

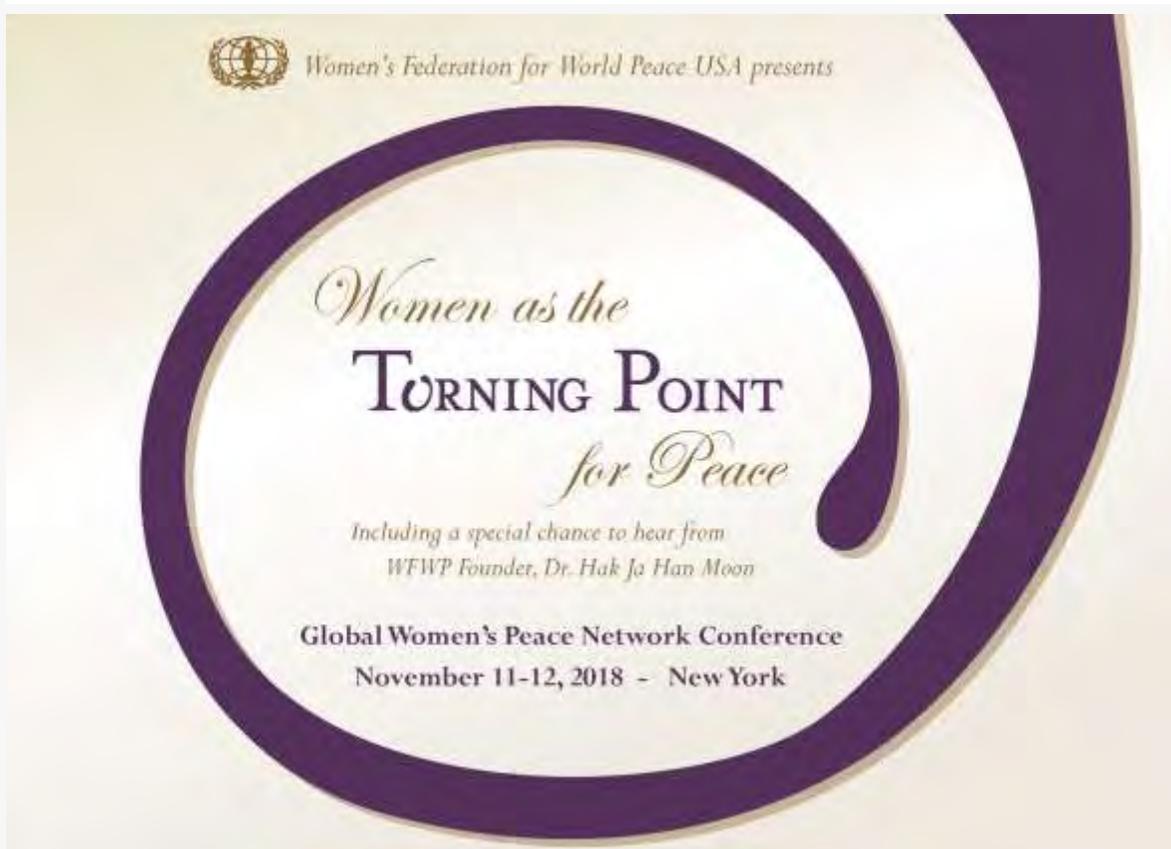
2018 GWPN Conference and Peace Starts With Me Reception Summary Report

Angelika Selle
November 12, 2018

Pre-lude to Peace Starts With Me WFWP events Getting the word out on the air in Nassau County



Josephine Maietta, President of the Association of Italian American Educators and **host of WRHU 88.7's Sabato Italiano radio program** at Hofstra University, interviewed Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) USA President Angelika Selle on her program on Nov 10 about the work and events of WFWP and also promoting the Peace Starts with Me rally and Mother Moon as a great woman leader and peace maker. Ms. Maietta announced to her radio audience to come out and sing for peace, and was committing to sing in the choir. She wants to stay connected with WFWP. **With deep gratitude to Rev. Desmond and Beryl Green who connected President Selle to the show.**



Global Women's Peace Network USA Conference November 11, 2018



On Veterans Day, November 11, 2018 WFWP USA launched the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) in the Northeast region of the United States. The exciting launching of this project of WFWP International was attended by over 70 participants from around the country, including 23 guests and WFWP regional and state chairwomen. Women from diverse professional and life backgrounds, as well as several young women, gathered at the Long Island Marriott Hotel to learn and share with each other.

Yeon Ah Moon, President of WFWP International, giving welcoming remarks and greeting from WFWP founder.

She remarked: "At the moment there is no center in society, the nation or the world. We're coming together today to build a peace culture, that of living for the sake of others and bringing out feminine leadership qualities: the motherly heart that cares for others."



Angelika Selle, President of WFWP USA, introduced the Global Women's Peace Network focus and purpose, as founded by Rev. and Mrs. Moon in 2012.

After the welcoming remarks, Angelika Selle, President of WFWP USA, introduced the

founding and the purpose of the GWPN, pointing out that since its seeding in 2012, a strong grassroots foundation has been built and, therefore, it is ready to be launched on the regional level. GWPN USA finds itself at another turning point at this time, where together with the next generation, it will go forward more prominently and empowered, also in partnership with other organizations in creating lasting peace.

President Selle explained that WFWP is not a feminist organization but rather feminine - in that the feminine qualities of women reflect that of a mother who melts away hate and can give birth to a new way of life, just as Mother Moon has exemplified.



Five professional women shared on the panel discussion and answered questions from the participants afterward. Each is eager to continue to work with us.

Each one portrayed competency, dignity and professional success, but each also showed such deep passion, positivity and clear anchor in their lives that of a strong spiritual inclination towards and love for God and creating peace. Most of all, each strongly pointed to ACTION! It's no longer time to talk about peace but to BE and BUILD peace.



Audra Hajj, CEO OF Phoenix Business Cycle, which has helped over 3,000 businesses transform and succeed, talked on the subject "Push vs. Inspire Leadership"

She revealed an incredibly tumultuous childhood in the foster care system (she was in 32 different foster care homes by the time she was 10 years old), but she had made the decision to move forward in life and spread kindness one person - and



Ester Davis, former model, television producer, writer, and media specialist who has worked with hundreds of news outlets, talked on "Communication Plus Media Equals Family Values"

Her show, "The Ester Davis Show" has grown from cable, Dallas Community Television, Comcast, Time Warner, to NBC, PAX-TV and ION. TV. She implored the audience that women as a turning point

one smile - at a time, and to help others live a strength-based life.

can use the media and government processes to promote the values and peace in our families, communities, media and culture.



Astrid Fidelia, CEO and Founder of Stand Up To Poverty Inc., spoke on “Can There Be Peace in Poverty?” Her organization was serving 300 people a day in Haiti with medical care just a few days before the conference

She spoke about how there simply cannot be peace where there is poverty.

Therefore, peace must be the baseline mission of all organizations. Peace work is challenging, but it can be done. She urged us to look for the opportunities to be kind. When we can love people in all areas of life, we give them permission to do the same.



Grace Valera, former diplomat who worked in the Philippine embassies in Spain and Washington, DC, spoke on “Peace Building Through Cultural Advocacy.” She brings together thousands of Filipino-American youth and their parents in cultural festivals every year.

She shared about her experience as a diplomat and how her life’s focus has been to always find a peaceful solution. She particularly shared her passion for the arts and culture, and how she advocated for and promoted peace through the cultural arts. She highlighted her mother who also instilled this philosophy of peace in her and the upcoming rally where we will hear from the “Mother of Peace,” Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

Dr. Elaine Duval, author and founder of the Daughters of Zion Restorational Ministry, discussed “Nation-building: The Transformational Role of Women as Peace-builders.”

She strongly stated that the source of the vision for a nation is only God, and we must go back to that source for our direction. And women are specially equipped to demonstrate the peaceful values of compassion, empathy, mutual prosperity, etc.



A lively Q&A ensued where questions of how to use media and cultural events to bridge the gap between generations, how to harness the power of language to resolve conflict, how to multiply a particular peace effort (answer: through the media!), how to influence the media

and turn it away from negative and destructive reporting, amongst other topics.



Beautiful entertainment came from: **Joan Myers (left), renowned gospel singer** who had the whole room on their feet, dancing and singing along. She had buried her father the day before flying to the conference. And **Makiko Taguchi (right), accomplished violin soloist** from Maryland, who won the Premier Prix award from the Pierre Lantier International Music Competition in Paris, France in 1992 and performed with the New York City Symphony Chamber Ensemble many times.

This set the tone for invigorating table discussions where participants brainstormed projects that would be proposed to the GWPN committee.

Project proposals ranged from helping women learn how to legislate and lobby for what they really want in their communities and state - even on the level of a spiritual approach - to promoting families to eat dinner together by creating “Peace Cards” as conversation starters at dinner time. Each woman was commissioned to be co-creators for the GWPN in the United States and take ownership over change for peace.



[GWPN PHOTO ALBUM](#)

[PARTICIPANT REFLECTIONS](#)

Peace Starts With Me - WFWP USA Reception November 12, 2018



On the morning of Monday, November 12, 130 women leaders from across the country gathered at the Long Island Marriott as a prelude reception to Mother Moon's "Peace Starts with Me" rally at Nassau Coliseum.



Ms. Miambi Koko, a young woman who came from Georgia to support the weekend of events, eloquently welcomed everyone as emcee: those who had attended the Global Women's Peace Network Conference the day before as well as many more who came for this unique occasion.



Welcoming remarks from International Vice President for Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, set a wonderful tone of encouragement for what was to come. He commended WFWP as Mother Moon's organization as well as commented on the importance of women's leadership at this time.



Mayor Don Ryan of the Village of Hempstead gave some congratulatory remarks. Everyone nodded their heads in common understanding of his words about the message of the Salvation Army. The founder of the Salvation Army was challenged to find an inexpensive way to encourage all supporters nationwide via telegram, when he decided to cut down his long words to one simple, yet profound

message: "OTHERS."



The meat of the morning's program was awarding four outstanding women leaders for their service to their communities with WFWP's National HerStory Award. As President Angelika Selle reminded everyone, every woman has a story to tell, so WFWP strives to empower and encourage women to continue their work, both seen and unseen, for peace.

- **Assemblywoman Michaëlle Solages of NY's 22nd district**, was supported by her brother, **Nassau County Legislator, Carrie Solages**, as she received her award. 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.
- **Astrid Fidelia, CEO and Founder of Stand Up To Poverty**, was awarded for the work of her organization, and was one of the panelists for the GWPNC Conference the day before. Her organization sends medical missions to communities in need, and she had just completed a tour in Haiti where they served thousands of people.
- **Ms. Maral Kabranian Kaprielian has been serving her Armenian community in many quiet ways** for many years. Her close friend and WFWP USA Special Liaison Officer, Aimmee Kodachian, accepted the award on her behalf and shared a moving testimony of how Ms. Kaprielian personally helped Aimmee during the Lebanese Civil War when she and her family were homeless and in need.
- **A special HerStory Veterans Award** was given on that day to honor women who have served our country in many different capacities. **Ms. Faye Yarbrough, served in the United States Army as a Non-Commissioned Officer obtaining the rank of Sergeant in the Corps of Engineers.** However, she was also awarded for her heart to serve even beyond her time in the military. She is currently planning a mission to South Africa as a Global Servant with International Ministries.

The morning concluded with three inspiring and powerful toasts to peace. Each person in the room raised their glasses to overcoming the odds and committing together to substantializing God's ideal for a peaceful harmonious world on this earth.



From left to right: Rhia Luz, chairwoman of Arizona; Joan Myers, Gospel singer and artist (buried her father the day before coming to sing for us); Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages, (just had a baby 8 weeks ago and still came, received the HerStory Award and put it on her Instagram page); sister from the DRC who was a member of WFWP since 1997 and was visiting; Carrie Solages, Nassau County Legislator, (younger brother of Michaelle Solages)

Both public officials were deeply loved and impressed with WFWP and the spirit in the room and committed their support whenever we need it.

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Reflections:

Astrid Fidelia-- panelist:

"I was moved by being in a room full of powerful women who are selfless and making the world a better place. The leadership and kindness I saw really made me feel at home. They have a like-minded vision and it's fueled by love. I am so empowered and inspired."

Dr. Elaine Duval-- panelist:

"I was inspired by the power of the sisterhood of peace and love, by the sense of unity of spirit and of purpose as peace-makers. I am leaving this conference feeling convinced that I myself am a "mother of peace." I will now go forth and produce, give birth to peace, for the healing of our families and nation."

Cynthia Myers-- participant:

"What I gained from the conference is that this is no longer dress rehearsal, that we're there, we're not even on the brink, we're into it. We're into it and we can't go back, there's no way to go back, we can only go ahead, and by being with this group of women I can see so many people in so many areas that are primed and ready to go. I'm amazed by the people that have been gathered here. So that impressed me so much to finally see the gathering of all kinds of women coming together, and they are so excited - we're not in dress rehearsal."

Behnoosh Sethna – young guest:

"What I learned is being thankful of the little things... and that we are all privileged, as one of the speakers mentioned, and that we can make a change and bring about the difference. Just being thankful of all you have and look at things in a positive way and make it better, too - don't look at the dark tunnel, look at the brighter future."

Ariella Toren—young guest:

"I really liked the discussion tables toward the end - I felt like being able to get feedback from other members of the group could really help us think bigger and think beyond our personal ideas. I think when we were able to bounce things off of each other, there's just better results than what we can come up with on an individual level. We know that change ultimately starts with us personally, you know, peace starts with me, that type of thing, but it does take a collective effort to create mass change. So I really loved the discussion tables, it was inspiring for me to meet with people of different backgrounds and different skill sets - all those play into how we're able to come up with ideas. My main takeaway - I felt empowered."

Anonymous:

"The speakers were absolutely great. They each exhibited a strong anchor where their passion and vigor could grow from, and that inspired me to strengthen my own "WHY" and resolve in life to be a peace-builder."