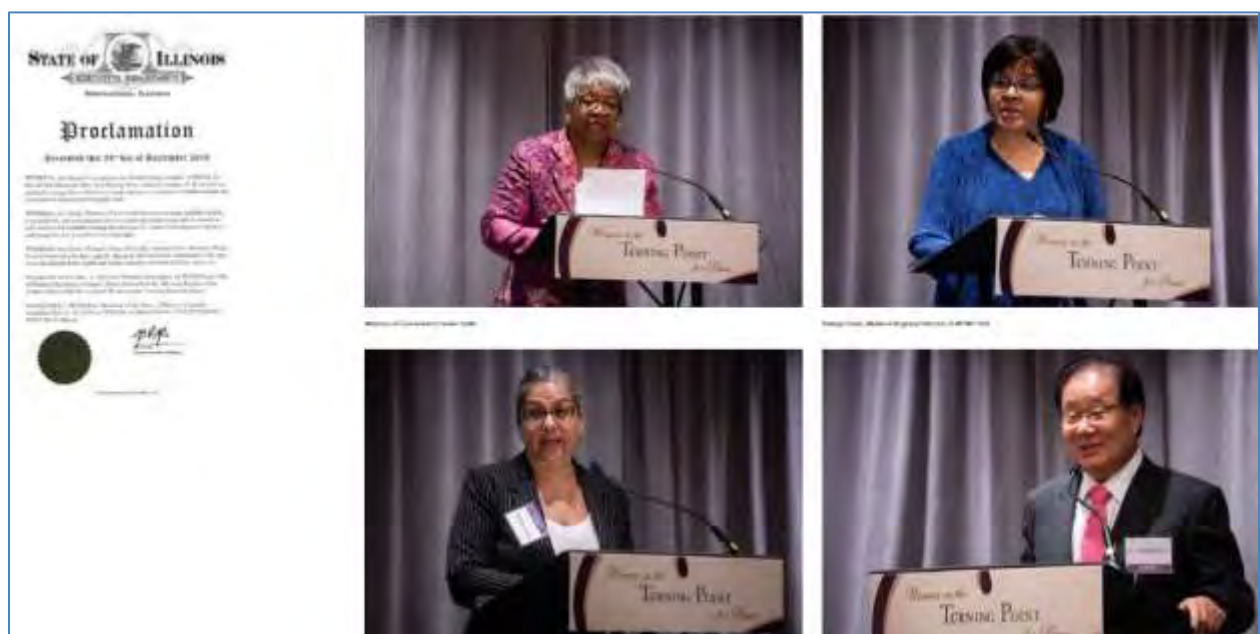


## WFWP USA Midwest Launch of the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN)

Kiyomi Schmidt  
October 18, 2019



Women's Federation for World Peace USA (WFWP USA) is continuing to launch the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) in all five regions across the United States by the end of 2019, identifying key founding stakeholders in the community who can ignite the GWPN from the ground up. The fourth regional GWPN launch, representing the Midwest Region of the United States on "Women as the Turning Point for Peace", took place on Friday, October 18, 2019 in Chicago, Illinois at the Marriott Chicago O'Hare. Notably Dr. Sun Jin Moon flew in from Korea for the occasion, making her first public speech in the United States in her new role as the Senior Vice President of WFWP International. The room was filled with 120 NGO leaders, women, supportive gentlemen, and young professionals in attendance. In addition to Midwest representation, delegations from Canada, the American Clergy Leadership Conference Women in Ministry, and participants throughout the country joined the event, showing their support for the efforts ahead.



### Morning Program

Throughout the morning program, we were graced with Mistress of Ceremonies Fannie Smith, Chicago local and WFWP USA Schools of Africa Coordinator, who continued to both nail the depth of the program content and captivate us with her energy and wit. The day began with a warm welcome to the

heartland of the US (representing 15 states) by Kathryn Davis, Midwest Regional Director of WFWP USA and key contributor in bringing this launch to fruition. The auspicious occasion was marked with a proclamation from the Governor of the State of Illinois, JB Pritzker, who proclaimed October 18th as "Global Women's Day- Peace Starts With Me." Ruth I. Gudino gave congratulatory remarks on behalf of the Cook County State Attorney's Office, encouraging us to let our voices be heard and to recognize that peace starts fundamentally with raising our children. Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, the Regional Chairman of Family Federation for World Peace in North America, was especially thrilled to welcome us to his hometown, sharing that Chicago is far more than just the "windy city" but rather "my kind of town." Importantly, he conveyed how can we bring peace to our world by prioritizing God centered family values as the fundamental building block.



These remarks were followed by the foundational explanation and next steps for the GWPN in the US, as presented by WFWP USA President Angelika Selle. She reinforced that while the GWPN seeks to solve social pressing issues in the areas of women's leadership, family, and the physical and cultural environment, without spirituality and God we cannot solve any of these issues. "I felt the spirit of god already has touched so many organizations. It is just a matter of coming together and claiming that commonality."

To build the GWPN from its current pioneer stage, President Selle highlighted upcoming action steps. First was to make the commitment to become stakeholders and agents of change to make the vision a reality. This included signing up as a Global Friend for organizations to solidify their commitment. Education was emphasized as a primary focus to bring about the needed cultural change of consciousness. [WFWP USA has been working to establish [education curriculums](#) to use for this end.] After the final regional launch in Washington DC on November 15th, 2019, we will build national and regional committees to begin working on selected projects together. Finally, she highly recommended coming to see WFWP Founder Mother Moon on December 28th, 2019 in New York. She is the inspiration for a new model of peace, devoting her life to healing the heart of God and humankind through love, service, and sacrifice.

This brought us to the main feature of the morning program, the keynote address by WFWP International Senior Vice President Dr. Sun Jin Moon, who spoke on the topic of "Women as the Turning Point for Peace." She recalled reading Mother Moon's Founder's Address during the inauguration of the GWPN in the US in 2012, and was moved to see the progress and substantial form that has taken place since that time.

During her keynote, Dr. Moon acknowledged how humanity is divided, and how difficult it is to find true love and peace in this world. Despite growing movements emerging to speak out against injustices, we continue to live in a world pained by mass shootings, religious and racial intolerance, violence against women, and are on the path to destroying our planet. To mend this, she affirms that we need to unite now more than ever, and to regain sight of the solutions: to turn our hearts and minds to God, to overcome extreme self-centered materialism and egoism, master our inner power of unconditional love, create balance in the world by bringing women forward out of background and shadows, and to come together as a global family with the understanding that every child is a valued child of God. Her message and

presence of love opened hearts in the room, which gave others the space to share throughout the day.

A short break and musical selections by Darrell Wilson, known as the Sax Preacher, gave us the mental reset needed for the incredible panelists to come. Four panelists presented applicable topics based on their areas of expertise, cultural backgrounds, and life experiences.



Dr. Tina D. Pierce, CEO and Founder of [WORTH \(Working Through Obstacles and Reaching True Heights\)](#) presented on "Be the Change: A Story of Transformational Leadership." She confidently shared about her work empowering transformational leaders who disrupt norms with revolutionary thought and action, moving us in a positive direction. Her enthusiasm to be a change-maker stemmed from her upbringing rooted in her experiences with several religions, allowing her to understand that God's desire for all of us is to be loving human beings. This propelled her to actively build strong communities where people look out for one another. One of the areas Dr. Pierce continues to address in her community is encouraging people to vote, especially on the issues that affect us all: our environment, families, and our children. Beyond the ballot, she expressed countless ways to engage the community and honor the humanity in others. Dr. Pierce reminded us that everyone has the power to be a catalyst for change.

Panelist Dr. Margaret R. Best, an experienced attorney-at-law, gave an inspirational message on "Women as Catalysts for a Better, More Peaceful World." Having lost her mother at the age of 11, other close women in her life, including her sister and eventually mother-in-law, took the nurturing disciplinarian position of a mother in her life. Upon her mother-in-law's passing at the age of 92, she experienced the unifying influence of a mother, as all conflicts in the family immediately dissolved. Additionally, Dr. Best reflected on the impact of women trailblazers such as Mother Moon, Sojourner Truth, Oprah Winfrey, and others.

Christina Christodoulou, Founder and President of Cyprus Association of Prenatal Education, was next to speak about "Young Women as the Driving Force in Securing Peace." As a mother, teacher, and spiritual counselor, Ms. Christodoulou revolves her life around peace principles of giving and loving others. She sees how world peace has its seeds in young women's wombs, which is then cultivated in family and schools, and materializes in a person's character and attitude. Working with young children alongside WFWP in the Middle East for ten years, she witnessed the impact the role play activities on collaboration and acceptance had for the children growing up. She shared that is up to us to advocate for peace education for our children.

The fourth and final panelist, Dr. Cornelia Santos, Professor of Environmental and Indigenous Studies at Bemidji State University, connected her heritage, profession, and activism for the planet into one palatable, warm, and wise message on "Women as Life Givers for a Healthy Mother Earth." Dr. Santos teaches both environmental and indigenous studies together, as they naturally fit together. To respond to the urgent situation for our planet, she shared an ancient solution and perspective that speaks to women. She explained how Native women have an ancient role in taking care of mother earth. They carry a deep and sacred relationship with the earth described as ensoulment. Mother earth is referred to in feminine terms, just as water carries attributes of being life-giving and rejuvenating. It is believed that mother earth gave of herself to nurture each one of us. With that deep respect and gratitude we can now be her protectors, and change the scenario for future generations.

### **Afternoon Program**

Following the lunch break, the afternoon program activities were skillfully led by Mistress of Ceremonies, WFWP USA Newsletter Editor Natascha Phillips. Participants engaged with the panelists in a question and answer session, receiving practical pointers for families, advice for young women and further gaining from their life experiences. Additionally, each table discussed and thoughtfully designed a useful project proposal to positively impact an area of women's leadership, family, or the environment, to

be carried out by GWPN committees.

As an additional networking tool and way to get involved with the GWPN, NGO and organization leaders were invited to sign up as a Global Friend, an initiative of WFWP USA. During the program Kiyomi Schmidt, WFWP USA Outreach Coordinator, officially launched and outlined the details of the agreement. Organizations who would like to work together and commit to fostering peace would receive ongoing promotion of their organization in turn. We are inspired by the response, and look forward to growing this community together with you. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more about the Global Friends. Further communications about this will be shared in the coming months.



This presentation was followed by the honoring of four exceptional women leaders who have contributed their lives to the service of others and their communities. Chicago Police Commander Crystal King Smith was awarded a HerStory Award for her 28 years of service. She shared several nuggets of wisdom including to learn from those who have succeeded before you, bring a nurturing spirit with you to see the need and fix it, and to reach back and not only bring someone with you, but push them in front of you. The second HerStory Award recipient Rev. Gwendolyn Appleberry is a Pastor at God's Gift Ministries. She took it upon herself to see the need in the community, protecting young people, providing safe havens, and nourishing with a hug and love. She shared her incredible story of personally funding meals for 10,000 people a year. [CLICK HERE](#) to find out more about our former HerStory Awardees.



Two Special Recognitions were awarded to major contributors to WFWP. Noriko Ogden was awarded for her service as a bookkeeper and volunteer with WFWP Chicago since 1995. She shared her secret to success was to commit and not to quit. Motoko Sugiyama, former President of WFWP Japan and former International Vice President in charge of the United Nations, was awarded for her 21 years of service with WFWP. She shared about the process of establishing our ECOSOC status with the United Nations, and highlighted to "think globally, act locally."

The day ended on a high note with vocalist Diane Kelalu, a call to action, prayer, and toast for peace.

Before departing, each participant signed the launch Declaration, becoming founding stakeholders of the Global Women's Peace Network in the Midwest region and committing to solve pressing social issues and realize a world of peace for generations to come. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the full declaration.

### **HerStory and Special Recognition Awards**

#### **Quotes from Participants:**

The Keynote speaker was outstanding! It was so inspiring being in a room with so many awesome leaders. I also was so very moved by the HerStory Awards and networking with women from all over the world.

The most impactful segment from today was the panel discussions and topics. To hear from such accomplished and inspiring women who are leaders in their own walks of life was eye-opening. I am inspired and motivated after hearing their talks and wisdom to make changes in my own home, life and community.

I enjoyed brainstorming and sharing ideas about ways to care for and protect the environment/ Mother earth. Many of these ideas were unique and inspiring, and I would like to implement them in my own community.



The most significant part was telling us to start somewhere and now, to make a change. Do something to change the world and do it now.

Look forward to reading additional reflections that will be shared in upcoming Logic of Love News Editions!

**THANK YOU!**

A well-deserved and special thank you goes to all the volunteers, contributors, WFWP representatives, and staff who gave of their time and resources to make this inauguration happen!! You are the peace-makers!



Women's Federation for World Peace USA

# GLOBAL FRIENDS

Global Friends aren't just any organizations or companies with their own survival or self interest in mind. These organizations commit to using their platform to build the kind of peaceful world we all want to live in. And when we combine our vast influence and strengths together, we will certainly move mountains.

**Global Friends include organizations, companies, movements, shows, and trailblazing personalities who believe in and adhere to core peace tenets**, and contribute to the goals of the Global Women's Peace Network by using their outlet to ensure lasting peace and prosperity for generations to come. Global friends are featured by the [Global Women's Peace Network](#) in the United States, which is a project of the Women's Federation for World Peace.

## PEACE TENETS

- Affirm women's value in the eyes of a loving Creator
- Promote healthy and virtuous relationships within the family
- Embrace one global family through living for the sake of others
- Commit to creating a culture of heart, to foster lasting peace and prosperity for generations to come
- Collaborate to solve pressing social issues surrounding women's leadership, family and the environment

## AWESOME BENEFITS

- Promotion alongside the Global Women's Peace Network
- A customized landing page about your work on our website
- Share your status as a conscientious Global Friend for Peace

## AGREEMENT & APPLICATION

[APPLY NOW!](#)

## CURRENT GLOBAL FRIENDS





# HerStory Award

Throughout history we have heard much about 'his story,' which means there is still so much of 'her story' yet to be told. To unearth these incredible stories, WFWP USA recognizes and honors women for their outstanding accomplishments in various fields of endeavor, in the form of a HerStory Award.

Each HerStory recipient has been selected for her courage, compassion, and commitment to using her gifts and talents to uplift others, despite often overwhelming challenges. This award encourages all women to know that by sustaining relationships, you have influence and already are a leader. And when that influence is used to uplift and bring people together, we have the ability to accomplish extraordinary things.

This is a tribute to all the women around the world who are not just leaders, but *peace leaders* that are "Living by the Logic of Love."



Judi Moreo

is an accomplished author with eleven books to her credit including her bestselling, *You Are More Than Enough: Every Woman's Guide to Purpose, Passion, and Power* and its companion, *Achievement Journal*.

[Read More →](#)



Dr. Ayele Amavigan Labante

is the founder and CEO of Hidden Talent Foundation, an international non-profit organization whose mission is to assist the world's under-served children and young adults to discover their hidden educational talents by providing them with basic educational tools.

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Hon. Joy I. Garratt

Her 25 years of working with teachers, students and families motivated her to run for office so that she could address and find solutions to the issues facing working families in her state.

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Dr. Cherilyn Lee

Founder of Nu Wellness Healthcare Inc, Author, Certified Seminary Leader and Speaker, Certified Strategic Life Coach, and Host-Producer of her own Radio Show.

[Read More →](#)



Rachanee Jackson

teaches urban youth about growing their own food, sustainable living and the environment.

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Faye Carol Yarbrough

was awarded a special HerStory Veteran's award for her service in the United States Army as a Non-Commissioned Officer obtaining the rank of Sergeant in the Corps of Engineers.

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Maral Kabranian Kaprielian

has been serving her Armenian community in quiet ways for many years, including housing homeless families during the Lebanese Civil War.

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Astrid Fidelia

works to bring sustainable solutions to a weak health care system by providing health, wellness, and illness prevention information to the vulnerable citizens of disadvantaged communities.

[Read More →](#)



### Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages

As the first woman of Haitian descent to serve in the New York State Legislature, she determined to never let the word "no" stop her from her mission to help others.

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### 4 Women Awarded at WFWP 25th Anniversary

For the 25th anniversary of the founding of Women's Federation for World Peace celebrated in Arizona, four women were given the HerStory Award.

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### Joyce Raynor

Her life was completely altered when her son was killed by a gang member. She left her job and set up a non-profit organization to help crime survivors and to reach at-risk youth and to help those dealing with abuse at home.

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### Patricia Ann Lofton

Ms. Lofton builds a strong alliance with the parents in the community to encourage them to raise their children with good character and with love for God and other people.

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### Anna Beth Gorman

God directed her life to be become a public servant to help women and girls, and serves as Executive Director of the Women's Foundation of Arkansas.

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### 10 Women Honored in Arizona

The WFWP Arizona Chapter held a Bridge of Peace ceremony and honored ten outstanding women through the HerStory Award.

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### Linda Rowe Thomas

is a burn survivor from a house fire when she was a child. Through the love and support her mother showed her, she was inspired to found Designing Fashions Foundation.

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### Valencia Mohammed

After losing two of her sons to gun violence, she turned her pain into activism by founding a non-profit organization, Mothers of Unsolved Murders.

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### Remise Walker

At the age of 25, she has made major inroads in ending homelessness and assisting youth to dream big.

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### Dr. Aziza Baccouche

As a blind woman and an accomplished physicist, Dr. Aziza Baccouche's mission is to bring education to the blind population that has a 70% rate of unemployment.

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### Lisa Carol Williams

honored for raising more than \$1.3 million and working more than 60 hours a week to raise awareness about child prostitution.

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### Kayo Masuda

The "Her Story" Award was presented to Mrs. Kayo Masuda from Ohio, who despite suffering from Lupus for many years, continued to serve humanitarian missions in Africa and in Israel without complaint.

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**Global Women's Peace Network USA, Midwest Region Launch Declaration**

October 18, 2019

We women leaders who are attending the Global Women's Peace Network USA Launch in the Midwest Region of the United States, during the "Women as the Turning Point for Peace" Conference have gathered here in Chicago, IL to show our passionate desire for the establishment of a culture of peace.

**WE RESOLVE** to take the lead in realizing a world of peace by bringing together a global peace network of leaders, organizations, and governments committed to solving pressing social issues and securing an environment of equitable human development.

**WE DECLARE** that through peace leadership based on the feminine aspect of human nature, we will seek to ensure lasting peace and prosperity for generations to come.

**WE DECLARE** we will take the lead in pioneering the path of active women peace leaders, exercising the values of maternal love, compassion, service, and sharing, which until now have been excluded from most leadership and development strategies, and encouraging peace through education, cooperation, and solidarity.