

***BUILDING WILPF
WITH THE
JANE ADDAMS CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS***

A TOOLKIT FOR WILPF MEMBERS

Prepared by the
Peace Education Projects Committee
Jane Addams Peace Association

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Building WILPF with the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards

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Building WILPF with the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards

INTRODUCTION

The Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA), which is the educational affiliate of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), has presented awards for children's books annually since 1953.

Over the years, many WILPF branches have ordered copies of the selected books for use in their communities. Promoting the awards can be a successful method of promoting WILPF, in attracting new members, raising WILPF's visibility, educating the community about WILPF's mission and activities, strengthening and building ties to sister organizations in the community.

The JAPA Peace Education Projects (PEP) Committee has prepared this toolkit for WILPF branches and at-large members to help them use the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards to promote WILPF's work effectively. We have drawn on the successful experiences of many branches and added some suggestions of our own.

The toolkit is a work in progress. We welcome your ideas and your experiences with the book awards for inclusion in the kit and your feedback on the materials and suggestions we have included.

The PEP committee members hope that you will find the toolkit useful and we look forward to hearing from you with your suggestions. You can contact us by email at:

Joan Goddard jam@batnet.com
Judith Joseph judithjoseph@hotmail.com
Sandy Silver silver@cruzio.com

You can also contact us by postal mail at:

Peace Education Project Committee
Jane Addams Peace Association
777 United Nations Plaza, 6th Floor
New York NY 10017

The Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA), has presented awards for children's books annually since 1953.

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TIMELINE AND PROCESS

The Jane Addams Children's Book Awards titles are selected each year by a national selection committee composed of 10 to 14 members, who are concerned with children's books and their social value.¹ All the committee members are WILPF members.² WILPF members who are interested in serving on the selection committee can contact the JAPA Executive Director, Linda Belle, at the JAPA office (information below).

❖ On April 28 -

The Award winning books are announced by JAPA. Information about the books selected for awards are available at JAPA's website, www.janeaddamspeace.org.

The date chosen for the announcement is the anniversary of the date in 1915 when an international group of women (later known as WILPF) met in The Hague, Netherlands to find ways to end the First World War and to prevent future wars.

❖ On the 3rd Friday in October -

Award presentation ceremony in New York City. An invitation to the ceremony appears in *Peace & Freedom* in the fall prior to the ceremony and on the JAPA webpage.

❖ After the October Awards ceremony -

The books will be available for WILPF branches to order by contacting:

Jane Addams Peace Association
777 United Nations Plaza, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Telephone: + 1 212-682-8830 ~ Fax +1 212-286-8211 ~ Email japa@igc.org

The price charged to WILPF branches is \$10 per book plus \$10 total for shipping and handling for each order. The cost for the 2007 set of 6 books including shipping and handling is \$70.

Note: The book supply runs out after a few months (usually by February) so your branch may want to order early.

Seals for the books are also available from the JAPA office. The seals are inscribed with the names of both JAPA and WILPF.

¹ The guidelines the committee uses in selecting the award books can be accessed at the "Book Guidelines & Submission" link on the "book awards" page of the JAPA website (www.janeaddamspeace.org).

² Guidelines for membership are available from the JAPA office.

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PROMOTION IDEAS

BOOKSTORE DISPLAYS AND EVENTS

- **Encourage local bookstores to order the books.** Offer them information on the awards, a supply of seals, and bookmarks³ with information about WILPF. Encourage your members and friends to purchase the books from the store for their children and grandchildren. Stores will be more likely to order and display the books in future years if sales are sufficient.
- **Ask local bookstores to display the winning and honor books with information about JAPA and WILPF.** Good dates for the displays may be around September 6th (Jane Addams Birthday), December 10th (Human Rights Day), in April after the awards are announced, in October after the awards are presented, and at dates relevant and appropriate to the topics and themes of the books, for example, Hiroshima Day, Black History Month, or International Women's Day.
A Visual Example: One award selection committee member takes photographs of Jane Addams, a Jane Addams doll and the award books to classrooms. She links events in the books to a timeline of significant events in Addams' life.
- **Invite a member of the JAPA book award selection committee who lives in your area to discuss the award process and the current and previous award books at a local bookstore, school or library.**⁴ Have a WILPF member introduce WILPF and provide information about WILPF's local activities.
- **Invite the author or illustrator of an award book to sign and read from the book[s] at a local bookstore.** Authors can usually be contacted through their publishers or through their own webpages. Have a WILPF member introduce the author and talk about WILPF's activities. If the authors/illustrators are not available, ask local experts on the subjects of the books to discuss the topics. For example, a faculty member from a local college could discuss Japanese internment during World War II, the topic of both the award winning books for 2007 -- or a local coach of girl's sports could talk about TITLE IX, the topic of the 2006 award book, *Let Me Play*. A children's literature teacher at a local college or university would be another appropriate speaker.

³ Sample bookmarks from the Portland, Oregon branch are included in this toolkit

⁴ A list of members of the book award committee with their locations is included in the press release from JAPA announcing the awards.

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DONATIONS TO LIBRARIES, SCHOOLS OR YOUTH CENTERS

- **Donate the books to your local library, youth center or daycare center.** Donations of the books to your local library can be done at a presentation ceremony, with readings to or by children and information about WILPF and JAPA. The library may be willing to display the books for a time in a prominent place in the library. Offer to read the award books at a children's story hour at the library and bring information about WILPF to share with the parents. Encourage your local libraries to subscribe to *Peace & Freedom*.
- **Donate the books to a local school.** Have a presentation ceremony at a school assembly or a classroom. Ask the children and/or teachers to read from the books. Choose a date that relates to the themes or topics of the books or a date that fits into the teacher's curriculum (for example, the 2007 books relating to the themes of racial justice could be presented during Black History Month).

PUBLICIZE IN THE MEDIA, IN BRANCH NEWSLETTERS, ON LIST SERVES AND/OR BRANCH WEBPAGES

- **Send out press releases** when the awards are announced and/or presented⁵ or when your branch is planning to donate the books at an event. Post the award announcement on your own branch webpage. Notify your e-mail list. *Note: The press is more likely to send reporters to cover events with well-known speakers. Newspapers may include the announcement in the paper as a brief article or a calendar listing, especially in smaller communities.*
- **Write an article** about the book awards and your branch's activities for your local newspaper or other appropriate journal, for example a parent-teacher newsletter.

BOOK DISPLAY TABLES AT CONFERENCES

- **Set up a display table of the award books** and WILPF literature at conferences of librarians and teachers and at peace and women's conferences. Organizations of librarians⁶ and teachers usually meet at least once a year in each state.⁷

⁵ Sample press releases are included in this toolkit.

⁶ A calendar of state and regional library association conferences is available online at www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/chapters/planningcalendar/planningcalendar.htm

⁷ Contact info for your state's librarian or teachers organizations is available at the following websites: www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/chapters/stateandregional/stateregional.htm (American Library Association) and the www.nea.org/aboutnea/affiliates.html (National Education Association)

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- **Booksellers' conferences and book festivals are other arenas** where you may be able to display the award books along with literature about WILPF and JAPA. If the branch purchases the books that are displayed at a bookstore or online, the books can be sold and the profits (if any) kept by the branch.⁸

WORKSHOPS ON PEACE EDUCATION

- **Present a workshop at a local college or university or at a conference of teachers, librarians, or activists on the importance of peace and social justice education for children and the role of children's literature in furthering that education.** Highlight the book awards and link them to the ongoing activities of your branch. Local children's librarians, elementary or high school teachers, college or university faculty, peace activists, children's book authors or illustrators, parents and children could be invited as presenters.

OTHER PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Sponsor a community activity that relates to the theme of an award book for that year.
- Hold a celebration of Jane Addams birthday around September 6th to highlight Addams' contributions to WILPF with a display table and information about the book awards.
- Meet with teachers and librarians to provide them with information about the book awards that could fit into their teaching units on peace and social justice issues.
- Make a presentation to children's literature classes about the books with information about WILPF and JAPA.
- Start a literature circle or book club for girls. Discuss Jane Addams, the award process and the award books.

BRANCH BUILDING AND FUNDRAISING

- **Send a fundraising letter to your branch's members and friends to raise the money to purchase sets of the books for donation purposes.** Use the opportunity to describe your branch's activities and plans.
- **If you are a small group or even an individual member of WILPF hoping to form a branch, use book donations or displays as a first project to generate interest and energy around WILPF.**

⁸ Award books purchased from JAPA at the branch discount price can only be used for donations to schools, libraries or other non-profit institutions.

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PRACTICE TIPS

- **Document your process in writing** with details including contact information about when, where, how, who. It will be a lot easier the next year if you have kept a record.
- **Make personal contacts with media folks after sending out a press release about an event.** They are more likely to attend if reminded and encouraged. If the media isn't present, have a member of the branch take photographs of the event. Submit the photographs with your own write-up to the local papers being sure to include information about WILPF.
- **Read the books** so you will be able to answer questions about them from the media or others.
- **Start small.** If your branch has limited womanpower, start with the simplest activity and build up over the years.
- **Authors and illustrators may ask for a fee and/or travel expenses to appear at an event in your community.** Two ways the branch may minimize these expenses are (1) a tie-in with a planned book tour being made by the author or illustrator to your city or a nearby city, or (2) inviting an author or illustrator who lives in a nearby locality
- **Find community partners for your promotion activities.** Many of the activities described above could be implemented with partner organizations to lighten the workload and build ties with sister (and brother) organizations and institutions in your community:

Librarians (individuals and/or organizations)

Friends of the Library organizations

Teachers (individuals and /or organizations)

Parent-Teacher organizations

Daycare centers

Youth centers (for example, Boys and Girls Clubs)

Bookstores

Organizations related to the themes and topics of the award books

Women's groups (NOW, Planned Parenthood, NARAL, AAUW, etc)

Peace and anti-war groups (AFSC, Veterans peace groups)

Civil Rights groups (NAACP, ACLU, National Lawyers Guild, Amnesty Int'l)

College and University faculty (education, library science, women's studies, women's centers)

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CHILDREN'S PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION WEB RESOURCES

Amelia Bloomer Project annually publishes annotated lists of recommended children's books that advance women's equality. The project is sponsored by the Feminist Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Roundtable of the American Library Association.
Libr.org/ftf/bloomer.html

Cyber School Bus is a global teaching and learning project of the United Nations.
<http://www.cyberschoolbus.un.org/peace/home.asp>

Educators for Social Responsibility maintains a website with resources for teachers, and parents.
www.esrnational.org

Great Decisions in the Classroom was developed by the Foreign Policy Association to support educators and students who are committed to teaching and learning about international affairs.
<http://www.fpa.org/info-url4715>

Human Rights Education: The Fourth R is a free online magazine for human rights education including lesson plans and resources published by Amnesty International USA.
www.amnestyusa.org/education/4thr.html

Multicultural Pavilion, a project of *Edchange* provides resources for k-12 classrooms including lesson plans and booklists.
www.edchange.org/multicultural

National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) is an organization of educators and others fostering multicultural education. NAME publishes a quarterly journal, *Multicultural Perspectives*, available free to members.
www.nameorg.org

Parenting for Peace is primarily a blog for parents, teachers and others on issues of peace education.
www.parentingforpeace.blogspot.com

Rethinking Schools Online is an online subscription education journal focusing on issues of equality. Includes reviews of children's books, DVD's and websites.
www.rethinkingschools.org

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SoJust.net, a project of EdChange offers a free online library of documents relating to social justice, civil rights, equity, peace and activism.

www.sojust.net

Teaching for Change offers online catalogs, resources and links for teaching human rights education.

www.teachingforchange.org

Teaching Tolerance is a web project of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

www.tolerance.org.

Understanding Prejudice was established in 2002 with funding from the National Science Foundation and McGraw-Hill. The purpose of the site is to offer educational resources and information on prejudice, discrimination, multiculturalism and diversity.

The site is focused primarily on college level education. However it included an Anti-Bias Bibliography for Teachers aimed at elementary and secondary educators at

<http://www.understandingprejudice.org/readroom/teachbib.htm>.

World Peace Project for Children promotes world peace by educating children about global matters that concern them and by giving them tools to build positive connections with children in other cultures. Focuses on the Sadako project that encourages children around the world to make folding paper cranes.

<http://www.sadako.org/>

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SAMPLE BRANCH BOOK DONATION PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 26, 2007

Contact: Jane Peacewoman

Peaceville Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

[Telephone number]

[e-mail address]

The Peaceville Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is pleased to announce the donation of award winning children's books to the Peaceville Community Library at a ceremony at

Peaceville Community Library

[Address of library]

[DATE]

[TIME]

The ceremony will feature readings from the Jane Addams Children's Book Award winning books by [librarians, teachers, local activists, local actors and children.] and activities for families.

The 2007 award winning books are:

[Titles, authors, publishers and brief descriptions of books, go to the Jane Addams Peace Association website for details.]

The awards are presented annually by the Jane Addams Peace Association (the educational affiliate of WILPF) to the books that most effectively address themes or topics that promote peace, justice, world community, and equality of the sexes and races.

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[Note: the ### indicates the end of the press release]

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SAMPLE BRANCH BOOK DONATION CEREMONY INVITATION

The Peaceville Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) invites you to attend the donation ceremony of the 2007 Jane Addams Peace Association's award winning children's books to the Peaceville Community Library on Monday, December 10, 2007 from 2-4 PM at the library at [address].

Since 1953, the Jane Addams Peace Association, the educational affiliate of WILPF, annually awards books that best promote peace, justice, and equality of the sexes and races. This year's award winners are:

[Titles, authors, publishers and brief descriptions of books]

The donation ceremony will include readings by [librarians, teachers, activists, children], information for parents on peace education and activities related to [the themes of the award winning books], food and fun.

For more information about the event or about WILPF please contact:

[Include your contact information here.]