but I know her spirit lives in my heart always and forever! ☺



Alicia and her mother

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## MINNESOTA

### Peace-Building in Action

By Ms. Talia Haibara

On Saturday, April 26, about 60 people came together to attend the Women's Federation for World Peace Minneapolis chapter Bridge of Peace Ceremony. The purpose of this ceremony is to overcome racial, political, and religious barriers and to create a bond of sisterhood among the participants.

The ceremony was introduced by Mrs. Jeannette Henry, WFWP Minneapolis chairwoman. She talked about the uniqueness of Women's Federation members as "peace builders," explaining that WFWP members are people who do not just maintain peace, but are active agents in creating peace. She read a speech by the founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, that highlighted women's roles as peace builders. All guests were shown the new website and were encouraged to sign up for membership.

To prepare our hearts to cross the bridge, we watched a PowerPoint made at the 2005 Bridge of Peace Ceremony at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. There were pictures of women crossing the bridge together and also of a team led by Bishop Aya, a local Minnesota clergy person, working in Louisiana to help Hurricane Katrina victims. The PowerPoint was a perfect introduction to what was to come.



Bowing in repentance

The guests were asked to line up on one side of the room and WFWP members on the other. Couple by couple—each couple displaying racial, political, or religious differences that needed to be reconciled—they crossed the bridge and embraced. Participating in and witnessing this act of reconciliation was deeply touching. Every pair who crossed the bridge faced and bowed to each other, walked across the divide, exchanged flowers, and embraced.

[Continue reading on our website...](#)



Embracing in reconciliation

## OHIO

### It All Started With a Dream

By Mrs. Marcia Schlichting

The WFWP Ohio chapter has a special relationship with the WFWP school in Rwanda, a tiny nation in East Africa. We had been aware of the genocide that had taken place there in the mid-90s, and had felt drawn to contribute support, to help the desperate situation there.

One night, Mrs. Gwenn Bair, the WFWP Ohio chairwoman in 2009, had one of the clearest dreams in her life. "I found myself in the doorway of a hut in a field, carrying a blood-drenched baby in my arms and said, 'Oh my God, this is Rwanda!'" The next day she attended a meeting, and the woman beside her mentioned that she was from Rwanda. "When she told me that, I looked into her face and the feeling of my dream rushed in and I started sobbing loudly, uncontrollably. We embraced. I had also heard of a movement of forgiveness and cooperation taking place after the genocide. There was no question in our minds here in Columbus that this was the nation we wanted to support."



Mother's heart of prayer

WFWP Ohio also continues to be in contact with Mrs. Marie Nozaki, a WFWP member from Japan who worked in Rwanda and helped start the school there. Through her, we have a deeper connection to what our donations are actually doing to help students get an education and change their lives through attending the school.

Members of our chapter have become close friends with another Rwandan genocide survivor, Ms. Norah Bagirinka. Ms. Bagirinka is also the co-founder, with Mrs. Tatiana Adams, of Rwanda Women in Action ([www.rwia.org](http://www.rwia.org)), a nonprofit organization helping Rwandan refugee women get their bearings in a new country and environment. She has shared her story with us and everywhere else she is asked to speak. A Columbus local newspaper wrote up her story, and we included the news article in our WFWP Approach Book. You can see an interview with her at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgl7hk9OA7s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgl7hk9OA7s).

[Read the rest and see more photos on our website...](#)



Olive



Valerie



Monique

\* \* \* \* \*

## MARYLAND

### WFWP Celebrates the Cherry Blossom Festival in D.C.

By Mrs. Emiko Butler

The Washington, D.C. Cherry Blossom Festival is the biggest festival of its kind in the United States. Thousands of visitors come each year to view the beauty of 3,000 cherry trees around the Tidal Basin, on the National Mall and on Hains Point. The cherry trees were given by Japan in 1912 as a symbol of friendship with America. Every year, Washington, D.C. celebrates its strong and friendly relationship with Japan during the sakura (cherry blossom) blooming season and this street festival.

This year, the Japan-America Society (JAS) of Washington, D.C. presented its 54th annual Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival on April 12. (Sakura Matsuri simply means Cherry Blossom Festival.) The JAS has been serving the D.C. Metro community since 1957.

The JAS emphasizes five areas; arts and culture, martial arts, modern Japan, the "Ginza Marketplace," and the "Taste of Japan." The streets were packed with food vendors, musicians, artists, craftsmen, games, travel agency booths, media people, and much more.

The Maryland Chapter of WFWP decided to participate with the Japan-American Society in the festival this year. We have been looking for a way to network with the local JAS, as we want to follow our founder's way of honoring righteous individuals and groups. In this way we can introduce WFWP's ideals to the general public and network with other organizations at the same time.

At this event, we used the "Gotochi" idea. Gotochi--which in Japanese means to promote local attractions, local goods and customs, and the Japanese hometown--is fashionable now in Japan. It has generated an interest in and revival of traditional ways and a nostalgia for places remembered...



Flower decorations



Our guests in kimonos

[Read the rest and see more photos on our site.](#)



## OHIO

### Spreading the LOVE IQ

By Marcia Schlichting

Ohio is famous for "charter schools." So on Friday, April 25 Mrs. Caryn Olsson was asked to give a Love IQ presentation, based on the Relationship Intelligence curriculum by Dr. Richard Panzer, at the Horizon Charter Middle School in Columbus, Ohio. This was due to our networking with Ms. Judy Mondy, a wonderful woman from Haiti, who set up the meeting at the school and gave a compelling introduction about the importance of purity.

Ms. Mondy has been a friend of WFWP in Columbus for many years and was originally attracted to our Love IQ program because she also has a passion for education on risk awareness and healthy relationships and works as a liaison for Purity Education in Schools.

Her college-age daughter, Annie, accompanied her to the meeting. The younger Ms. Mondy wants to help young people make informed and beneficial choices, and would like to work with us on the Love IQ program. She was once a member of the WAIT Team (Washington AIDS International Teens) in Ohio. The WAIT Team has a program that focuses on AIDS awareness through the message that each individual is special and worth the "wait." Their presentations are based on creative skits displaying breakdancing and other artistic skills, and illustrating that developing one's talents is a key to self-development and preparation for future success in life.



Mrs. Olsson presenting Love IQ



Discussion with Mrs. Mondy

Also present at the meeting were the directors of a local high school and elementary school, and the administrative assistant and outreach coordinator for all of these schools. The pastor from Ms. Mondy's church, who is working with her to spread the purity message, was also there.

Mrs. Olsson gave a presentation specifically targeted to community leaders, parents, and teachers. At the end, the school director, while pointing out that only one month was left on the school calendar, offered her the opportunity to "schedule some time slots" in their "character building" curriculum.

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### Editor's Note:

Thank you all so much for your feedback and your contributions. Don't forget captions for the photos you submit. Extra photos may be placed on the website even though we may not be able to include them in the e-newsletter.

Thank you all for your effort to bring peace through "Living by the Logic of Love." Enjoy the beauty of Spring and flowers and new life everywhere!





## Have News From Your Chapter?

Tell us about it!!

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