

Peninsula/Palo Alto WILPF branch report on demonstrations during the 7 weeks of the Poor People's Campaign - May 11 - June 22

As part of our branch's participation in the campaign we are sponsoring seven weekly Friday "peaceful sidewalk demonstrations. We stand at the traditional "free speech" corner in Palo Alto where activists for decades have held small and large demonstrations during the lunch hour.

The location is a busy intersection with heavy pedestrian and car traffic (at a major shopping center, a large high school, an entry into Stanford University, and access to a freeway and state route that connects SF to San Jose). Even a small number of demonstrators with signs and the PPC/WILPF banner, handbills and petitions attract attention and raise awareness for the issues of the PPC.

We have also expanded our outreach to include communities in the two counties of our membership that have high minority populations with low-income levels. To end the series, we hope to add a final demonstration on June 23rd in one or both of the communities, or a series of public service projects later. We do not have a racially diverse branch and the PPC has given us an important opportunity to change that.

Report by Judy Adams, 5-29-18







The words of Martin Luther King, Jr. on the need/purpose of peaceful demonstrations and nonviolent civil disobedience

(quoted from the transcript of a "Meet the Press" TV broadcast on March 28, 1965, after the historic Selma March: <https://archives.nbclearn.com/portal/site/k-12/browse/?cuecard=48756>)

"...as long as the conditions of injustice and man's inhumanity to man infiltrate that state [Alabama, and by extension, the U.S.], it will be necessary to demonstrate in order to bring these issues to the surface and lay them squarely before the conscience of the nation. This is a state that continues to do all of the things that are contrary to our democratic creed, at least the political power structure of the state. In the light of this, it seems to me that it will be necessary to continue to demonstrate until these conditions are removed. We don't believe in demonstrating for demonstration's sake. We don't have demonstration fever, but we do feel that as long as the conditions of injustice and man's inhumanity to man infiltrate that state, it will be necessary to demonstrate in order to bring these issues to the surface and lay them squarely before the conscience of the nation....

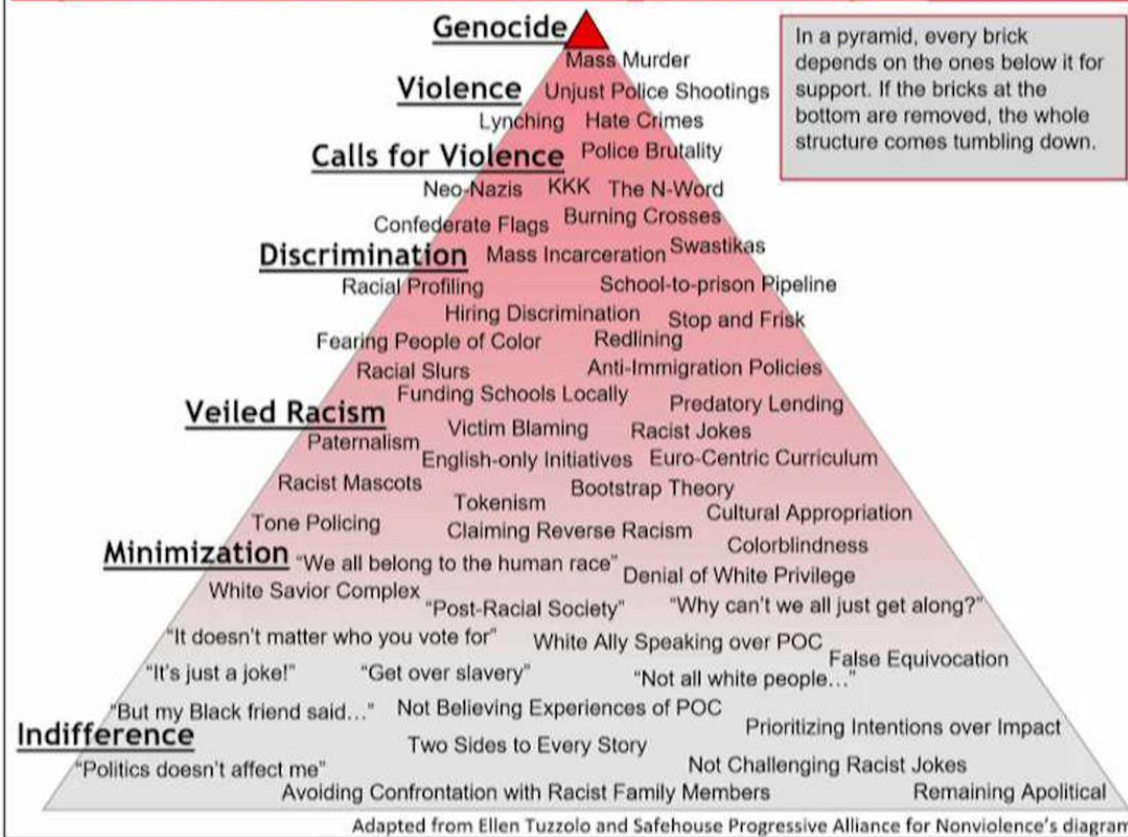
I would like to say that if our demonstrations are to stop, there must be some equality in terms of grappling with the problem of poverty.... I think we have moral obligations to disobey unjust laws because non-cooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good. I think that the distinction here is that when one breaks a law that conscience tells him[her] is unjust, he[she] must do it openly...must do it cheerfully...must do it lovingly... must do it civilly, not uncivilly, and...must do it with a willingness to accept the penalty. And any...who breaks a law that conscience tells...is unjust and willingly accepts the penalty by staying in jail in order to arouse the conscience of the community on the injustice of the law is at that moment expressing the very highest respect for law."

IN THE SPIRIT OF REV. KING:

Join local WILPF members for a peaceful sidewalk demonstration in support of the Poor People's Campaign, modeled on Dr. King's 1968 original campaign: **Fri. May 25, noon to 1pm (Memorial Day weekend) at the corner of El Camino and Embarcadero (just outside Town and Country Village) in support of ending the expanding war economy and the threat of nuclear weapons, and to speak out for improved healthcare, employment, housing and other needs for our military veterans and their families.**

Help us plan similar small demonstrations on other Fridays through June 22 to raise awareness and bring the message of the Poor People's Campaign to our community.

Pyramid of White Supremacy





WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM URGES YOU TO:

**KEEP WORKING FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE • CREATE COMMUNITY
RESIST • VOTE • MAKE AMERICA KIND AND JUST AGAIN!**

The agenda for the massive 2018 Women's Marches throughout the country was to elect more women to public office, to bring civil discourse to politics, to end sexism, racism, militarism and protect our mother earth. There has been an increase in the number of women running for local public office, and you can help in the effort to have more women elected in all levels of government. There is still time to register to vote and if you're not registered and want to see progressive women and men in office, REGISTER! VOTE!

* Take a registration form from the table, fill it in, and take or mail it to your county registrar of voters. *You can use the San Mateo County forms for any CA county. (Some of the forms are bi-lingual in Spanish/English)*

* Pick up one of the League of Women Voters pamphlets in the narrow literature rack (and take a WILPF membership pamphlet while you're at it). The LWV pamphlet provides general voter information and the LWV sponsors public forums where you can meet candidates and hear their positions on issues.

* Call the CA VOTER HOTLINE if you have any questions about registration: 1-800-345 VOTE (8683). You can also call 408-299-8683 for Santa Clara County voter information, or 650-312-5222 for San Mateo County.

Vote your values and your conscience.

Contact us at wilpf.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com More information on the back of this flyer

WILPF cannot lobby for particular candidates, but we do advocate for peace, abolition of nuclear weapons, support progressive policies, work to end of racism, sexism, militarism, the abolition of nuclear weapons, and in support of changing environmental policies & practices to save the planet.

Some organizations that would welcome you and give you useful information:

- WILPF: U.S. www.wilpfus.org
- WILPF Peninsula/Palo Alto branch: <https://www.facebook.com/PPAWILPF/>; wilpf.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com
- WILPF San Jose branch: <https://www.wilpfsanjose.org/>; loisjfriedler@sbcglobal.net
- *Environment/climate change:* www.sierraclub.org/california; www.350siliconvalley.org; <https://environmental-action.org/>
- *a local Indivisible group:* <https://www.indivisible.org/>
- *Friends Committee on National Legislation:* <https://www.fcnl.org/>
- *Review issues at:* <https://credoaction.com/>
- *Help elect progressives in U.S. through "Local Majority":* www.localmajority.org



10% of global military spending (=\$167.6 billion) can easily achieve some of these key sustainable development needs. Think what MORE REDUCTIONS could do! (UN 2016 SIPRI Yearbook)

Join the local branch of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom to work on some of these goals:
Contact: wilpf.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com 650-326-1235

The graphics on the reverse side show 15 sustainable development goals identified by the United Nations in 2016 to bring justice and equality to the world, and to take necessary actions against climate change. The imbalance between spending for weapons and sustainable development for life is even worse now!

A U.N. treaty banning nuclear weapons is a critical step towards saving the planet, and one which WILPF's U.S. and international branches strongly endorse. Contact our branch for more information about this international U.N. treaty: wilpf.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com

**What you can do to help reach the goals
depicted on the reverse side of this flyer:**

Become active in these issues and urge our government to transfer even a small percentage (10%) of the enormous costs of the world's military expenditures to human needs, and eradicating nuclear arsenals that pose such an enormous risk to life on earth ↓ ↓ ↓

**Here are some practical first steps towards working
for a safer, cleaner, more peaceful planet:**

1. Join WILPF's Palo Alto/Peninsula branch by requesting membership information from: wilpf.peninsula.paloalto@gmail.com. Come to our meetings and help plan peace and anti-nuclear events, and work on environmental and low-income housing issues – we meet usually on the 2nd Sat. of each month. Our Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/PPAWILPF/>. If you live closer to San Jose, email Lois Fiedler for membership information about their branch: LoisJFiedler@sbglobal.net
2. Regularly read the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center's website and calendar of events (www.peaceandjustice.org/) for local actions and programs. You can have news of events emailed directly to you. We send frequent emails to you about local Peninsula events. If you live closer to San Jose, go to their Peace and Justice Center website and calendar to learn about events nearer you: www.sanjosepeace.org/.
3. Talk with your city's Mayor and City Council about joining Mayors for Peace, if it isn't a member. We can provide information about MfP to help you organize. Our Peninsula/Palo Alto WILPF branch is urging Palo Alto to re-join after leaving the program in 2013 – the city belonged to Mayors for Peace for 28 years!

It's time for them to sign up again.

We are also working with the city of Menlo Park, which we hope will join too! Both cities participate in the international Sister Cities program and some of those cities are in Mayors for Peace; we seek to convince them to join with them and the over 122 cities in the U.S. and many in California that make peace a local issue!