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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

RECORDS, 1965-2004
11.5 linear feet

- ACQUISITION: The records were donated by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Fresno Branch, in 2004.
- ACCESS: The records are open for research.
- AUDIOVISUAL: Box 10 includes two Beridox videocassettes and four VHS tapes. This box also contains a cassette tape and slides.
- COPYRIGHT: Copyright has been transferred to California State University, Fresno.
- PHOTOGRAPHS: In box 10.
- PROCESSED BY: Zethyn Ruby, 2006.

History

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) was founded in 1915 to protest the First World War in Europe. Over 1,000 women from twelve countries met in an International Congress at The Hague. WILPF's aim, then and now, is to combat the economic, political, psychological, and social causes of war while striving for constructive peace. Their objectives also extend to the elimination of violence and poverty, while promoting racial and women's justice. Two of the organization's leaders, Jane Addams (its first president) and Emily Greene Balch, have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their contributions to international cooperation, the former in 1931 and the latter in 1946. The organization has grown from the original congress to include sections in 37 countries as well as branches in 100 cities across the United States, one of which is the Fresno branch.

The Fresno branch was founded in 1965 by Eleanore 'Ellie' Bluestein, who became its first president. During its first fifteen years, the branch focused on the Vietnam War, nuclear disarmament, and labor unions. Since then, the group has focused on Latin America, peace education, the military draft, and U.S. foreign policy in addition to the objectives of the United States section. The branch uses resolutions, marches, vigils, letters, lobbying, conferences, and workshops to express its views. As an example, in 1976, the Fresno branch held the Western Regional Conference, a protest against military spending, and a Vietnam Peace Day march in addition to a concert to benefit the Vietnam Women's Project. To gain funding for the organization the branch uses membership dues, sales projects of calendars, shirts, and baked goods as well as holding dinners, concerts, and pledge drives.

A large event in the background of this branch is their draft placard court case. In January 1981, the Fresno WILPF placed advertising placards in Fresno buses reading, "Think before you register for the draft." The city manager had the placards removed and destroyed, prompting WILPF to take legal action against the city. In May 1982, the Superior Court declared in favor of the city's right to remove the advertisements and the group was not entitled to a refund.

The group has Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status and continues to act on both domestic and international issues. Their most recent endeavors include protesting the U.S. intervention in Iraq, the deterioration of the environment, and oppression.

Scope and Content Note

The WILPF records measure 11.5 linear feet and date from 1965 to 2004. The collection is arranged in six series: Administration, Audiovisual materials, Publications, Scrapbooks, Subject files, and Photographs.

Scope and Content Note (cont.)

The **Administration** series (1965-2004) contains the files pertaining to the operations and proceedings of the Fresno WILPF branch. It includes items such as awards, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and events flyers. Key events that the group has participated in consist of community events, International Women's Day, Peace Train, Year of Peace, and peace camps. The branch's programs, reports, history, manuals and policies, membership, meetings information and minutes are also contained in this series. One example of the branch's programs is "Women's Budget," which is an appeal to focus government spending on social issues rather than the military. This series also contains information regarding the structure of WILPF including information on and correspondence with both the International and U.S. sections. The materials folder includes handouts, bumper stickers, and promotional items pertaining to the branch.

Audiovisual materials (1981-1982, 1987) includes items such as a slide show, cassette tape, and VHS tapes. There are four VHS tapes. Two showcase the group's activities: "Arise Ye, Women of This Day" and "WILPF Crossing Borders." The others represent their interests: "We Won't Go Back" and "Proposition 174-No." The two Beridox tapes are from 1982 pertaining to Stop The Arms Race (STAR).

The **Publications** series (1965-2002) includes several published works of the organization. The publications are arranged by the level which produced them: Fresno branch, International WILPF section, and the U.S. WILPF section. The *Catalyst* is the WILPF Fresno branch newsletter spanning from 1973 to 2001, with several issues per year. The newsletters generally contain an events calendar, legislative report, current events, and a coalition work section. *Pax et Libertas* was the International WILPF section publication, encompassing 1972 to 1994, which combined with *International News* in 1995 to form *International Peace Update*. *International Peace Update* was originally published bi-monthly but was later produced quarterly. The years included in the records are 1995 to 2002. *Pacific Vision* is produced quarterly as an organ of International WILPF and the Asia-Pacific Committee of the U.S. Section. Its intention is to connect WILPF sections to the issues of this region. *Four Lights*, 1965 to 1968, was published by the WILPF U.S. Section containing information on current issues, missions, and political opinions. It was reformatted and renamed *Peace and Freedom*, which spans the years 1971 to 2002, with varying numbers of issues per year. This series also contains the newsletters of other WILPF branches as well as miscellaneous publications that pertained to the Fresno branch's interests.

The **Scrapbooks** series (1968-2001) contains compilations including photographs, newspaper clippings, essays, and correspondence. They depict the branch's history, concerns, and

Scope and Content Note (cont.)

events. This series also contains a scrapbook from the Visalia branch of WILPF which contains newspaper clippings, a poll, photographs, and some activity information.

The **Subject files** series (1965-2004) contains items that are pertinent to the organization's interests and activities. Their interests include the economy, education, human rights, military and nuclear conflict, peace, politics, prejudice, and women's rights. These files are made up of newspaper clippings, correspondence, handouts, and information sheets. The largest topic in this series is the military and nuclear conflict section which contains topics such as Latin America, the Balkans, the Middle East, and the arms race. This series also includes information on the United Nations and the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights.

The **Photographs** series (1976-2004) contains group photographs with images of events and assemblies. The largest section in this series is meetings and gatherings. This section is grouped chronologically and contains photographs from many events the branch participated in. There are undated photos at the conclusion of this section which also includes negatives. Large events such as the branch's annual craft fair and travel have their own folder.

Box no. Description

Box 1

Administration

Awards, 1986-1996, 2000-2003

Clippings

1969-1989

1990-1995

1997-2001

2002-2004

Undated

Committees, 1965-1966

Correspondence

General, 1965-1974, 1981-1988, 1993-2001

Fresno Bee, 1968-1970, 1974, 1981, 1985-1986, 1994, 1999

Thank you letters, 1994, 1999-2001 and undated

Draft case, 1981-1982, 1987

Events

Anniversaries

60th, 65th and 70th, 1975, 1980, 1985

75th, 1990

80th, 1995

85th, 2000

Annual retreat/meeting, 1981-1990, 1998, 2001-2003

Community events

General, 1967-1974, 1980-1989, 1994-2002

Concerts, 1979-1987, 1996

Demonstrations, 1975, 1978, 1981-1982, 1990, 1996, 2001-2002 and undated

Lectures and forums, 1983-1987, 1990-1995, 2002-2003

Conferences

General, 1980-1988, 1996, 1998

Northern California WILPF, 1969, 1981-1983

Western regional, 1978, 1981-1986

Holiday craft fair, 1973-1976, 1982-1986, 1990-1997, 2000-2004

Human rights, 1979-1986, 1995, 2003

International Women's Day, 1972, 1975-1992, 1996-1999, 2002 and undated

Jobs with peace week, 1983

Parties and gatherings, 1978-1983

Peace Train, 1995-1996

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Box no. Description

Box 1 (cont.)

Administration (cont.)

Events (cont.)

Peace camp

Manuals

1993

1998

2000

Quilt, 1993 [shelved in oversize box 10]

Songs, undated

Miscellaneous, 1986-2003 and undated (5 folders)

Tax day, 1972, 1983-1985, 1990-1991, 1995-1996, 2001-2002 and undated

United Nations and International Year of Peace, 1986, 1992

Box 2

Fresno branch, 1990-1992, 2003

Heroines, 1972, 1979, 1983-1986, 1990-1996, 2000-2004

History, 1961, 1965, 1975, 1980, 1982, 1995

International WILPF, 1970-1972, 1980-2004

Jane Addams Association

General, 1960, 1968, 1979-1986, 1991

Book awards, 1978-1984, 1992-1998, 2002, 2004

Mailings

General, 1980-1985, 1989-1994, 2001, 2003

Record of monthly mailings notebook, 1984-1991

Manuals

1984-1985

1986

Media, 1977, 2001-2002

Meetings

General, 1982-1983, 1985

Cluster meetings, 1997-2003

Song sheets, 1981-1982

Membership

General, 1967, 1980-1986, 1995-2004

Biographies, 1989, 1999-2001

Brochures, 1974, 1975, 1980-1984, 1991-1997, 2000

Directories, 1966-2003 (2 folders)

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Box no. Description

Box 2 (cont.)

Administration (cont.)

Membership (cont.)

Guestbook, 1971-1972

Telephone tree, 1980-1982, 2001

Merchandise catalogs and order forms, 1973, 1984, 1991-1995

Minutes

1976, 1979-1980

1981-1982

Box 3

1983

1983-1984

1984-1985

1986-1987

1990-1999

2000-2004

Journal, undated

Policies and bylaws, 1980-1990, 1997, 2002

Projects

Biennial programs, 1979, 1983, 1985, 1987

Clothesline, 1982, 1991

Cookbook, 1980-1981

Post office, 1972-1976, 1980-1991, 2000

Questionnaires, 1974, 1978-1985

Soviet visitors, 1986

Stir it Up, 2001-2002

Truth and Reconciliation, 1997

What is security?, 1985-1988

Women vs. violence, 1987-1993

Women's budget, 1980-1986, 1991, 1998

Women's encampment, 1983

World Assembly of Builders of Peace, 1977

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Box no. Description

Box 3 (cont.)

Administration (cont.)

Regional

General, 1981-1994, 2003

Conference

1980

1982

1992

Newsletters, 1976-1980, 1986, 1988

Structure, 1988

Reports

Annual reports, 1969-1970, 1977-2004

Budget, 1973-1974, 1983-1995

Journals

1965-1970

1970-1972

Membership, 1967-1968, 1997

Program timelines, 1991-1993, 1996-1999, 2004

Treasurer's reports

1966-1971, 1980-1989

1990-1994

Resolutions, 1979, 1980, 1985, 1987

Statements of position, 1973, 1979-1987

Travel, 1986, 1997-1998

Box 4

U.S. section

General, 1967, 1984-1993, 1997-2002

Annual meetings and reports, 1965-1968, 1987-1992, 1997-2000

Correspondence, 1970-1975, 1982-1986, 1991, 1998-2004

Directories, 1973, 1994, 1999-2002

Upcoming events calendars, 1984-1986

Miscellaneous, 1972, 1984, 1999, 2002 and undated

Audiovisual materials [oversize: in box 10]

Beridox cassettes (2), 1982

Report, audiocassette and slide, 1981

Slide show, undated

VHS tapes (4), 1987

Box no. Description

Box 4 (cont.)

Publications

Fresno branch

Catalyst

1973

1974

1975

1976

1977

1978

1979

1980

1981

1982

1983

1984

1985

1986

1987

1988

1989

1990

1991

1992

1993

1994

1995

1996

1997

1998

1999

2000

2001

International section

International Peace Update, 1995-2002

Pacific Vision, 1992-2002

Pax et Libertas

1972-1977

1979-1981

1982-1984

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Box no. Description

Box 4 (cont.)

Publications (cont.)

International section (cont.)

Pax et Libertas (cont.)

1985-1987

1988-1989

1993-1994

U.S. section

Four Lights, 1965-1968

Peace and Freedom

1971

1972

1973

1974

1975

1976

1977

1978

1979

1980

Box 5

1981

1982

1983

1984

1985

1986

1987

1988

1989

1990

1991

1992

1993

1994

1995

1996

1998

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Box no. Description

Box 5 (cont.)

Publications (cont.)

U.S. section (cont.)

Peace and Freedom (cont.)

1999

2000

2001

2002

Other branch newsletters

Bay Area, 1981-1982, 1992, 2002-2004

Los Angeles, 1980-1986

Monterey, 1991-1996

Peninsula, 1992-1994

Miscellaneous, 1982, 1986, 1991-1994, 2003

Miscellaneous, 1981-1983, 1990-1991, 2001-2003

Scrapbooks

1967, 1971-1973

1968-1974

Box 6

1968-1977 [oversize: in box 10]

1971-1975

1973-1975

1977-1980 [oversize: in box 10]

1977-1991

1980-1981

1982-1983 [oversize: in box 11]

1985-1990 [oversize: in box 11]

1992-1998

1992-1998

1997-2000

Box 7

1997-2001

Costa Rica, 1981 [oversize: in box 11]

Visalia WILPF, 1984-1987 [oversize: in box 11]

Box no. Description

Box 7 (cont.)

Subject files

Activism, 1998, 2002
Art and poetry, 1973, 1981-1988, 1993
Corporate power, 1974, 1990-1994, 1999, 2001-2002
Economy
 General, 1967, 1977, 1990, 1993, 1999
 North American Free Trade Agreement, 1992-1993, 1998
 World Trade Organization, 1999-2000
Education
 American Association of University Women (AAUW), 1991-1992
 Building Peace, 1986-1988, 1994
 California State University, Fresno, Peace and Conflict Studies, 1984-1988,
 1991, 1999-2004
 Conflict resolution, 1976, 1980, 1992-1998
 Family, 1983-1984
 Fresno Unified School District, 1969-1977, 1987-2002
 Peace (2 folders), 1974-2003
 Projects, 1986, 2003
Environment, 1986-2003
The Gap, 2000-2002
Human Relations Commission, 1983, 1986
Human rights
 General, 1968, 1974-1986, 1998-2002
 Farm labor, 1970-1974, 1985, 1990, 1993, 2000-2004
 Gandhi memorial, 1990
 Native Americans, 1981, 2002
Immigration, 1982-1986, 2001-2003
Military conflict
 Anti-ballistic and MX missiles, 1969, 1981-1983
 Asia Pacific, 2000
 B-1 Bomber, 1975-1976, 1981
 Balkans
 General, 1999
 Bosnia, 1995-1996
 Kosovo, 1999-2000
 Yugoslavia, 1992, 1996, 1999
 Beyond War, 1983, 1990-1991
 Chemical weapons, 1980-1983, 1990
 Draft and amnesty, 1967, 1973-1976, 1980-1982, 2000, 2003

Box no. Description

Box 7 (cont.)

Subject files (cont.)

Military conflict (cont.)

End U.S. intervention, 1988-1989

Handguns, 1968

Indochina, 1966-1967, 1972-1975, 1979, 1982, 1985

Box 8

Indonesia, 1998-2000

Latin America

General, 1974-1975, 1982-1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2000

Colombia, 1993-1997

Cuba, 1992-2000

El Salvador, 1981-1992

Nicaragua, 1982-1990

School of the Americas, 1982, 1993-2002

Middle East

General, 1982, 1988-1991, 2000-2002

Clippings, 1975, 1984, 1986, 1990-1991, 1998-2002

Conflict correspondence, 1980-1984, 1990-1991, 2000-2002

Iraq, 1991, 1998-2004

Libya, 1986

Military spending

General, 1970-1975, 1979, 1981-1993, 1999-2004

Clippings, 1981, 1983, 1987, 1988, 1998, 2003

Correspondence, 1968, 1973, 1975, 1982-1984, 1990, 1999

Nigeria, 1996-1998

Nuclear issues

Arms race

General, 1972, 1980-1984, 1993

Alternatives to the arms race, 1972, 1980-1984, 1993

Clippings, 1978, 1981, 1982, 1987

Stop The Arms Race (STAR), 1981-1983

Comprehensive Test Ban, 1984-1986, 1995-2001

Day After, 1983

Disarmament, 1966-1968, 1974-2000

Education, 1982-1986

Freeze, 1981-1983, 2002

Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 1972, 1975, 1981-2000

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), 1981, 1995, 2000

Box no. Description

Box 8 (cont.)

Subject files (cont.)

Military conflict (cont.)

Nuclear issues (cont.)

Power, 1976-1986, 2001

Radiation, 1980, 1983, 1997-1999, 2002

Star Wars

General, 1985-1986, 1997-2004

Cassini, 1997-1999

Box 9

Testing, 1981-2003

Waste, 1994-2002

Weapons, 1979-1990, 2001

South Africa, 1979-1986, 1993

Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT), 1979-1986

Terrorism, 1984-1986, 2001-2002

Violence toys, 2000-2001

Nixon, Richard 1973

Peace

Culture of Peace and Nonviolence, 1999-2000

Peace game, 1985, 1987

Hague Peace Appeal, 1999

Peace and Justice Treaty of the Americas, 2002

Political connections

California legislation, 1969, 1984

Department of Peace, 2001-2003

Fresno City Council, 1980, 1986, 1993, 2003

Legislation, 1973-1976, 1981-1991, 1999-2004

Legislative Bulletin, 1980-1984, 2002

Pashayan, Charles, protestors, 1986

Political/elected official correspondence, 1966-1999

Political process, 1974, 1984, 1992

Program and Action

Committee, 1981-1984, 1991

Publication, 1980-1985, 1988-1994

Speaker's Bureau, 1981

Polling, 1968, 1983-1984

Prejudice

Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA), 2000

Box no. Description

Box 9 (cont.)

Subject files (cont.)

Prejudice (cont.)

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against

Women

(CEDAW), 1999-2001

Desegregation, 1981-1983, 1997-1998

King, Martin Luther, 1983-2004

Racism, 1981-1986, 1991, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2002

Sexism and women empowerment, 1993

Salinas and Watsonville, 1990-1991

Title IX, 1994-1995

United Nations

General, 1956, 1980, 1990-2002

50th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, 1997-1998

Visions of Community and Center for Nonviolence, 1984, 1991-2002

Women

General, 1970-2000

Equal Rights Amendment, 1970, 1972, 1981-1982

Pro-choice, 1982, 1989-1994

Miscellaneous, 1990, 2000

Box 10

Photographs

Activism, 1980, 1982, 1990, 2000-2003

Anniversaries, 1980, 1988

Craft fair, 1976, 1984, 1996, 2000-2004

Meetings and gatherings

1976-1981

1984-1988

1990-1998

1999-2003

Undated

Negatives, undated

Peace camp, 1994

Travel, 1986, 1988

Box no. Description

Box 11

Oversize:

Administration

Events

Peace camp

Quilt, undated

Audiovisual materials

Beridox cassettes (2), 1982

Report tape cassette and slide, 1981

Slide show, undated

VHS tapes (4), 1987

Scrapbooks

1968-1977

1977-1980

Box 12

Oversize:

Scrapbooks

1982-1983

1985-1990

Costa Rica, 1981

Visalia WILPF, 1984-1987