



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

E-News

Angelika Selle

November 2014



President's Corner

Dear Friends,

It's the season to be grateful. And as we enter the holiday season and I have time to reflect on this year's activities, I do feel much gratitude and hope. Why? Because throughout this issue of our newsletter, I can feel the passion, commitment, and soul that motivate and drive the women, mothers, and young women of WFWP to do what they are doing.

We are also very grateful for a most amazing 22nd anniversary National Assembly this year in Washington, D.C., which drew some 40 young women, including students. Their spirit brought a special energy and excitement, and our seasoned women emanated a spirit of wisdom, warmth, grace, and beauty. Love carried the event throughout, as the many diverse speakers shared deep nuggets of wisdom with the audience, especially 15-year-old speaker Victoria Pannell (please read her speech on the website). Victoria answered the question of a 12-year-old girl, who was attending the assembly with her mother, on how she could get motivated to become involved in peacemaking.

Inspired by this experience at our assembly, our WFWP USA national board members decided in a recent meeting to open up membership to younger age groups, starting even from middle school, with the permission of their parents. We all could see the value of starting young ladies off at an earlier age to aspire to do great things with their lives.

We also launched a year-end membership drive -- and we invite you to join us! If you feel grateful to WFWP for the work we have been pursuing, we invite you to become a dues-paying member or to offer a gift membership to a friend or another member of your family. Men are also members of WFWP, and more women-supporting men are most welcome!

Wishing you a most wonderful Thanksgiving season!

With love,
Angelika



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WFWP 22ND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Times Are A-Changing

By Mrs. Angelika Selle

Over 280 paid participants attended the 22nd National Assembly of Women's Federation for World

Peace (WFWP) USA that was held this year in Washington, D.C., in the historic ballroom of The Washington Times. The theme of the October 25 assembly: "Learn to Lead," was the same as last year's, but with a new subtitle: "From Local to Global-Leading with Heart." The participants, who came from around the country as well as the Washington, D.C. area, included the chairwomen of 21 WFWP chapters, mostly from the East Coast, dignitaries, activists, and business professionals.

For more than 22 years, WFWP, as an NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations has been involved in numerous projects and activities from the local to the global level. All of WFWP's efforts have been motivated by the heart of women who have worked with sacrifice and love. In 1992, co-founders Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon called on women and mothers to play a pivotal role in providing leadership "with a mother's heart" based on their innate, God-given qualities of nurturing, offering compassion and creating harmony-all crucial ingredients for the leadership for peace. All elements of this year's program were geared toward learning, from professionals and from each other's wisdom and experience, what it takes to lead from the local to the global level by "leading with heart."



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Panelists with Pres. Selle and Mrs. Yasutake



Quetzaldiosa Folklore Dance School

WFWP NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

I Got Big Doses of Inspiration!

By Ms. Lilyanna Patton



Lily and a new friend

The 2014 Women's Federation for World Peace National Assembly was one of my first experiences with the organization. It was a very moving experience, and I was able to learn about WFWP's mission: empowering women to lead a life of love and service for their communities and God. And now I am interested in participating more in Women's Federation activities!

At the assembly, I found a very loving and warm environment. I brought my friend along to the event, and we felt a lot love from the friendly women and young women during lunch.

My friend and I were so inspired by the excellent speakers! Each woman was so passionate and enthusiastic, and each genuinely wanted to share her love and guidance with the audience. One especially valuable point that speaker Nandi Bengu mentioned was the importance of love and forgiveness.

Although we received much insight from all of the speakers, our favorite was Victoria Pannell, a 15-year-old girl from New York City. Her topic was "Daring to Speak Out for Others." She empowered and inspired us to have confidence, do what is right, and uphold our values - even in the most difficult situations. Victoria has already accomplished a lot in her life, and I'm sure she will accomplish much more! She gave me the confidence that even though I am young, I can still influence people in a significant way.

I also learned about WFWP's incredible Schools of Africa Program and the impact it has on African children. Every November, my local youth group holds a leaf-raking fundraiser for a special organization. This year, we decided to raise money for the Schools of Africa project! I was delighted to contribute to that, because I knew the value of WFWP and its Schools of Africa. This caused me to work even harder, because it was meaningful to me.



Lily, Misha, and Karen

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WFWP NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Young Women Speak

By Ms. Emily Cornier

I was asked to put together some reflections of some young ladies who attended the 22nd annual National Assembly in Washington, D.C.



The first person I spoke with was Ms. Heather Fraser-Harris, 24, a graduate of the University of Bridgeport. She is now an intern in the WFWP United Nations headquarters office in New York. She has attended WFWP events internationally, but the National Assembly was the first serious WFWP event she attended in America. The main thing she took away from it was that it helped her realize some of her career goals. "I was amazed at all of the women who came out for this event," she said. "They were from all different backgrounds and were of various ages.

"Recently I have been applying to graduate schools for health services, but I didn't know what specific field I wanted to specialize in. After attending this event, I decided to specialize in the area of women and children. The WFWP assembly helped me realize that I can become empowered and also helpful in my career path."

Hanna Schmittat, 27, is studying naturopathic medicine at the University of Bridgeport. This was her first time attending a WFWP event of this stature and size. She said, "It was fantastic to hear and meet some amazing women, many of whom have built something significant out of nothing..."

[Continue reading online](#)

NEW JERSEY

Satellite City Chapters in New Jersey

By Mrs. Denneze Nelson

After completing a year-long prayer condition, praying in threes on conference calls, the

WFWP New Jersey ladies were inspired to work in local cities so that WFWP's activities and influence can expand and grow. One of the difficulties for the New Jersey members had been the distance between them. So they decided to create satellite chapters in Elizabeth, Hackensack, Clifton, and Newark to augment the work of the primary New Jersey Chapter in Paterson, New Jersey.

With the approval and encouragement of WFWP national President Mrs. Angelika Selle, the membership and guests convened on November 8 in Elizabeth, New Jersey, at the local YWCA, to induct the ladies into their new roles as satellite chairwomen. Some of them volunteered to serve and others were voted in

to their new positions. The new leaders are Christine Rapada (Elizabeth Chapter), Juna Okon (Newark Global Women's Peace Network), Hiroko Nitro (Clifton Chapter), and Cynthia Nakai (Hackensack Chapter).

It was a beautiful and dignified event that catered to families as well. The keynote speaker was President Selle, and national Vice President Juanita Pierre-Louis was the inducting officer. The mayor of Elizabeth, New Jersey, Chris Bollwage, and the national president of WFWP Philippines, Mrs. Merly Barlaan, gave congratulatory remarks.

The developments and the event were possible only based on the unity of heart of



Mrs. Denneze Nelson



Mrs. Angelika Selle receives flowers

WFWP New Jersey.



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CONNECTICUT

Black-Tie Evening for Schools of Africa

By Ms. Emily Cornier



On November 15, WFWP's Connecticut chapter hosted a record-breaking benefit for the Schools of Africa project at the University of Bridgeport's Schelfhault Gallery. The theme of this year's benefit was "Women of Africa." Over a hundred people were present, from University of Bridgeport students and faculty to friends and family members. It was a lovely sight to see guests dressed up in their gowns and tuxedos. The evening included presentations on WFWP's schools in Africa, live music, artisan noshes, and a silent auction.

Mrs. Lena Yasutake, the Connecticut chapter's chairwoman and a full-time University of Bridgeport student, coordinated and planned this classy event with the help of several Connecticut Chapter members and various members of the Bridgeport community. There were 43 sponsors from around Connecticut, including big and small businesses, that contributed to the culinary delights and the silent auction donations. A lot of hard work and preparation went into making this benefit as elegant as it was. Everyone was determined to make this benefit a memorable evening for all.

It started off at 7 p.m. The guests were warmly welcomed and registered for the evening. Scrumptious hors d'oeuvres were served by smartly dressed, well-groomed young men from the University of Bridgeport community who eagerly volunteered to serve for the night. Guests were given a chance to mingle and look at the diverse creations of women artists.

Around 7:15, Mrs. Yasutake gave her official welcome to everyone, followed by vocal and dance performances from Bridgeport Hope School and Bridgeport International Academy in collaboration with the Student African Association.



[Continue reading about this amazing event on our website...](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Turning Point in Favor of Justice

By Mr. Peter Zoehrer



Mr. Toru Goto

November 14, 2014. Mr. Toru Goto, who was kidnapped and held in confinement for over 12 years by professional faith-breakers, has just won a tremendous victory in the Tokyo High Court. The amount of damages awarded was 22,000,000 yen (approximately \$220,000).

Congratulations to Mr. Goto and to the HRWF (Human Rights Without Frontiers) team who have been working over the last three years to achieve justice for him.

The battle is not over yet, but this victory definitely marks a turning point in favor of justice and religious freedom in Japan. Over the last 45 years, more than 4,300 people have been kidnapped for the purpose of breaking their faith in several minority religions. Over 80 percent of the victims were women. Until now, the Japanese police and judiciary had regarded this as a "family matter" and have turned a blind eye to this injustice and these unspeakable crimes.

The turning point came when Dr. Aaron Rhodes, now president of FOREF (Forum for Religious Freedom Europe), and the team of HRWF filed an independent report of over 100 pages on the Goto story and other similar cases. The HRWF report was widely published and submitted to the U.S State Department and the UN in Geneva, Switzerland.

Recently the UN Human Rights Committee and the U.S. State Department have rebuked the Japanese government for ignoring those grave violations of human rights in their own country, citing the Goto case and the HRWF report on several occasions.

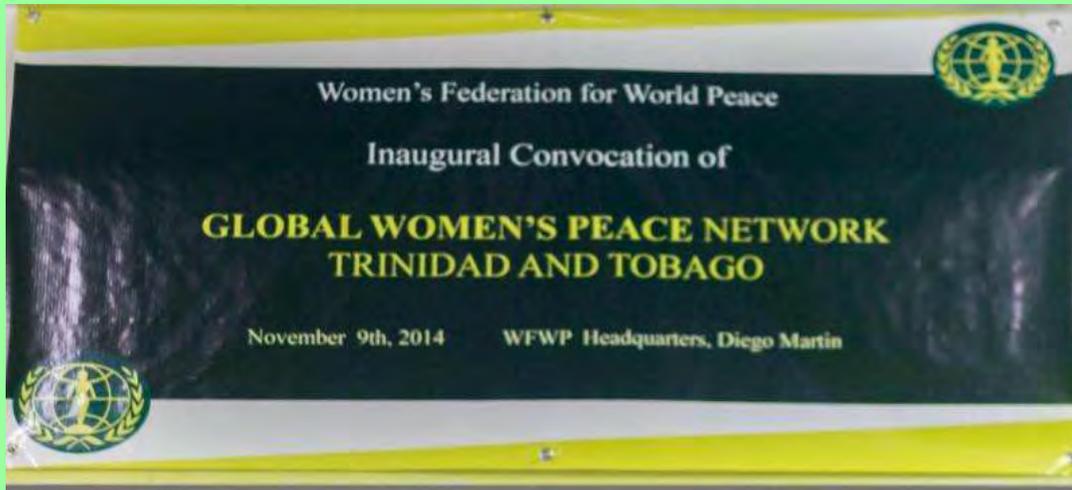
Hundreds of victims of the Japanese Victims Association now have new hope that they also may receive justice in the near future, and that the perpetrators will receive their due punishment, so that they will never repeat their crimes.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Leading With A Parental Heart: Global Women's Peace Network in Trinidad and Tobago

By Mrs. Dawn Bacchus-Horan



The Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) was the last organization formed by the founders of WFWP on July 16, 2012 in Seoul, Korea. At that time, there were four members representing Trinidad and Tobago in Korea. They were Dawn Bacchus-Horan, Susan Sinanan-Ganness, Nobuko Sakasi, and Misae Yasusaka.

On July 15, 2014, WFWP President Angelika Selle appointed Dr. Dawn Bacchus-Horan vice chair of GWPN USA, with the goal of targeting VIPs in Washington. Dr. Horan's thoughts immediately went to also setting up a similar GWPN in Trinidad and Tobago, as there is already a good foundation there.



On Sunday, November 9, over 40 people gathered for the inauguration of GWPN in Trinidad and Tobago. The emcee, Mrs. Marcia Belgrove, opened the ceremony with a prayer. Then, after an interlude of music, "One Family Under God," there was a steel band rendition of the Trinidad and Tobago national anthem, played by Mr. Levi Marshall. WFWP Trinidad and Tobago Vice President Evita Thomas led those present in the WFWP pledge.

After a video presentation featuring the inauguration of various international convocations throughout the region, a Japanese ladies chorus filled the hall with a beautiful welcome song.

Dr. Bacchus-Horan introduced the founders, the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. She presented a PowerPoint on the formation of the GWPN in Korea on July 16,

2012, and how the organization is a project of WFWP. She also introduced the global work of WFWP since its inauguration in April 1992. She explained the founders' vision of the Global Abel Women's United Nations, the "Abel UN," to represent the heart of God in the decision-making process of the United Nations. She explained the Divine Principle view of the positions of Cain and Abel in history. She also elucidated the founders' urgent request to have the younger and older generations work together as a "two-winged" team.

She noted that WFWP is an NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. She placed special emphasis on WFWP activities from global to local. She explained that there are some wonderful Japanese ladies who are raising funds in Japan to support WFWP's local activities and the work of the GWPN in Trinidad and Tobago. "We are not a feminist movement," she said, "and are supported by our husbands, brothers, sons, and fathers." WFWP seeks to complete, not compete with, the men in our lives.



Dr. Dawn Bacchus-Horan

[Continue reading on our website and see more photos.](#)

INTERVIEW

Lydia Billings: An Undaunted Advocate for Peace

By Ms. Emily Cornier



Lydia Billings is a striking yet soft-spoken 23-year-old who is the founder of a photographic anti-rape project called "Trigger Warning." She was recently a featured speaker at the Women's Federation for World Peace National Assembly on Saturday, October 25 in Washington, D.C.

A photography major at the Roger Institute of Technology, she began her project in 2013 as a way to create an artistic space where survivors of rape can talk openly and intimately about their experiences. The project started as her response to her close friend being raped at another college.

"I was really angry and confused as to why this had happened to a dear friend, and I wanted to support her and comfort her, but I didn't know how," said Ms. Billings. After a couple of months, she got the inspiration to start her photography project, and with the support of her professors and peers she made this very personal project into a very public and open dialogue about sexual assault and its lasting effects.

She started by photographing places where assaults had been perpetrated in her neighborhood. From there she took portraits of survivors. Ms. Billings avoids re-victimizing her subjects by asking them to reveal only what they are ready to talk about. Her images convey that rape can happen to anyone, anywhere; that it is an issue that goes beyond race, age, and class. Her work has received positive support from the victims through their opening up and sharing about their experiences. Trigger Warning continues to support anti-rape activism. Ms. Billings says, "I think people engage with art. It's a lot more intimate and different than when people hear a lecture on rape."



[Read of the rest of this interview here...](#)

OHIO

WFWP's Marcia Schlichting Nominated "Volunteer of the Year" At Columbus International Festival

By Ohio Chapter Members



Each year the city of Columbus, Ohio sponsors an International Festival. This year's 59 such festival was on November 8-9. The featured attractions included an International Food Court, concession booths displaying products from a wide spectrum of nations, and a children's area with crafts and a bicycle safety riding course. Booths were provided for political associations, religious groups, social service organizations, nonprofits, and NGOs like WFWP. The event started out with a Naturalized Citizenship Oath Ceremony by the Honorable Judge Edmund Sargus Jr.

Throughout the day there were nonstop dance groups from across the globe on the main stage. The WAIT Team (Washington AIDS International Teens), performed this year with outstanding break-dancing moves and an informative HIV prevention skit. Some of the WFWP members' children performed as well.

For over 10 years WFWP Ohio has held a Bridge of Peace Ceremony at the festival when the venue was at the Veterans Memorial. This year the venue changed to the County Fair Grounds, which is close to Ohio State University and other college campuses. Instead of holding the Bridge of Peace Ceremony, we decided to invest our time re-evaluating and studying possible innovations to upgrade the Bridge Ceremony for future years. We also hope, through the ceremony, to inspire a greater "heartistic" connection from the audience. Recommendations on how to achieve this would be greatly appreciated.

The display table was artfully set up by our



Mrs. Nataliya Grishina

secretary Mrs. Marcia Schlichting, who was also recognized and awarded a certificate by the Festival organizers. She was one of four people to be selected as the most valuable volunteers of the year.

[Continue reading here...](#)

TEXAS

Women of Heart Must Show the Way to a Better World

By Mrs. Laura Hornbeck



The West Irving Public Library was the venue for a WFWP Texas Chapter educational event on October 25. The Sakura Choir, composed of local Japanese WFWP members, opened the meeting with a beautiful inspirational song.

Mrs. Laura Hornbeck, the Texas chairwoman, gave a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation on the basic activities of WFWP over the past 20 years and WFWP's basic philosophy.

She showed photos of various international leadership seminars and activities that bring women from around the world together. She

introduced the signature Bridge of Peace program and other ongoing programs WFWP sponsors both in the U.S. and around the world.

She explained briefly the emphasis on mind-body unity for a healthy individual, and then the male and female connection to establish the family unit centered on God's love. After that, a new guest spoke about her nonprofit organization. She is creating the organization to assist cancer survivors who often lose their fertility from chemotherapy and other cancer treatments.

After the talks and discussion, the participants shared a light lunch. During the event, WFWP collected two grocery bags of food to donate to charity.



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NEW JERSEY

Uncovering History in Hackensack

By Mrs. Cynthia Nakai



September marked the first meeting of the new satellite WFWP chapter in Hackensack, New Jersey. Ladies gathered at Cubby's Steak House in Hackensack to network and learn about Women's Federation for World Peace. Each lady introduced herself and explained what she had a passion for. Erica teaches Zumba in her spare time and has lost weight and gotten in shape. She invited us to her Zumba class. Deborah works for social services and shared how someone could qualify for low-income housing or temporary shelter.

Sharon introduced us to her line of coffee and offered to serve her coffee if someone was going to hold an event. Ladies lingered for up to four hours sharing information and enjoying some mighty fine ribs.

Then on September 28, WFWP invited members and guests to the Historic New Bridge Landing in River Edge, New Jersey to develop a keener understanding of the trials and tribulations the early settlers faced during the Revolutionary War. Historian Frank Zabransky offered his insight on how the Americans staved off the British at the Hackensack River, and made their retreat southward to Princeton.

We saw the house with a typical garden where George Washington's troops stayed. We saw the small out-kitchen where the women cooked, which was away from the main house. There was a 17th-century barn on the premises. After hearing how the Americans had to dismantle the bridge to keep the British from crossing, we could appreciate more deeply the price of the freedoms that we all somewhat carelessly enjoy.

The Bergen County Historical Society maintains the property and offers many family-friendly programs throughout the year. If you would like more information, please visit their website: www.bergencountyhistory.org.



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COLORADO

Melting Together of East and West: Fundraiser and Japanese Cultural Festival

By Mrs. Shirley Chimes



On October 11, WFWP Denver Chapter and the local Japanese community partnered to sponsor a fundraiser and an annual Japanese Cultural Festival. I don't know who had more fun, the adults or the kids! There were 30 adults and 14 children.

Mrs. Hisako Geschwind and Mrs. Shirley Chimes co-emceed the occasion and bowed to each other as a traditional form of respect. It was a great coming together of not only the American and Japanese cultures; others were represented as well.

The pictures that you can see on the website show the fun we had eating, folding origami, doing the circle dance, and listening to a guest sing a song that the Japanese people sang after 9/11 to comfort the American people.

[See more photos and leave a comment!](#)



VIRGINIA

Women's and Mothers' Role in Today's World

By Mrs. Katherine Cromwell and Mrs. Zena Ruf



President Selle's presentation

What is your challenge as a woman leader? How can men support women? How do you feel about being a woman? These were some of the questions WFWP USA President Angelika Selle posed during her engaging presentation, "Women's and Mothers' Role in Healing Ourselves, Our Families, and Our Nation," presented to the Northern Virginia Chapter on Saturday, October 18. These thought-provoking questions were discussed by the participants during the breakout sessions as well.

Mrs. Maria Rodriguez was the emcee and shared some enlightening statistics during her introduction. Among them: There have come to be 50 women CEOs in the world and 20 women presidents or prime ministers. She declared that women's leadership with a heart of reconciliation is the key to unlocking world peace.

Mrs. Selle gave two presentations: 1) what it means to be a woman in today's world and 2) the vision and goals of WFWP. Women, she said, are being called first to heal themselves and then to work to heal the nation. The founders of WFWP and the organization's philosophy and teachings, she pointed out, are what make WFWP unique. She then proceeded to elucidate how that philosophy connects to women today.

Other points she made included the following...



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Editor's Note:

We are coming to the end of 2014. As we reflect on the year and prepare for the new year, don't forget to send in your articles! Let's inspire each other to have hope and know that Living by the Logic of Love is the only logical way to live!

Thank you all for the Parent's Heart that you invest each day!



Have News From Your Chapter?

Let us let the
world know!

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Katherine
Cromwell
Editor

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