

Global Women's Peace Network Quarterly Impact Report (April - June 2026)

Katarina Connery
July 10, 2026

From April through June 2026, the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) advanced its mission of cultivating peace through service, leadership development, interfaith collaboration, and personal growth initiatives across the United States and internationally. Programming during this period emphasized women's leadership, community partnership, human rights advocacy, spiritual development, and family-centered resilience. During this first quarter, 33 initiatives were held of these 23 were in partnership with other organizations, reaching 1379 women leaders with 29% attending for the very first time.

April



On April 25, 2026, WFWP USA honored Dr. Isabelle Vladiou, Tenile Zayas, Loretta Rivers and Minister Fannie Smith at its HerStory Award Event, celebrating their dedication, resilience, and impact in diplomacy, advocacy, education and community impact, inspiring others to pursue their passions and serve their communities. [Read here](#)

[World Health Day Community Gathering](#): In honor of United Nations World Health Day, NJ WFWP hosted a local program at the Allwood Library in Clifton, bringing together women for a day of reflection, education, and wellness. Participants engaged in guided meditation with Pastor Barbara Robertson, received practical dental health [insights from Dr. Pallavi Rajpurohit](#), and enjoyed an uplifting Zumba Gold session led by Lauren Ruggiero. The program also highlighted the humanitarian impact of the Sunhak Peace Prize and EMERGENCY, inspiring attendees with stories of global service and compassion. [Read here](#)

WFWP Alabama, gathered with 20 participants, including 9 guests, to honor Apostle Sandria Alston with the HerStory Award for her 45+ years of ministry and dedicated service to her community. [Read here](#)

Self-Care Isn't Selfish: In April's session, Myrna Lapres explored the balance between authenticity and connection, drawing [on insights from](#) The Myth of Normal by Gabor Maté. Through reflection and discussion, participants considered how secure connection can support genuine self-expression and personal growth. [Read here](#)

[Colorado's Interreligious Sharing](#): April's Interreligious Sharing, held via Zoom, brought together diverse faith perspectives on how beliefs guide individuals through both joyful and challenging times. Representatives from multiple traditions shared insights, creating a rich and engaging dialogue centered on faith, resilience, and [connection](#). [Read here](#)

May

Hawaii



On May 21, 2026, veterans, families, faith leaders, and community organizations gathered at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific for the 16th Anniversary Celebration of Life honoring those lost in the 1944 West Loch Disaster. Through remembrance, prayer, and military honors, the "Healing Circle of Community" paid tribute to the fallen and reaffirmed a shared commitment to healing, unity, and gratitude. [Read more here](#)

WFWP-HI members joined community partners in O‘ahu's 75th Mayor's Memorial Day observances, participating in the "Sew a Lei for Memorial Day" service project and the Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Through acts of remembrance, gratitude, and community service, participants honored the sacrifices of America's veterans while strengthening bonds of friendship and advancing a culture of peace grounded in love and service. [Read here](#)

A Mother's Day gift was presented to First Lady Jaime Kanani Green. [Read here](#)

DC

In May, we were blessed with several meaningful opportunities in Colorado to gather in fellowship,

strengthen interfaith friendships, and support community events. From a joyful outdoor potluck in Fruita to a small interreligious gathering centered on shared stories, travel, and hospitality, each occasion deepened our connections across faith traditions and enriched our sense of shared purpose. [Read here](#)

June



WFWP DC leaders took part in an Ambassador for Peace ceremony honoring Tinuade and a Women in Diplomacy Forum featuring global leaders in government, business, and civil society. Both events strengthened partnerships and highlighted WFWP's mission of empowering women as leaders and peacemakers. [Read here](#)



WFWP's June Zoom gathering brought together faith leaders from the Bahá'í Faith, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the United Methodist Church, and Peace Starts with Me for a meaningful interfaith dialogue. Participants reflected on questions of faith, purpose, and spiritual identity, fostering open sharing and mutual respect. [Read here](#)

On June 7 at South Alabama Family Church, WFWP Alabama hosted a special gathering honoring the International Day of Families and launching the Peace Starts With Me Alliance in Mobile.

The program featured inspiring

talks on health, child advocacy, and faith-based service, along with an Ambassador for Peace recognition and a joyful children's performance. The event concluded in a spirit of unity and shared commitment to strengthening families and promoting peace. [Read here](#)

WFWP Hawai'i members participated in several June activities centered on service, interfaith connection, and community engagement. Highlights included a veterans' gift bag project with the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, attendance at the ACLC Prayer Breakfast, and a "Songs of Hope" watch party supporting global humanitarian causes. These events reflected growing collaboration across organizations and a shared commitment to service, unity, and peace. [Read here](#)



Q1 2026: HerStory Award Event

Written by : Yumi Willett

On Jan 24, 2026 Women Federation for World Peace USA held its first HerStory Award Event of the year. Graciously hosted by Adia Lancaster, GWPN Marketing Manager. Dr. Kelly McCann and Dr. Kristina Darling were honored for living their passion and in doing so changing the lives of those they came across.

Dr. Katarina Connery, President of WFWP USA, was then introduced and delivered a heartfelt address congratulating the awardees. She shared her deep appreciation for the HerStory Award Events, noting that they provide an opportunity to honor and hear the stories of extraordinary women who work tirelessly to serve their communities and the world. Most importantly, she emphasized that these events allow us to learn the stories behind their remarkable accomplishments. Dr. Connery highlighted that while these women have achieved incredible success, they have also faced significant challenges and hardships along the way—experiences through which they gained wisdom that shaped who they are and revealed what they are truly capable of achieving.

The awardees were then introduced with their biographies and invited to share their stories. The first to speak was **Kelly McCann, MD, MPH, Physician and Founder of The Spring Center**. She began by reflecting that, early on, she did not always know she wanted to become a physician, but she was certain of her deep desire to help people—especially women. As a young woman, she first dreamed of becoming a singer, but later realized that path would not bring her true fulfillment. She then explored the idea of becoming an acupuncturist, only to discover that this too was not her calling.

Ultimately, she pursued medical school, and despite its challenges, came to an important realization: she did not want to simply diagnose patients, but to truly understand their stories—their beliefs, life experiences, environmental exposures, and what ultimately led them to seek her care. Along her professional journey, Dr. McCann also faced significant health challenges of her own. Even as she moved to different states, these conditions persisted, teaching her valuable lessons about her own healing journey and deepening her understanding of how best to address complex health issues.

This led her to earn a master’s degree in spiritual psychology. As she shared, **“What I came to understand was that every single cell in my physical body is imbued with a life force energy that is part of our soul. And in order to truly heal, we have to remember that part of ourselves.** When I sit with people, I see that part of them—their soul—and help them move from being very sick to understanding what’s happening in their physical body, calming the nervous system and the immune system, so that they can begin to feel better.” She concluded by sharing that true healing occurs when we do our inner work and heal the disconnection within ourselves—and that, in doing so, we naturally extend greater love, compassion, and understanding to those around us.

The second awardee, **Dr. Kristina Marie Darling, Editor-in-Chief of Tupelo Press and Tupelo Quarterly**, shared that her work is deeply rooted in celebrating literature—particularly writing that is too often dismissed as overly difficult or experimental. She explained, “I love giving educators the tools to incorporate seemingly difficult, seemingly experimental work into their classrooms. For me, this is so important because when writers challenge the status quo, a revolutionary message often requires new forms of discourse. I love celebrating the difficult, the unruly, the hybrid, and these types of writing that other critics may be afraid to approach.”

Dr. Darling reflected that her journey began in 2003, when she envisioned a life different from that of the women in her family—one rooted in discovering purpose beyond traditional expectations. At the time, this felt like an ambitious and distant goal. After four demanding years of completing a full university course load while working three jobs and volunteering, she graduated as a student marshal. Despite facing more than 80 rejections from highly competitive open calls, she emphasized the importance of perseverance and encouraged young writers not to give up. As she shared, **“It is in the struggle that the learning occurs. In these moments, you discover who you really are by finding strength and resilience you didn’t know was there.”**

In conclusion, she shared that although she encountered naysayers along the way, she remained determined to pursue her dream. In doing so, she has helped open pathways for other first-generation university students like herself—creating scholarship opportunities, fostering collaboration, and expanding access so that more writers can realize their own dreams.

We congratulate Dr. Kelly and Dr. Kristina for their unwavering commitment to personal and professional excellence, inspiring and lighting the way for others to follow in their footsteps.



HerStory Award

WFWP NJ - World Health Day Event

Written by : Cynthia Nakai & Irmgard Baynes

In recognition of United Nations World Health Day on April 7—commemorating the founding of the World Health Organization in 1948—NJ WFWP organized a local program dedicated to educating women on important health issues.

Seventeen participants gathered at the Allwood Library in Clifton on Saturday, April 11. The program opened with a seasonal reflection on spring, highlighting how daffodils are among the first flowers to emerge through the snow, symbolizing hope and renewal. This message served as a reminder that, with patience and endurance, brighter times follow even the most difficult seasons.

Pastor Barbara Robertson encouraged participants to listen inwardly and recognize their personal needs. She led a session of meditation and relaxation exercises, emphasizing that we cannot effectively care for others if we ourselves are depleted.

Dr. Pallavi Rajpurohit, a dentist from India, shared practical guidance on maintaining good oral health. She explained that while brushing after every meal may not always be possible, rinsing the mouth after eating is beneficial. She also recommended biannual dental checkups and daily flossing. Her presentation was followed by an engaging question-and-answer session.

Bringing energy and enthusiasm to the group, Lauren Ruggiero led a Zumba Gold session. She noted that this year marks the 24th anniversary of Zumba, which originated in Colombia, South America. The activity brought joy and vitality to all participants.

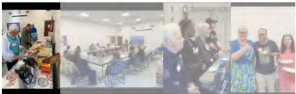
WFWP NJ volunteer Irmgard introduced the Sunhak Peace Prize, established in 2013 by Hak Ja Han Moon. She shared an introductory video outlining the Prize’s mission to address global challenges such as conflict, poverty, and environmental degradation by promoting a forward-looking vision of peace. Rooted in the ideal of “One Family Under God,” the initiative encourages dialogue and cooperation over division and competition.

Irmgard also highlighted Gino Strada, a 2017 laureate of the Sunhak Peace Prize. As the founder of EMERGENCY, an international humanitarian organization, Dr. Strada has helped provide free, high-quality medical care to more than nine million people, particularly in war zones and underserved regions.

Participants were deeply moved by a video from EMERGENCY USA showcasing the organization’s impactful work in Central Africa, Afghanistan, and, since 2024, in Gaza and Ukraine.

Each attendee received a folder of educational materials from the program, along with an invitation to participate in future WFWP activities.

The WFWP NJ chapter also expressed sincere gratitude for the generous donations of dental hygiene items. These contributions will be distributed to a local organization supporting homeless families.





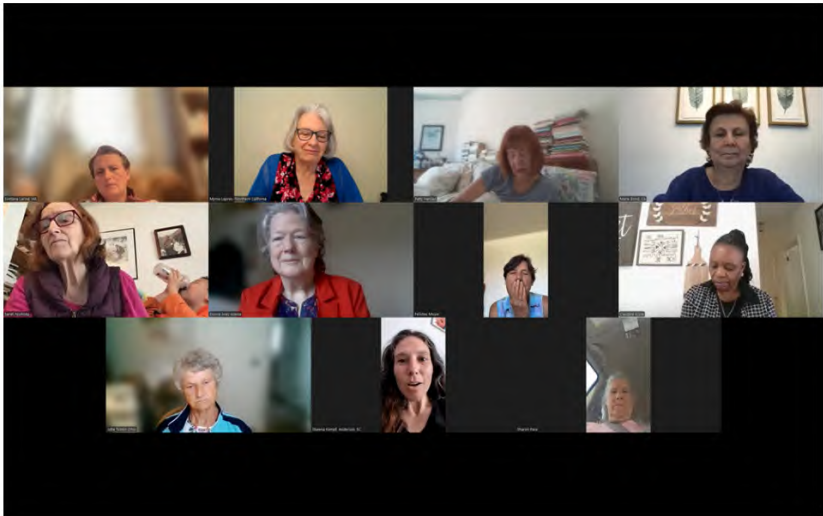
Self-Care Isn't Selfish: Finding Balance Between Authenticity & Connection

In April's *Self-Care Isn't Selfish* session, Myrna Lapres presented on "Finding the Balance Between Authenticity and Connection." Drawing from her personal experiences and insights from *The Myth of Normal* by Gabor Maté, she explored two fundamental human needs: the desire to be authentically ourselves and the equally strong need for connection, attachment, and belonging.

Myrna highlighted how these needs are often perceived as being in tension. She invited participants to reconsider this dynamic, suggesting that instead of viewing it as "attachment vs. authenticity," we might see it as an infinity loop—interconnected and mutually reinforcing. When attachment is secure, it actually supports authenticity. Feeling safe, valued, and connected gives individuals the confidence to express their true thoughts and emotions without fear of rejection. In this way, secure attachment becomes a psychological "home base" from which we can explore and embrace who we are.

Through short videos, personal stories, and guided exercises, Myrna engaged participants in reflecting on their own lives. Breakout discussions encouraged deeper awareness of how these dynamics show up personally, as well as practical steps toward growth and change.

She concluded with a powerful reminder: "In order to experience growth, we need to get curious, be brave—it takes courage—and know that it is never too late."





WFWP Colorado : Interreligious Sharing

Our April Interreligious Sharing program was held via Zoom due to several participants navigating health situations. Despite the virtual format, the gathering was vibrant and deeply engaging. Representatives joined from the Baha’i Faith, the The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the United Methodist Church, and the Universal Peace Federation / Women's Federation for World Peace / Peace Starts with Me Alliance.

The Latter-day Saints selected the topic: *“How do your beliefs help you navigate life on your good days as well as your worst days?”* Each representative shared their perspective in 10 minutes or less, followed by affirming feedback and thoughtful questions. The program extended to nearly two hours, reflecting the enthusiasm and meaningful dialogue among participants.

Latter-day Saints:

Drawing on teachings from Saint Peter, it was shared that strength in facing life comes from walking with Christ and holding to eternal truths. Life’s trials are opportunities for growth and learning. Faith in Jesus brings joy and provides the शक्ति to overcome challenges, grounded in the call to love God and one another.

Baha’i Faith:

On our best days, we are encouraged to live with gratitude, remain prayerful, and serve others with love. On our most difficult days, challenges can be viewed as spiritual tests—opportunities for growth. Practicing joyful acceptance and trusting in divine wisdom are key, while recognizing that self-centeredness can hinder alignment with God’s will.

United Methodist Church:

Faith offers both peace and strength in times of joy and deep hardship. A personal relationship with God provides reassurance—“I’ve got you”—and an invitation to trust even in overwhelming circumstances. This sense of divine presence brings comfort, while scripture offers guidance, joy, and the strength needed to fulfill God’s purpose.

UPF / WFWP / Peace Starts with Me Alliance:

Key themes shared included understanding God as our Heavenly Parent—both Father and Mother—the importance of the Four Realms of Heart, and the belief in life after death. Emphasis was placed on gratitude as a central practice in daily life, along with reflections on peace, true love, and gratitude inspired by the teachings of Hak Ja Han and Sun Myung Moon.

Overall, the program fostered a spirit of mutual respect, curiosity, and shared wisdom, demonstrating how diverse faith perspectives can offer meaningful guidance for navigating both the joys and challenges of life.



[THE MANY FACES OF MOTHERHOOD](#)

[SELF-CARE ISN'T SELFISH: FINDING BALANCE BETWEEN AUTHENTICITY & CONNECTION](#)



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16th Anniversary Celebration of Life “Healing Circle of Community” National Cemetery of the Pacific

Written by : Justin Harding

THE TRAGEDY

Early on the morning of May 21, 1944, a sudden accident claimed the lives of more than 160 soldiers, sailors, and civilians. A spark ignited pallets of mortars, ammunition, and thousands of gallons of gasoline, destroying six ships at the West Loch Naval facility in Pearl Harbor. Men were hurled hundreds of feet into the air, buildings were flattened, and vehicles were overturned. The heat was so intense that firefighters had to wait 24 hours before they could begin bringing the massive fire and smoke under control. Many victims were never recovered.

THE COMMUNITY

The sisterhood of the Women’s Federation for World Peace Hawai’i Chapter was invited to attend this little-known yet sacred event, even within veteran circles, through the American Veterans Ladies Auxiliary Hawaii Post 0001. Mrs. Doris Edwards, Executive Director of the Ladies AMVETS Auxiliary, had recently returned from her second pilgrimage to Korea in solidarity with Hak Ja Han and was invited to speak at the 16th Anniversary Celebration of Life honoring those lost in the West Loch Disaster.

A HIDDEN DATE IN HISTORY

This tragic event is often overshadowed by more widely recognized veteran observances. Yet on May 21, 1944, at approximately 3:08 p.m., more than 160 families were forever changed.

During Memorial Day weekend, the nation pays tribute to the Fallen and to Gold Star families. Just last week, on May 17, a National Day of Prayer was held to rededicate America as “One Nation Under God.” In that same spirit of remembrance and action, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency identified and returned the remains of two soldiers lost in this tragedy, and for the 16th time, the community gathered to honor the fallen of West Loch.

THE HEALING CIRCLE OF COMMUNITY

On Thursday, May 21, 2026, a circle of healers gathered at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the “Punchbowl,” under the sponsorship of the Obama Hawaiian Africana Museum.

WFWP Hawai’i, New Life Body of Christ, the Ladies AMVETS Auxiliary, the Hawaiian Joint Military Forces, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Naval Munitions Command, the American Legion, and many families came together in a shared celebration of life. The ceremony featured prayers, the presentation of the National Colors by the Joint Color Guard of the Pacific, Taps and a 21-gun salute by the U.S. Marines, musical tributes by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Hawai’i, and libation ceremonies honoring the souls of the deceased.

Our sisterhood chapter, together with the Ladies Auxiliary, also prepared a beautiful Wreath of Remembrance for the ceremony’s culminating moment: the laying of the wreaths.





Memorial Day Celebration

Lei Making for Memorial Day

Saturday, May 23, 2026

WFWP-HI sisters and AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary members Yuriko Harding, Doris Edwards, Marie Francoise Mitchell, and Sharon Beasley Teague participated in the 75th Mayor's Memorial Day "Sew a Lei for Memorial Day" event on Saturday, May 23, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Kapilina Beach Homes Community Center.

Kapilina was one of 16 sites across O'ahu where volunteers sewed more than 38,000 lei to honor veterans by placing a lei on every grave at the island's veteran cemeteries. The event was filled with joy, laughter, and aloha, accompanied by music from the Kapilina Serenaders and renowned 'ukulele artists Bryan Tolentino and Herb Ohta Jr.

Approximately 70 to 80 people attended, including members of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, the WFWP-HI Chapter, the Lion's Club, the West O'ahu Pilot Club, Gold Star families, and local residents. Such was the enthusiasm for the event that lei makers eventually ran out of plumeria blossoms.

As Mother Moon said, "History is calling for reconciliation, compassion, love, service, and sacrifice. Today's problems cannot be solved by the logic of power... Our present problems can be solved only by the logic of love."

By participating in community events such as this, WFWP-HI builds meaningful relationships with other organizations and creates opportunities for future collaboration. These activities reflect a deep spirit of love and service as we join others in honoring veterans who gave their lives for our country and the freedoms we enjoy today. In this way, WFWP-HI takes another step toward building a world of peace through the "logic of love."

Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 25, 2026

On Monday, May 25, 2026, WFWP-HI and AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary members Yuriko Harding and Marie Francoise Mitchell attended the 75th Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Pūowaina.

As part of the observance, Scouts from Hawai'i placed flower lei and American flags at each gravestone, paying tribute to the men and women who served our nation. Memorial Day remarks were delivered by Mayor Rick Blangiardi, and the keynote address was given by William Spencer, Regional Administrator for the Pacific Region of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The ceremony included an oli, wreath presentations, a 21-gun salute, the sounding of Taps, a military aircraft flyover, and musical performances by the Royal Hawaiian Band and Sounds of Aloha. Hula was performed by members of the 97th Lei Court, adding a uniquely Hawaiian expression of remembrance and respect.

The ceremony provided an opportunity for the community to honor the sacrifices of our nation's veterans and to express gratitude for their service. Through participation in events such as this, WFWP-HI joins with others in preserving the spirit of remembrance and strengthening our commitment to peace, service, and community.





Mother's Day Celebration

Mother's Day Gift to First Lady Jaime Kanani Green Friday, May 9, 2026

In honor of Mother's Day, WFP-HI sisters Rafia Hasina and Yoshie Yamada visited the Hawai'i State Capitol on Friday, May 9, 2026, to deliver a gift bag for Hawai'i First Lady Jaime Kanani Green.

The gift bag included a special Mother's Day card designed by Yoshie Yamada, along with information about WFP and its membership opportunities. Although the First Lady was unavailable at the time of their visit, a member of her staff graciously received the gift and assured them that it would be delivered to her.

This thoughtful gesture reflected WFP-HI's spirit of appreciation and outreach.



May Events in Colorado

During the month of May, our family participated in several meaningful gatherings across Colorado centered on faith, fellowship, and community service.

Our first event was the Community Potluck Dinner held outdoors in Fruita, Colorado. This gathering has been organized for the past four years by members of the United Methodist Church and has become a valued local tradition. Our family—my husband and I, our daughter, her mother-in-law, and our two granddaughters—joined in supporting the event. It was especially meaningful to share the evening with church members and to witness the warmth and sincerity of the community. Our daughter and grandchildren naturally connected with the pastor and her husband, and it was inspiring to observe their interactions.

Later in the month, we focused on deepening friendships among our interreligious representatives. A small group of four met at the beautiful home of a member of the Latter-day Saints community. Participants included friends from the Baha'i Faith, the Latter-day Saints, and the Peace Starts with Me Alliance. We shared a simple but delightful meal of hot chili, fresh fruit, homemade cinnamon rolls, and coffee while engaging in heartfelt conversation about our families, childhoods, and past mission experiences, including trips to Romania.

The gathering continued with a slideshow presentation featuring Kenya, Italy, and Croatia, where our friends had recently traveled. Through their stories and images, we gained a richer understanding of these countries and cultures.

We are deeply grateful for these opportunities to build friendships across faith traditions, strengthen community ties, and deepen our heart-to-heart connections



WFWP Colorado
Women in faith Mad Hatter's tea- 5/9



WFWP Colorado
Community Potluck Dinner - 5/19

WFWP DC -June Events

Written by : Elizabeth Aihe

For the month of June, WFWP Washington, DC leaders participated in two meaningful events that strengthened partnerships, recognized community leadership, and advanced the values of peace and women's empowerment.

June 20 – Ambassador for Peace Appointment Ceremony

WFWP Washington, DC participated in an Ambassador for Peace Appointment Ceremony, where Tinuade was honored with the Ambassador for Peace award. She invited seven guests, all of whom enjoyed the program and expressed appreciation for its message. To encourage continued connection and future collaboration, a WhatsApp group was created following the event.

June 25 – Women in Diplomacy Forum

WFWP leaders attended the Women in Diplomacy Forum alongside Dr. Angelika Selle and Wasana Catalan. The event was organized by Victor Gotevbe and his wife, Pamela, of *Diplomatic Watch Magazine*, who had previously attended a WFWP Washington, DC event.

The distinguished panel featured Dr. Nining Sri Astuti, an economist, MSME advocate, and community development leader; Dr. Judy Kuriansky, a clinical psychologist, author, and founding member of Women4Diplomacy International; and Sabrina Abdu, Founder and CEO of RVP Consultants. The discussion was moderated by Shaz Akram, Governor of DACOR, Inc., and Trustee of the DACOR Bacon House Foundation.

The panelists shared valuable insights on leadership, decision-making, and preparing the next generation of women leaders. Many of their perspectives closely reflected WFWP's vision of empowering women to become leaders and peacemakers in their families, communities, and nations.

The forum brought together leaders from government, diplomacy, business, and civil society, including seven ambassadors and numerous distinguished guests and their spouses. Although the WFWP delegation departed before the Appreciation Awards and entertainment segment, the event provided an inspiring opportunity to engage with influential leaders and strengthen relationships with organizations that share a commitment to advancing women's leadership and peace.



June Interreligious Sharing Program Builds Understanding and Unity

Written by: Gale Alves

WFWP's June Zoom Interreligious Sharing program brought together faith leaders and representatives from the Bahá'í Faith, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the United Methodist Church, and Peace Starts with Me for an evening of meaningful dialogue and mutual learning.

The discussion centered on three reflective questions proposed by one of the Bahá'í participants:

- 1. Why did you choose your particular religion or denomination?
- 2. What does it mean to be a member of your faith?
- 3. What is the purpose of your life?

Each participant shared personal reflections, creating an atmosphere of openness, respect, and genuine listening. Having met regularly for more than three years, the group has developed a strong foundation of trust that allows for honest conversations about deeply held beliefs.

During the dialogue, the Peace Starts with Me representative shared the Unification understanding of God's providence, including the mission of True Parents, the significance of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb described in the Book of Revelation, the Three Great Blessings, God's parental heart, and the equal value of men and women in God's ideal.

Despite differences in theology, participants discovered a remarkable degree of common ground. They affirmed their shared commitment to:

- Loving God and Jesus.
- Living according to God's Word.
- Loving and respecting people of all backgrounds.
- Serving others and living for the sake of others.
- Practicing forgiveness.
- Recognizing that earthly life prepares us for eternal life.
- Seeing the goodness in others rather than focusing on their shortcomings.
- Overcoming our fallen or sinful nature.
- Working to build unity within the human family.

The June gathering once again demonstrated that sincere interfaith dialogue can deepen mutual understanding while highlighting the universal values that unite people of faith in the pursuit of peace.





PSWMA Alabama

Written by: Bruna Allen

On the occasion of the International Day of Families, a special event was held on June 7 at South Alabama Family Church. Although the observance is traditionally celebrated in May, scheduling conflicts made a June gathering necessary. The event also marked the first official launch of the Peace Starts With Me (PSWM) Alliance in Mobile.

The newly appointed part-time pastor, Kris Holdhus, and ACLC Coordinator Rev. Mark Lincoln agreed to have their organizations represented on the event flyer. Planning and coordination, however, were led by Bruna Allen, chairwoman of WFWP, who has also recently assumed the role of UPF representative, with the support of a dedicated team of sisters. Ms. Allen also served as the program's master of ceremonies.

Among the distinguished guests were Evangelist and Alabama National Day of Prayer Task Force Coordinator Shree Shaw Lovett and Catholic Chaplain Andre Provost. Two featured speakers enriched the program with their experience and expertise.

Dr. Ruby McMillian Wade, Th.D., founder of *The Kingdom Prescription*—also the title of one of her books—shared her biblically based approach to health and wellness, which she teaches both through in-person programs and her website of the same name.

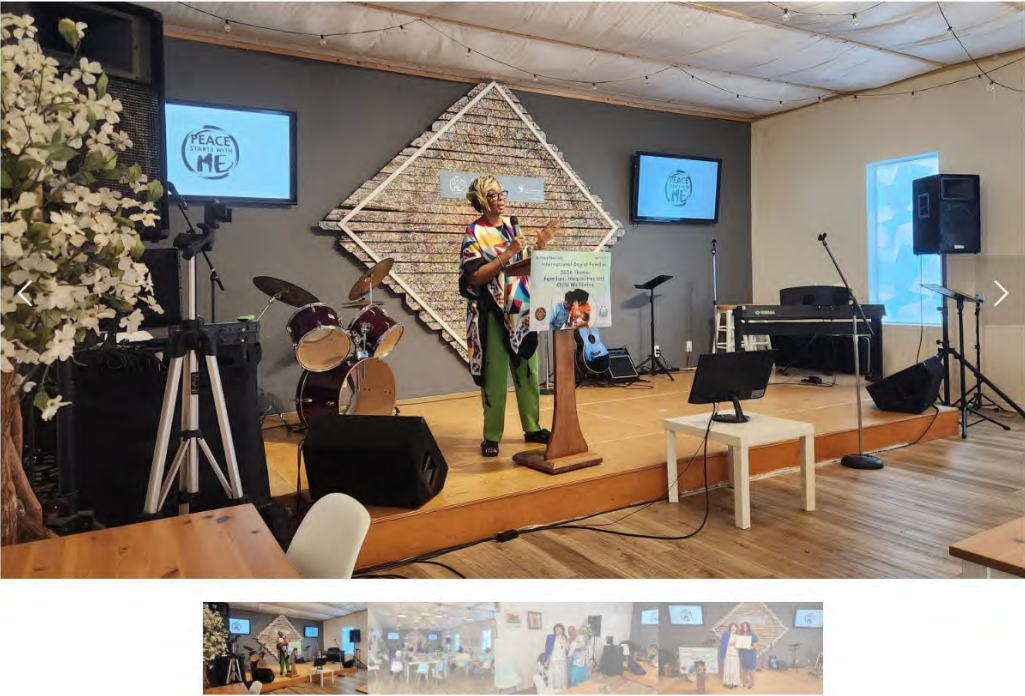
The second speaker, Makiva Johnson, serves as Volunteer Coordinator for the Mobile offices of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). CASA is a nonprofit organization whose trained volunteers advocate for abused and neglected children, helping judges make informed decisions that serve the children's best interests. Many of the children assisted by CASA come from families affected by divorce, substance abuse, or incarceration. Ms. Allen also volunteers with CASA.

Following the opening invocation, Ms. Allen introduced the Peace Starts With Me Alliance, briefly explaining its three providential partner organizations. To illustrate the Alliance's vision and impact, she showed a video of the 2019 Peace Starts With Me Rally at Madison Square Garden in New York, which was met with enthusiastic applause from the audience.

Ms. Allen then presented the mission and activities of WFWP, followed by a video highlighting the worldwide work of True Mother. During her presentation on UPF, she explained the principles behind the Ambassador for Peace recognition and presented a framed Ambassador for Peace certificate to Mrs. Forlisher French, National Day of Prayer Coordinator for the City of Mobile, who expressed her heartfelt gratitude upon receiving the honor. Ms. Allen also gave a brief introduction to the work of ACLC.

One of the most heartwarming moments of the afternoon was a dance performance by four children from the church to the popular song "Your Way's Better" by Forrest Frank. The children were guided by a second-generation young woman from the congregation, and their joyful performance was warmly received by the audience.

Before the program concluded, Ms. Lovett offered brief remarks expressing her appreciation for the event and its message of unity and family values. The gathering ended with everyone joining in the WFWP theme song, "Let There Be Peace on Earth," bringing the celebration to a meaningful and inspiring close.





WFWP HI- June Events

Written by : Donna Shaver

AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY VETERANS GIFT BAGS AND CARD-MAKING PROJECT

On June 20, 2026, eleven members of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary gathered at the Kapilina Community Center from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. for their monthly meeting and July 4th Veterans Gift Bag and Card-Making Project. Three participants—Doris Edwards, Marie Francoise Mitchell, and Donna Shaver—are also members of the Women's Federation for World Peace Hawai'i (WFWP-HI), strengthening the growing partnership between the two organizations.

The afternoon began with members creating handmade Independence Day cards and adding personal messages before assembling gift bags for veterans. The formal meeting opened with Mimi Mitchell leading the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by words of inspiration from Melodie Bell and reports from officers and committee leaders.

A major focus of the meeting was planning the upcoming AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Hawai'i Post HI-001 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, scheduled for July 11, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Kapilina Community Center. Members enthusiastically shared ideas, confirmed plans, and finalized preparations to ensure a meaningful event honoring the organization's dedicated volunteers.

As expressed during the meeting:

"Our volunteers are the heartbeat of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. They show up every day to ensure our veterans are never forgotten, and now it's our turn to serve them. This event is a dedicated space for our selfless helpers to recharge, connect, and feel the community's gratitude."

The luncheon will also serve as a fundraiser to support future programs and activities benefiting veterans.

Following the meeting, members completed the veterans' gift bags, and volunteers were assigned to deliver them to hospitals and nursing homes throughout the State of Hawai'i before the July 4th holiday. Facilities included Maunalani Nursing & Rehabilitation Center and Hale Ho Aloha Nursing Home. These visits brought joy and encouragement to veterans while expressing heartfelt appreciation for their service. Many recipients shared their gratitude that community organizations continue to honor and remember those who have served our nation.

As more WFWP-HI members become active in the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, a meaningful collaboration continues to flourish—one rooted in community service, relationship-building, and the practice of living for the sake of others. This partnership reflects WFWP's vision of building a world of lasting peace through the "Logic of Love" while supporting the Peace Starts with Me Alliance initiative.

WFWP-HI MEMBERS ATTEND THE HAWAI'I ACLC PRAYER BREAKFAST

On Saturday, June 27, 2026, the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC) Prayer Breakfast was held at the Honolulu Family Learning Center in Mānoa, Hawai'i. The event was hosted by Reverend James Mitchell and his wife, Marie Francoise Mitchell.

Sixteen people attended, including five WFWP-HI members: Rafia Hasina, Doris Edwards, Diane Araki, Keiko Nakama, and Mimi Mitchell.

During the program, ACLC Pastor Samuel Samuela and Doris Edwards shared heartfelt testimonies about their experiences during the 2026 Peace Starts with Me Alliance Korea Pilgrimage. Both described how deeply the pilgrimage had impacted their faith and expressed their desire to participate again next year.

Mimi Mitchell reflected on the importance of working together across organizations, stating, "On the foundation of True Parents' vision, we each bring our unique gifts." She shared that several attendees had first become connected through WFWP, while her husband, Reverend James Mitchell, serves through ACLC—demonstrating the powerful partnership of husband and wife working together to advance True Parents' vision.

The gathering also provided an opportunity for participants of different faith traditions to share their personal experiences. Rafia Hasina spoke about her participation in the 2025 WFWP Korea Pilgrimage, contributing to a spirit of mutual understanding, respect, and fellowship.

The Prayer Breakfast beautifully united people of diverse faith communities as one family centered on Heavenly Parent, True Parents, and Jesus Christ, while reflecting ACLC's continuing commitment to carrying forward the spirit and legacy of True Parents through interfaith cooperation and service.

WATCH PARTY CENTRAL – TABERNACLE CHOIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY HOLLYWOOD BOWL "SONGS OF HOPE"

On Saturday, June 27, 2026, WFWP member Elizabeth Lim invited members of the WFWP-HI Chapter to attend the Watch Party Central—Tabernacle Choir 100th Anniversary Hollywood Bowl "Songs of Hope," held from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Honolulu Stake Tabernacle on Beretania Street in Honolulu.

Five WFWP sisters—Elizabeth Lim, Mimi Mitchell, Diane Araki, Debbie Nanod, and Donna Shaver—attended with family members and guests.

The event supported three international humanitarian organizations—CARE, Helen Keller International, and The

Hunger Project—with one hundred percent of ticket proceeds donated and matched to benefit these charitable causes.

Guests were warmly welcomed by young missionaries and invited to enjoy a delicious local Hawaiian dinner before entering the sanctuary, where a large screen and immersive sound system broadcast the Hollywood Bowl celebration.

President Dennis Takashi Fujii welcomed attendees and offered the opening prayer.

The evening featured an inspiring musical celebration by the Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square, joined by renowned performers David Foster, Katharine McPhee, Stephanie J. Block, Sebastian Arcelus, The Bonner Family, Daniel Emmet, and Donny Osmond. The performances celebrated one hundred years of music, hope, and faith while uplifting the audience through messages of unity and service.

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints warmly welcomed everyone with genuine hospitality, reflecting the true spirit of aloha through kindness, fellowship, and service.

The evening concluded with renewed appreciation for the power of music to unite people of all backgrounds and faiths. As quoted by Holy Mother Han:

"All we need to do is to let the love of God shine from our hearts and radiate all around us, and trust—absolutely trust—that it will create miracles of forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace."

The event beautifully reflected WFWP's mission of building one global family under God by promoting compassion, service, and harmony among people of every faith and culture.

