



Women's Federation for World Peace, USA

An NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Women's Federation for World Peace, USA E-Newsletter

Becoming Women of Peace

November/December 2005

Dear WFWP,

In this issue, you will learn about the most recent activities of Women's Federation for World Peace, USA.

These include a Benefit for the Schools of Equatorial Guinea held by the Connecticut Regional Chapter of WFWP, USA, a United Nations forum entitled "Intensifying HIV Prevention", the Annual Retreat for Regional Chairwomen held in Las Vegas, and selected excerpts from speeches given during the Sixth Annual WFWP International Leaders Workshop in Moscow, Russia.

We hope you enjoy this volume of our E-Newsletter. All the best wishes for peace, love and joy for you in this holiday season.

Jennifer Ang, Editor

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United Nations Forum: "Intensifying AIDS Prevention" in commemoration of World AIDS Day
Speeches from Sixth Annual WFWP International Leaders Workshop in Moscow**

Benefit for the Schools of Equatorial Guinea



by Jayne Wood, Regional Chairwoman, Connecticut Regional Chapter

On the evening of December 3rd, the Connecticut Chapter of Women's Federation for World Peace held its annual Benefit for the Schools of Equatorial Guinea in the charming Japanese School, located in Greenwich, Connecticut, which was attended by fifty- two guests. They were impressed by the lovely and festive atmosphere of the dining hall where the benefit was hosted. Men and women alike came

to attend the charity event. Many wandered around the room before the program began, surveying the wealth of items on display for the silent auction.

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Annual Retreat for Regional Chairwomen in Las Vegas

by Margaret Figueroa, Regional Chairwoman, Illinois Regional Chapter

Seventeen women gathered in Las Vegas from Friday, Nov 11th to Sunday, Nov 13th for the WFWP, USA Annual Retreat for Regional Chairwomen. They arrived all day on Friday to the warm and dry climate. Some were able to take advantage of their early arrival and breathe in the sunshine or soak in a hot tub. But most arrived at dinnertime where they were treated to a private dining room and delicious Italian cuisine.

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United Nations Forum: "Intensifying AIDS Prevention" in commemoration of World AIDS Day

by Ricardo de Pena, IIFWP

On November 30th, the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (IIFWP) and the Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) organized and cosponsored a forum entitled, "Intensifying HIV Prevention", leading up to World AIDS Day 2005 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The event was also cosponsored by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the UN-NGO Committee on HIV/AIDS, Balm in Gilead, International



Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Maryknoll Mission, UNANIMA International, WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts), and Zenab for Women in Development Inc., while it was supported by the Missions of Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Malawi, Nigeria, Tuvalu and Zambia.

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Speeches from Sixth Annual WFWP International Leaders Workshop in Moscow

Compiled by Jennifer Ang, Editor



Last month's E-Newsletter contained short excerpts from speeches made during the Sixth Annual WFWP International Leaders Workshop in Moscow, Russia. In this volume of the E-Newsletter, we wanted to give an opportunity to read a fuller portion of those speeches, which are inspirational and informative. We hope you enjoy reading them.

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Annual Retreat for Regional Chairwomen

By Margaret Figueroa, Regional Chairwoman, Illinois Chapter of WFWP, USA

Seventeen women gathered in Las Vegas from Friday, Nov 11th to Sunday, Nov 13th for the WFWP, USA Annual Retreat for Regional Chairwomen. They arrived all day on Friday to the warm and dry climate. Some were able to take advantage of their early arrival and breathe in the sunshine or soak in a hot tub. But most arrived at dinnertime where they were treated to a private dining room and delicious Italian cuisine.

The purpose of the Annual Retreat was to report and reflect on efforts and activities of the past year, as well as come to a consensus as to plans for the next year. The focus of the weekend was to consider how WFWP, USA could become a viable, self-sustaining organization that could truly embody the vision of our founders. This motivation was reinforced with participants by starting each day reading the speech that our founders were delivering every day in a different country on the opposite side of the world.

Saturday morning, the meeting began with an introduction by Alexa Ward, WFWP, USA's National President. She spoke of the founders' support for WFWP, International in terms of the new international headquarters in Seoul, Korea, as well as an annual budget for the bi-monthly Peace Women magazine. She shared that WFWP, USA offered the opportunity for personal growth and exposure to different environments. She spoke of the importance of the WFWP-sponsored trips to Israel and China as a vehicle for laying a foundation of heart in areas of hardened political views. She shared about the importance of the recent renewal of WFWP, International's status at the United Nations, as well as the completion of the signature campaign for the Declaration for Peace in support of peace in the Middle East.

Alexa made the point that WFWP, USA offered women the opportunity for personal growth as well as leadership experience at home and abroad. Retreat participants learned of the important role the WFWP administrative office has been playing in organizing, promoting and participating in national, as well as international, events. She shared openly and honestly the importance of having a strong national office in order to respond to the providential call, as well as continue to develop WFWP's own unique programs.

With this in mind, each Regional Chairwomen reported on their activities and chapter development over the past year. Throughout the day and into the next, exciting reports were delivered, touching on program such as the International's Women's Day in Washington, DC; the UN Forum on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in the United Nations; the Women's Middle East Peace Initiative programs in Los Angeles and Washington, DC; activities for young women in Colorado; interfaith activity in Portland, Oregon; as well as moving Bridge of Peace Ceremonies across the country. Creative ideas for fundraising and networking were discussed. Highlights of WFWP's ongoing support of the schools of Africa strengthened the participants' resolve to do more in that area. Reports of meetings with politicians, peace activists and various women leaders gave great hope that WFWP, USA was indeed

“Going One Step Higher.”

Saturday also brought a special visitor, Mrs. Yasue Erikawa, the former president of WFWP in Japan, to lend her support and advice. She shared her experience in developing and leading a national chapter, emphasizing the dynamic between education, chapter development and activities. “To succeed we must work patiently and lovingly”, she shared. She exemplified the heart of a mother as she answered questions and gave suggestions.

Sunday’s meeting focused on proposing strategies for the growth of WFWP, USA. Alexa Ward introduced the new national membership drive, whose main purpose is to increase income for the national headquarters. She encouraged the Regional Chairwomen to promote this effort through their regional chapters.

A presentation was given by Ms. Kazue Short, recently appointed National Membership Coordinator for WFWP, USA. Leaders discussed many ideas on how to increase the current membership.

This was followed by an open discussion by all the participants about the three main programs of WFWP, USA, which are the areas of Women of Faith, Benefits for the Schools of Africa, and NGO Networking. Everyone continued meeting until one by one, each person, still engaged in conversations to the last minute, had to say goodbye, and run to catch their taxis or buses.

Excerpts from Speeches of the Sixth Annual WFWP International Leaders Workshop

Dear Members and Friends of WFWP, USA,

Last month's E-Newsletter contained short excerpts from speeches made during the Sixth Annual WFWP International Leaders Workshop in Moscow, Russia. In this volume of the E-Newsletter, we wanted to give an opportunity to read a fuller portion of those speeches, which are inspirational and informative. We hope you enjoy reading them.

Jennifer Ang
Editor, WFWP, USA E-Newsletter





**Opening Remarks
October 11, 2005
Dr. Lan Young Moon
President, WFWP, International**

“We have two days of a very meaningful conference before us. Since September of last year, when the Fifth Workshop was hosted in Vienna, Austria, WFWP has hosted quite amazing events, both national and international, over the course of just one year. In particular, through the diverse reports that you have sent to the headquarters, I could see that you have carried out creative and inspired activities. I am gratified and rewarded to feel your pride and passion as Women’s Federation members.

The international events we have held this year are quite amazing too. The Midday Workshop on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination held in March at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Ninth Women’s Conference for Peace in the Middle East held in May in Athens, the Goodwill Exchange for Peace held in August in Beijing, China, and the Women Leaders Conference for Reconciliation and Peace held in the Republic of Palau in Oceania, in commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the termination of World War II, were wonderful in their significance and content.

The day before our departure, I received a report from our New York office that our UN status, the General Consultative Status with ECOSOC, has officially been renewed for another four years. Thanks to Heaven and the global efforts of each and every one of you, we are able to enjoy this wonderful news. Such activities have not only made us feel pride as individual members of WFWP, but also have provided an opportunity for us to be elevated to a new level.

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I would like to express my thanks once again to the love and dedication you have shown and the work you have put in both physically and spiritually for these activities in the development of WFWP. During the past year, I have met with women from many different nations around the world, including the exchange we held with women of North Korea who have for a long time been distant from us. I have met as well women of the Middle East, China and women leaders of the Pacific Island nations, and every

meeting I have come more strongly convinced than ever that we women are the key to changing hatred and anger to forgiveness and reconciliation, pain and sorrow to comfort and happiness. This is because, in my opinion, we have the potential and wisdom acquired over the course of years as we women underwent suffering and inequality under the patriarchal system.

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There is a Korean saying: "To move the heart of one person is more difficult than moving a mountain." We all know we must invest to set up an environment where people can come closer together in heart.

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I know all of you will share your wonderful experiences and insights at this workshop, not only for our personal development, but also for the overall advancement of WFWP during the second phase of the decade. Beloved Women's Federation leaders, in this unprecedented historic era, let us make every effort to participate with pride and dignity in our movement for true peace. May God bless you abundantly. Thank you very much."





**Japanese Presentation
October 11, 2005
Mrs. Tetsuko Kuboki
President, WFWP, Japan**

“Good afternoon, ladies. I want to say my greetings, especially to Dr. Moon. And I would also like to say thank you to the Russian WFWP president, Nina, and also the American WFWP president, Mrs. Ward, and thank you to all those staff members who really helped the success of this workshop. And plus all those sisters who came from so far away. It is so nice to see you again. I believe strongly that the fact that we are holding this Sixth WFWP Leaders Workshop here in Russia is very significant. Looking back at the past year, we see all kinds of calamities taking place on the earth. To start with, the tsunami in the Indian Ocean, of which we still have vivid memories. Recently two hurricanes hit the United States, causing many casualties there, and in Pakistan, there was a big earthquake. In Japan also, there was a typhoon that caused much damage. There are many calamities taking place in this world. However, sometimes we feel so hopeless as human beings, since we can't do anything in the face of these natural disasters. Contrary to the deepest wish of all mankind, which is a desire for peace, we do not know when, where or how calamities will occur, especially with terrorism threatening our lives and making us feel insecure in these times.

...

But our founder has mentioned that it is our age, and the time has come for us to rise and take leadership. Last night, Dr. Seuk shared a wonderful message with us, which was that it is really time for us as women to stand up; there are great expectations for us as women in leadership. I believe this also.

...

I firmly believe that God is showing us that now is a great time for women to rise up and take leadership, and actualize God's deepest desire to realize everlasting peace on earth, and to create one global family on earth, through us as women. In order to secure and even increase our membership, we need to take action. We cannot just be standing still. The more we do and the more we pour out our heart and love, the more people will be touched and rise up. So, in Japan, at least 3 times a year, we are doing special membership campaigns, especially through promoting WFWP, Japan's *ideal family* magazine.

We are also educating our leadership, so that they can take that responsibility to do this kind of campaign to expand our membership. Every one of us can have amazing experiences, through going out and promoting our activities, and with that energy and conviction that we gain from those experiences, we can really make a great impact, and bring more people into our circle. We know that our founders are showing through their example what we should do. Unless we ourselves move, the “wind will not occur”. Again, this Sixth Annual WFWPI Leaders Workshop taking place in Moscow right now is so meaningful. I really hope that every one of us gets something from this, and that, in hindsight, it will be a very fruitful workshop.”



United Nations Forum: “Intensifying HIV Prevention” In commemoration of World Aids Day 2005

By Ricardo de Sena, IIFWP

On November 30th, the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (IIFWP) and the Women’s Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) organized and cosponsored a forum entitled, “Intensifying HIV Prevention”, leading up to World AIDS Day 2005 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The event was also cosponsored by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the UN-NGO Committee on HIV/AIDS, Balm in Gilead, International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Maryknoll Mission, UNANIMA International, WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts), and Zenab for Women in Development Inc., while it was supported by the Missions of Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Malawi, Nigeria, Tuvalu and Zambia.

The moderator was Ms. Zahra Nuru, Senior Advisor, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), who emphasized the significance of the event both for the commitment of NGOs, such as IIFWP and WFWPI, as well as for the level of the panelists. Mrs. Motoko Sugiyama, Co-Chair of the Forum Organizing Committee, gave the welcoming remarks acknowledging that, on the one hand, it is very important to find effective medical care for all victims of HIV/AIDS and, on the other hand, “it is equally important to find effective ways to prevent and eliminate this life-threatening disease that is bringing tremendous misery to many families and to the whole human family”. Reminding participants of the great opportunity to hear experts in the area of HIV prevention, Mrs. Sugiyama invited everyone to “learn a lot, and become richly inspired to work together as members of our human family to find and utilize better solutions to HIV/AIDS”.

Dr. Desmond Johns, Director of UNAIDS, gave a colorful PowerPoint presentation entitled, “New opportunities for intensifying HIV prevention”, in which he made it clear that twenty years of experience shows that there is evidence that prevention does work. He emphasized the need for essential policy decisions for HIV prevention, such as encouraging leadership from all, including protecting human rights, reviewing and revising legal frameworks, involving people living with HIV, addressing cultural norms and beliefs as well as gender norms and relations, increasing knowledge and awareness, linking with Sexual and Reproductive health, mobilizing community-based responses, mobilizing resources, and strengthening human and institutional capacity. Dr. Johns concluded by emphasizing “how essential it is that there be leadership from all sections of society and that people living with HIV are involved in HIV prevention... how a strong mobilization is essential and how the legal framework in which HIV prevention is implemented needs to be strong, especially with regard to respect for the human rights of vulnerable populations”.



The forum carried on with remarks by Mr. George Ogurie, IIFWP Director of the HIV/AIDS Prevention initiative in Abuja, presentation entitled, “Addressing the Human Barriers to Scaling up HIV Prevention through Innovative Alliances”, which e IIFWP projects involve “making presentations at individual school assemblies as well as in classes, holding seminars to train peer educators, providing teaching materials for ongoing education in the school, helping set up and train persons and clubs in each school and conducting surveys before and after the project to evaluate the impact of the project”. Mr. Ogurie also sta “encourage young people to practice abstinence before marriage and faithfulness within marriage... We counsel on the appro that condoms might be used (the A-B-C method)”.

Representing the Member-States, H.E. Prof. Brown B. Chiphamba, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Rep United Nations, took the floor. In his presentation entitled, “Key Actions Central to the Prevention Response at Work in the Malawi”, Ambassador Chiphamba explained that Malawi, like other countries in Africa, is in the midst of a serious and far epidemic”. After sharing some of the key actions undertaken by the government of Malawi in collaboration with Non-Gover and civil society to prevent the spread of HIV/ AIDS, he concluded that, “A supportive policy environment is essential for effective prevention of HIV/AIDS. With this in mind the government of Malawi launched a National Policy on HIV/AIDS which provides technical and administrative guidelines for the design, implementation and management of HIV/AIDS programs and activities at all levels of the Malawi society”.

Representing the Member-States, H.E. Prof. Brown B. Chiphamba, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations, took the floor. In his presentation entitled, “Key Actions Central to the Prevention Response at Work in the Field – The Case of Malawi”, Ambassador Chiphamba explained that Malawi, like other countries in Africa, is in the midst of a serious and far-reaching HIV/AIDS epidemic”. After sharing some of the key actions undertaken by the government of Malawi in collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations and civil society to prevent the spread of HIV/ AIDS, he concluded that, “A supportive policy environment is essential for effective prevention of HIV/AIDS. With this in mind the government of Malawi launched a National Policy on HIV/AIDS which provides technical and administrative guidelines for the design, implementation and management of HIV/AIDS programs and activities at all levels of the Malawi society”.

The final speaker was Ms. Fatima Ahmed who offered her perspective as the president of a community-based organization in Sudan, Zenab for Women in Development Inc. She remarked that “prevention is still the key to control the epidemic” and that “given the fact that Sudan is conservative in nature... the good interaction between the different religious groups in our communities, plus the strong family ties and values, kept Sudan among one of the Northern African Countries which have had a low rate of HIV /AIDS for a long time”. In conclusion, Ms. Ahmed explained that her organization sponsors campaigns “seeking to make women and their families aware of the issues and working toward a more open societal dialogue and education concerning prevention, and taking care of the people who have HIV/AIDS”.

The forum concluded with closing remarks presented by Mr. Ricardo de Sena, a member of the Forum Organizing Committee. He took the opportunity to thank Ms. Nuru for her

excellent job, and also thank all the panelists and participants. He said, "You could have been anywhere with your busy schedules, but decided to come here. You also deserve a big hand." After applause from the audience, Mr. de Sena performed the song "We are the world" ending the program in a beautiful atmosphere of camaraderie.



Benefit for the Motoko School of Equatorial Guinea

December 3, 2005
Greenwich, Connecticut

By Jayne Wood, Regional Chairwoman, Connecticut Chapter of WFWP

On the evening of December 3rd, the Connecticut Chapter of Women's Federation for World Peace held its annual Benefit for the Motoko School of Equatorial Guinea in the charming Japanese School, located in Greenwich, Connecticut. Guests were impressed by the lovely and festive atmosphere of the dining hall where the benefit was hosted. Men and women alike came to attend the charity event. Many wandered around the room before the program began, surveying the wealth of items on display for the silent auction offered throughout the program.

All of the proceeds from the Benefit were to support WFWP-sponsored schools in Equatorial Guinea, which include the Motoko Shiroma Kindergarten and Elementary School, the vocational Motoko School for adults, and the recently envisioned Pilar Momo Elementary School. The Motoko Schools are named after Ms. Motoko Shiroma, a WFWP volunteer for Equatorial Guinea who died of malaria on February 9, 1995, before the school was completed. The Motoko School opened in 1999, largely thanks to a generous donation from Motoko's father, Mr. Hiroshi Shiroma. The Motoko School also supports children from extremely poor families by engaging international sponsors through its "foster parents" program. WFWP, International has broken ground for a third school in Pequena Espana, a village on the outskirts of the capitol of Malabo. It is named after Pilar Momo, the first woman teacher in Equatorial Guinea.

The program began with a warm welcome by the master of ceremonies, Dr. Josie Hauer, to all the participants. Heartfelt and thought-provoking opening remarks were given by Dr. Carol Yingling, a minister of the Church of Scientology, opening the hearts of the members of the audience. She stressed the importance of sincere cooperation as a means to achieving success.

An atmospheric and hauntingly beautiful piano performance was given by Mr. Takeshi Asai, a graduate from the renowned Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. His wife, Sanae Asai, an experienced calligrapher, accompanied some of his songs with beautiful and elegant creations of calligraphy, enticing the audience to come closer as she created works both meaningful and aesthetic.

Ms. Alexa Ward, President of Women's Federation for World Peace, USA, gave some background about the country of Equatorial Guinea, where there exists a lot of poverty and a lack of resources. She introduced the WFWP schools in Equatorial Guinea, moving the audience with an in-depth perspective into the schools' history and significance in serving that region. An informative visual presentation was given by Ms. Jennifer Ang, which portrayed the progress WFWP has made in Equatorial Guinea, showed photos of the schools and students, and presented sobering statistics for the country, such as a 30% rate of illiteracy in women and a 20% rate of graduation from elementary school for children.

After the presentation on the schools, guests were offered the opportunity to peruse and bid on the silent auction items lining the walls, which included highly attractive items such as Japanese tea cups from the era of occupation, decorative kimonos, African art, as well as many gift certificates generously donated by local restaurants and stores. All guests crowded around the auction tables and exchanged words of interest and appreciation for the items, in a merry atmosphere full of goodwill as well as a little friendly competition to outbid each other on generally prized items.

The bidding was closed as the second round of entertainment began. The first presenter was Ms. Jeanette Harris, a performance artist, playwright and composer who specializes in motivational entertainment and African storytelling. She skillfully drew on her talents for poetry, comedy and music to weave vivid and engaging stories for the audience. Robed in a kimono with a beautiful silver hair ornament cascading down her hair, nine-year-old Alice Kaori McDonald performed a Japanese dance entitled *Ayame Yukata*, or The Iris-Patterned Kimono, which portrayed a young girl with an umbrella coming through early summer rain. Her performance was a beautiful and entrancing expression of the Japanese traits of grace and poise.

A reception was held following the entertainment, while the silent auction was reopened to guests, who were encouraged to do their holiday shopping while supporting a worthwhile cause. The reception, which featured sushi, delicate pastries and an abundance of delightful hors d'oeuvres and samplings, was enjoyed by all as they mingled and continued with their bidding. The silent auction earned a total of \$1,000 profit. The event raised a little under \$3,000 in total for the Motoko Schools and Pilar Momo Elementary School in Equatorial Guinea. And guests enjoyed themselves tremendously while contributing to a good cause. Many guests showed interest in becoming more involved with WFWP.