

Women's Institute
for Freedom of the Press



45th Anniversary 1972 - 2017

Associate Reflections



created by Arya Boris

45 Anniversary Associate Reflections

I started working with the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press in 1974, editing the first edition of the Directory of Women's Media and indexing Media Report to Women. The following year I officially relocated to work full time with the founder, Donna Allen, my mother. I had the privilege of becoming the director of WIFP in 1985 and working closely with Donna in WIFP for twenty-five years.

WIFP formed the Associate Network in 1977. As a celebration of our 45th year, I asked some of our long-time Associates to reflect on what WIFP has meant to them. I suggested a few questions they could respond to if they chose:

- 1. What has WIFP meant to you (at any or several points in our 45 years)?*
- 2. What impact has WIFP made in its decades of existence?*
- 3. What motivated you to become an Associate?*
- 4. What is needed for women in media (and in general) to make more progress?*
- 5. What is needed to bring us closer to media democracy? (WIFP is once again working on Net Neutrality.)*

I also asked them to say something about themselves. These are the thoughtful and kind reflections.

Martha Allen, Director



Susan J. Kaufman, PhD

It was 1977 when I first joined WIFP, and I was working in radio in Upper Michigan. I read about the Houston Women's Conference organizers calling for journalists to work on a publication. I called your mother. The next thing I knew I was helping to cover the U.N. Decade for Women Conference in Houston, TX working on the daily newspaper "Houston Breakthrough." It was the beginning of a long and amazing journey and an absolutely joyful professional relationship and personal friendship with your mother and you and hundreds of other women across the globe. Thank you for making it possible for ensuring generations of women in media to reach out to each other, developing networks that continue to bring the changes that must come, if democracy is to survive and thrive in subsequent decades.

Sue Kaufman, Ph.D., Professor Emeriti Eastern Illinois University

Birgitte Jallov

WIFP has had a significant impact on my life. During the UN conference in Copenhagen 1980, I was lucky that one of the two women we hosted in our small student apartment was Donna Allen. We shared what we had and it was received in that spirit. We had wonderful talks and grew close. Half a year later I was accepted to become an intern with the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press. I was there, full time from September 1982 to January 1983.

During my time at the WIFP I assisted with the many menial tasks required to make the institute run during half of my time time – and the other half time I spent working on projects related to my own area of study and interest: alternative communication, women's radio and freedom of speech. The WIFP with Donna and Martha was a very inspiring space of freedom, challenge and growth. I experienced liberation and release of energies in a very new way. With Martha I experienced concerts with Holly Near and Sweet Honey in the Rock, who both have accompanied me ever since. This experience was magic to me, opening new inquisitive corners of my mind, new freedoms and an intellectual and personal openness.

Two sentences from Donna Allen, which I carry with me in all I do, are:

Women should speak for themselves – All should speak for themselves.

Don't just plan and implement! Remember to allow yourself to immerse yourself in creative confusion. That is necessary to break new ground, to find new and unexpected connections and answers.

WIFP has meant all of that to me. I was reconfirmed in my belief that you have to stand up and fight for what you believe in; I learnt a lot more about what 'women and media' is all about; and my basic participatory approach to my work, which I have become known and recognized for ever since, is rooted in the DA/WIFP principle that 'Women/People should speak for themselves'.

I was honoured to be invited to become an Associate and I was very happy to be part of this network of powerful women who, like I, in their work and beyond, worked to secure the public spaces that will never be freely given. I felt good there.

I believe firmly that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the best set of guiding principles towards a just world – it gives us a set of values, based on which wrong can be determined from right. Democracy is the best organising principle I know, for a space where people are treated along the Human rights principles. Media is recognized as the fourth pillar of democracy, to keep and uphold the division of powers in check as free media are the single best guarantee of a democracy – also when they cannot do the 'trick' all by themselves, of course!



Birgitte Jallov is Director, Coach, Adviser, Trainer and Consultant at EMPOWERHOUSE. She is the author of the excellent book Empowerment Radio.

Nana Farika Berhane

The Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press provided an international outlet for me to express my opinion on gender imbalance within the Rastafari culture as promoted by many males who had taken leadership roles. It also served as an umbrella that shielded me from persecution, during the terrorism unleashed on the Caribbean, and enabled me to go in and out of the island safely.



The media is one of the main means of keeping people's freedom and consciousness subdued. It promotes and encourages women's subjugation and encourages them to become the playthings of males. By giving women around the world, the opportunity to develop and express themselves and by fighting for freedom of the press, the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press is providing leadership in breaking down

barriers erected to prevent press freedom. The task that WIFP has set out to achieve and the progress it is making to attain its goal has encouraged me to become an associate.

Women in the media need to develop more solidarity among ourselves. We need to establish forums and meeting places where we can exchange ideas and get to know one another. More emphasis needs to be placed on strategizing about overcoming the media bias that still exists against press freedom and the stereotyping of women. The training of young girls to unleash their possibilities so that women of the world rise to their true capabilities needs to be promoted and prioritized by women writers. Women who believe in net neutrality need to raise their voices for freedom and peace while shouting with their pens against war, injustice, and tyranny.

Farika Berhane was born in Kingston, Jamaica. Known then as Norma Hamilton, she was a journalist at *The Gleaner*, Jamaica's national newspaper and editor of the Pan African Secretariat's Pan African Digest. Farika organized the first international Rastafari Women's Conference at Howard University in 2003. She was featured at WIFP's "Women's Words Now: Resistance, Reflection, Remembrance" in 2015 after her latest book was released *I-LAN IV Di SUN*.



Tobe Levin, Ph.D.



For forty-five years, the Women’s Institute for Freedom of the Press has been advocating to increase equity and visibility for women journalists and women’s issues in a media landscape formerly dismissive of females’ importance. I’m honored by the invitation to share my views on this accomplishment, for women’s media means so much to me personally – as a publisher of books about female genital mutilation (UnCUT/VOICES Press) -- and for the specific injustice I have been working to avert for 40 years. In 1977, not coincidentally, it was media -- an article in the German feminist magazine *EMMA* (our counterpart toMS) – that first informed me about ablation of girls’ genitalia. Based on interviews with infibulation victims in Sudan, the piece, titled simply “Clitoridectomy” (what’s that? so many readers asked...) ended with a plea. “Here no one talks about it. TV, radio, newspapers are silent. We depend on an outcry from abroad.” That appeal ignited campaigns in Germany that continue into the new millennium, bringing welcome opportunities to share news about projects against FGM. In fact, the theme of my last talk at WIFP, February 14, 2016, was networking. I introduced efforts to bring together on this issue journalists, scholars and activists, including Women’s Action against FGM – Japan (WAAF) where I had recently presented. What happened next is rewarding: reporting on media in Germany and the UK, I showed the Japanese three cartoon films made for children – titled *The True Story of Ghafi and Rhobi; My Body, My Rules; and Needlecraft*. WAAF asked FORWARD (UK) for the rights and has produced the tales in Japanese. Thus, the global reach of the present movement against female genital mutilation owes a great deal to media outreach and the strong stance women have taken against the abuse of FGM.

Thank you for all you’ve done to make suppressed voices heard, and congratulations on reaching this landmark, your 45th anniversary.

Tobe Levin is a professor, translator, and activist who speaks 6 languages, a Ph.D. in comparative literature from Cornell University. An activist against female genital mutilation since 1977, she founded UnCUT/VOICES Press in 2009; co-founded FORWARD – Germany in 1998; and is active in the EuroNet-FGM. She blogs at www.uncutvoices.wordpress.com.

Join the Walk to End FGM on October 21, 2017 in Washington, DC.

Register at www.globalwomanpeacefoundation.org

Maurine Beasley, Ph.D.



WIFP is important to me - and to many others, I'm sure - because it addresses issues that frequently are overlooked or downplayed in the mainstream media. I believe a robust democracy needs numerous streams of opinion, but I do not believe in promoting hatred or a breakdown in civil government. I remember that Dr. Donna Allen, when she founded WIFP, stressed that its aim was not to attack others but to raise important subjects through a feminist lens. I originally was inspired by the passion that Dr. Allen showed for social change through the media. I continue to be inspired and impressed by the committed young people

who participate in internship programs under the direction of Dr. Martha Allen. Her love of learning (like that of her mother) and dedication to progressive causes give me hope that the world can be made a better place.

WIFP has been a leader in identifying areas where women have been mistreated and used a fact-based approach to point out their subjugation. WIFP does not deal in "fake news." It deals with the lives of real women all over the globe. It gives them respect, and I personally certainly respect its achievements.

On a personal level WIFP published my first book (coauthored/edited with Sheila Gibbons) *Women in Media: A Documentary Source Book* because no commercial publisher would. Dr. Donna Allen helped me greatly - she through the WIFP made me feel my work in women's history was important, while others shrugged it off. What can we do to improve the status of women in the media today? One answer: Make women more aware of their history.

On that note I would like to add that I have just published a new book: *Ruby A Black: Eleanor Roosevelt, Puerto Rice, and Political Journalism in Washington* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2017). Dr. Donna Allen encouraged me to go more deeply into Eleanor Roosevelt's press conferences for women reporters only and this book is one outcome of my research into these conferences.

I am a retired professor of journalism at the University of Maryland who has found Dr. Allen's enthusiasm for Eleanor Roosevelt guiding me in academic writing for some four decades.

Zermarie Deacon

It was an amazing opportunity to learn to think critically about democracy and the role of the media. It was also an opportunity to learn a little bit about how D.C. functions. What I learned during my internship and through the work of the WIFP informs my teaching on social change to this day.

The organization and Dr. Donna Allen made such an impact upon me that I wanted to maintain my association with the WIFP and to stay current and knowledgeable about the work being done. I think it is meaningful work, and I wanted to stay associated with it in some way.



The mere ways that women are represented needs to be altered in order for their voices to be effectively heard. As long as women are used and represented as objects, it remains difficult to create gender equity.

I am an associate professor of Human Relations and an adjunct associate professor in the Women's and Gender Studies program at the University of Oklahoma. My work is focussed on communities recovery from large-scale trauma, especially women are impacted.

Cheris Kramarae

So many people owe so much to WIFP. In the early 70s, many of us were scrambling to find information, networks, ideas for activism in journalism. Donna Allen's *Media Report to Women* provided us with national and international reports, names, resources, plans, conferences, inspiration and motivation.



We were all very active in those days, but I think that Donna (who seemed to survive primarily on carrot sticks eaten at her desk) was the hardest working woman I knew. She had both vision and concrete plans, and was always eager to work with others around the world.

Martha Allen inherited and improved on those earlier plans, also eager to working with many others for the promotion of women's work in the media. A great deal of work by many has been built on and around the platform of WIFP and the work of all the associates and interns. Our work to protect and increase media democracy and net neutrality is needed more than ever. Thank you for all that the WIFP continues to do!

Cheris Kramarae is an activist, author, and former teacher. She is co-editor of the Routledge International Encyclopedia of Women, and of many recent articles on social media and gender.

Margaret Gallagher

I first came into contact with WIFP in about 1978, through *Media Report to Women*. I was doing a review of research, actions and networks in the field of women and media for UNESCO (eventually published by them as *Unequal Opportunities: The Case of Women and the Media*). *Media Report to Women* was completely unique at the time – a treasure trove of information, research and contacts that spanned the globe. In 1979, I met Donna Allen in Washington. Her energy, breadth of knowledge and generosity were so impressive, and we remained in contact for the rest of her life, sometimes collaborating on projects, and regularly sharing information and ideas.



From the outset, WIFP was a truly visionary initiative. It's impossible to quantify, but vast numbers of people must have been educated, informed and inspired by the ideas that flowed from WIFP – a communication revolution for women, creation of a democratic media system, an international communication system for women. At a practical level, publications such as *Media Report to Women* and the *Directory of Women's Media* have been tremendously important in helping to build women's networks globally. Some of the WIFP initiatives – for instance the Women's News International (WNI), which was established to report news from the UN Women's Decade Conference in Nairobi in 1985, were revolutionary and pre-figured later international women's news services that were eventually made possible with digital technology.

It's such a terrific source of information and contacts, and it's an honour to be associated with one of the foundational movements for women and media. Endless creativity, analysis and reflection. The ground is constantly shifting. The women and media situation is part of a much bigger set of issues to do with political structures, economic/commercial power and influence. We need to work on all fronts simultaneously. Misogyny continues to be a huge problem.

Thoughtful, analytical activism to optimise use of the new/alt media/social media networks and tools. Media structures are changing, and with them the power of the established media is no longer as impregnable as it seemed a decade ago. Think digital. I am optimistic.

Margaret Gallagher (Ireland). Independent scholar and activist. Currently I am working to support the involvement of young women in public life, and am a member of the International Steering Committee of the Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG).

Haruko Watanabe

Currently I am the Chairperson of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan and organize press tours and cultural events after serving on the Board for six times. "Women Pioneers" series are now put in book forms together with DVD and are used as textbooks in women studies and Japan studies courses. Several academia has taken a part and has added footnotes and bios.

I am amazed to learn that Fusae Ichikawa, pioneer politician, needs bio to explain her life to younger generation. However, I feel lucky that this work has given jobs for young academia.

I am much honored to tell you I am the first international associate of WIFP. Donna Allen, your mother and the founder of WIFP, was my soul friend in the media. I met her at the first UN-UNESCO Women & Media Seminar in 1980 in New York when I presented "Women Pioneer Series" video produced as a response to recommendations of the first World Conference on Women in Mexico City in 1975.



Actually, women in Mexico demanded "an oral herstory" using tape recorders as the printed history had been dominated by men. However, I decided recording women's history deserved the highest media technology, which was "video" at that time. HKW produced video-television documentaries of Denmark Conference of Women in 1980 with all female crew which inspired other countries to send all female crew to Women's Forward Looking Conference in Nairobi 1985.

I was drafted by UNESCO to pioneer women's media development and organized seminars and training courses in Asia-Pacific and African regions from 1981 to 1990. Utilizing Nairobi conference, HKW trained African women journalists and they produced the first documentary for television by all female crew.

During Beijing Conference of Women in 1995, HKW organized "Women & Media Center and organized seminars and workshops for women journalists and NGOs. In addition, HKW rented out 250 most advanced mobile phones to journalists and NGOs free of any charges as I know public phones were often out of order and were not fixed on time. These mobile phones were contributed by NEC and all phones were donated to the Chinese women's organizations and the Beijing Telecommunications Bureau upon completion of the Beijing Conference.

Probably, HKW's best contribution to development of Women and Media is the Creation of Japan Global Forum in New York. This is the biggest NGO Forum with 2000 participants from all over the world held in conjunction with UN Women 2000. The program of the forum includes the journalists encounter and five panels: Peace, Development Girls, Aging, Equality of Women & Men and NGO. Global leaders volunteered to serve as panelists. The forum was completed with Fiesta (Dancing.)

For these years, I also taught media and women studies at Sophia University, Tokyo contributed articles to the Depthnews Asia, the Japan Times and other media.

Pamela Creedon

Dear Martha,

When I entered academia, I learned about WIFP from members of the Commission on the Status of Women. The valuable insight provided by Donna, yourself and so many others helped me develop my feminist research agenda.

After the Women's March, in January, I was privileged to be invited to the



WIFP headquarters and meet you, your family, and so many others dedicated to WIFP. The interns who met with us will continue to move our agenda forward.

The support and collegiality of WIFP reinvigorates us all to continue our efforts to achieve equity for women journalists. The principles and goals of WIFP reflect my values motivated me to become an Associate. Supporting WIFP is a privilege.

Women seem to be breaking the glass ceiling in various news organizations, e.g., the *Washington Post* now has women editors of four major sports. I am concerned that today's 24/7 communication streams have cracked the glass ceiling in many directions, which means breaking the glass ceiling in traditional media may be yesterday's news. Media democracy is a tough term. We can argue that social networking--tweets, blogs, etc., has made media democratic--followers choose leaders. But what has happened to journalism and journalistic values?

Pam Creedon is currently the Acting Dean of the Zayed University College of Communication and Media Sciences, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates and Professor Emeritus at University of Iowa. She started academic career as a professor at The Ohio State University and entered academic administration as director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Kent State University and later director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Iowa. Former President of the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication, she is editor/author in three books: *The Edge of Change: Women in the Twenty-First-Century Press*, *Women in Mass Communication: Challenging Gender Values and Women, Media and Sport* and is on the editorial board of *Public Relations Review*. She worked as a public relations practitioner for 15 years before entering academe.

I'm working on a book chapter: Media Narratives of Gender in the Contentious Conservative Age of Trump (Routledge)

My papers for the International Association of Mass Communication Research in July are:

- 1). Transformation in Emirati Culture Through Gender Equity and Tolerance: A Student Perspective
- 2). 2019 Abu Dhabi Special Olympics World Summer Games: Cultural Coverage of Disability

Elayne Clift

I have not been very actively involved with WIFP over the years but I have always valued its mission, objectives and actions. I have fond memories of the early days when women were struggling as journalists to be printed, respected and included in the work of dialoguing about and documenting the myriad challenges that women continue to face, locally, nationally, and internationally. We always felt so supported by WIFP. Along with other feminist watch groups and activist organizations, WIFP has helped immeasurably in bringing legitimacy to the work of women in media. I am among the many members who are grateful for that.



Elayne Clift is an internationally published feminist writer and journalist
Latest book (4th anthology) *TAKE CARE: Tales, Tips and Love from Women Caregivers* (Braugher Books, 2017)

Alix Dobkin



Since I don't regularly follow and document women in the media, it is and has been deeply comforting to know that WIFP is keeping track, keeping us informed and advocating on our behalf. Giving a wide range of individual women information about our public standing as WIFP does provides us with an invaluable sense of a like-minded movement and community. My admiration for your work motivated me to become an Associate.

Needed: More naming of male violence underlying and defining patriarchy is needed for women in media (and in general) to make more progress. Also needed: More solidarity and support for feminist values among and between women and our allies is needed to bring us closer to media democracy.

Folk singer in the 1960's and currently a co-director of OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change), I have been celebrating blatant Lesbianism in song and story since 1972. Among six albums on three CDs and a songbook, I produced the groundbreaking 1973 *Lavender Jane Loves Women* and wrote a 2010 Lambda Literary Award nominee, *MY RED BLOOD: A Memoir of Growing Up Communist, Coming Onto the Greenwich Village Folk Scene, & Coming Out in the Feminist Movement*. I love being together with Lesbians in community!

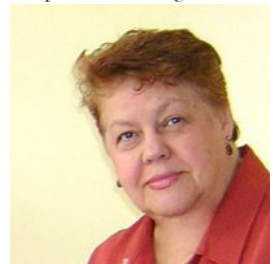
Nora Massignotti-Cortese

I applaud your ability to make impossible to possible and I feel extremely proud to be part of Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press. This only could be achieved by your sheer hard work and perseverance to continue your mother's legacy. Congratulations, what a great achievement after 45 years!

My memories of your mother are composed of many things; a quiet prayer, a dream and a paramount aspiration. I was looking for an opportunity to work in her organization, it was a crazy idea. How could I make myself understood, if I barely babbled English, how could I communicate my deepest desire? My heart throbbed. I called her anyway. I almost surrender but, when I hear her warm voice... it gave me the courage to speak to her and my fears disappeared.

Because she had the ability to convey humanness I was able to reveal to her my feelings. At that time (1977), I was a gloomy young Chilean journalist recently arrived, longing for my family, my newspaper and country.....Perhaps, to escape to other alignments of time where I could rectify my present, perhaps I lacked courage to confront a reality that I did not expect.

She understood my struggle to assimilate to this country and was one of the first women who inspired my desire to continue my profession; "you need to study, focus and adapt yourself to the big change. Acculturate your mind. This is your opportunity to bring out your essence, your soul under a new perspective".



During our conversation my mind was filled with restorative thoughts and my quest was expanded. She entered through my life for only ten tiny minutes, however, her mentorship contributed to the journalist that I am today. Her wisdom and love gave me the advice that I still honor. She was my big muse, she ignited great personal transformation. She recognized the blueprint and power of women's journalist, so she founded Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press. She had the vision to empower us to connect with each other; she encouraged us to be free to express the true.

This experience was necessary in my life. It taught me that individuals no matter where they are coming from, no matter their vast differences, are universally connected by love, strength, empathy and spirituality.

Since then, I started a new journey full of journalistic paths were I had found many trails with many choices, and many voices.

Nora is an experienced journalist who has worked in the Washington D.C. community for over 25 years. In 1998, she created *MUJER 2000* and *Educación Más* Spanish-language magazines under the umbrella of El Tiempo Latino. In 2003 and 2004, she becomes free-lance editor/writer for the *Washington Post*: "Celebrating the Hispanic Spirit" a first bilingual advertorial supplement addressing a wide range of Latino issues and achievements. Her essays have been published by *The Creative Woman*, a quarterly of Governors State University, Illinois. *CURE Magazine* published her essay in the book *Extraordinary Healers: CURE Readers Honor Oncology Nurses*, Volume 2.

Silvia Soriano, Ph.D.

I am originally from Peru, and I live permanently in the UK, since 2007. Since my undergraduate studies in Anthropology, I have been interested in gender, poverty and inequality issues. I recently finished my Ph.D. in the University of Durham. My thesis explores the uneven effects of the institutionalisation of neoliberalism in the economy, the labour market and the welfare state on lone mothers in the UK. One of the overarching themes of my thesis is the importance of an intersectional approach to identify unjust economic and policy measures, which impact unevenly on the population. I worked previously with the Scottish Government as a social researcher on issues concerning welfare reform, housing, and social security. I will start to work on a permanent basis with the Scottish Government in the following weeks.



I came from Peru for a six-month internship with WIFP in 2001. Being an intern with WIFP has been one of the most relevant lived experiences I ever had. It provided me with a wider perspective concerning feminist issues beyond my country of origin, and it increased my knowledge regarding the importance of the democratisation of the media to create a fairer society. I was motivated to become a WIFP associate after finishing the internship. I find essential to work in different fields to create a more equal society. Thus, I engaged with WIFP as an associate because I strongly believe in the democratisation of the media as an important element to enhance and increase the public voice of women, people with disabilities and/or people of ethnic minorities. I also believe in the fundamental need for international networks to mobilise women on the relevant issues that affects us.

Jean Kilbourne

One summer day in the late 1970s I visited Donna and Martha Allen in the original office of WIFP in Washington, DC. Although I created my slide presentation on the image of women in advertising in the late 1960s, I had only recently found the courage to present it to large audiences. I showed it to Donna and Martha and was



very heartened and encouraged by their enthusiastic support. I have been a supporter of WIFP ever since.

Especially in the early days, I relied on WIFP for research studies, national and international reports, short news clips, and inspiration (there was no Internet, after all!). So much important information about women and the media still is overlooked or trivialized by the mainstream media. WIFP also has provided an important network of feminists and scholars. I am very proud of my long-term association and happy to celebrate the 45th anniversary!

Jean is internationally recognized for her groundbreaking work on the image of women in advertising and her critical studies of alcohol and tobacco advertising. Author of the award-winning book *Can't Buy My Love: How Advertising Changes the Way We Think and Feel*, she is also the creator of the renowned *Killing Us Softly: Advertising's Image of Women* film series. She holds an honorary position as Senior Scholar at the Wellesley Centers for Women and was recently inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Anne Zill



I have valued the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press since I first became an Associate about a year after your mother, Donna Allen, founded it. It has been a nice antidote to media as usual whether real or fake. It was a comfort for me just to know this organization existed.

It is hard to evaluate its impact. I used to think we Americans tended to shy away from radicalism in thought, or words or deeds. This year has been a polity and its media wallowing in mud -- narcissism and nastiness, skating close to racism and right-wing demagoguery.

For two years, 1969-1971 I did a 1/2 hour radio show, mailed out to what are today NPR affiliates back in the horse and buggy days. A Federal Case was the name. Each week I made a federal case out of something related to the national politics of the day. It was lonely out there.

No pack journalism then.

Needed: 1. More women in positions of authority and leadership across the spectrum of media. 2. Media democracy remains a work in process.

I am currently writing the *Tales of My Life – Out of the Main(e) Stream* is the working title. I am having an interesting life with lots of adventures. I also run the Art Gallery at the University of New England, and have mounted two shows of women's art at the UN and one at UNESCO in Paris. I have always been a feminist, and I have four daughters, each of them also feminists and accomplished in their fields— Katherine Zill— Homeland Security lawyer in charge of national security refugees; Persephone Zill, non denominational minister and one of the heads of the Weschester County Food Bank; Oriana Zill, 60-Minutes producer; Lydia Dennett, investigator for the Project on Government Oversight (POGO). I live in Maine now, back where I grew up.

Frieda Werden

Congratulation that WIFP is still going strong! I well remember first seeing the *Media Report to Women* newsletters, I guess it must have been in the early 1980s, and thinking, Yes, yes, yesss!!! The Principles that Dr. Donna Allen laid down encouraged and guided me and the other co-founders of the weekly syndicated radio series WINGS: Women's International News Gathering Service. The format of concentrating on women, from the countries covered speaking for themselves, was a direct result of WIFP influence, and it kept us from going down any of the wrong paths offered, where US experts gave their impressions as fact and framed the story of women in other countries to suit themselves.

I met Donna on my first trip abroad for WINGS, to the Philippines in 1991. She set up what was then called a Space Bridge so that women in the US and in the Philippines could dialogue live in a joint session. That has inspired me to do several projects along those lines.



In 1992, before the US national election, a national live public radio satellite series in collaboration with the Council of Presidents of Women's Organizations, titled "National Women's Agenda: What Women Want and How They Plan to Win it." After the September 11, 2001 attack in New York, a collaborative series of international netcast discussions called Peacecasts. And just in May 2017, a two-hour live webcast with 11 community radio women from 4 countries. I still long for a 24-hour international women's radio station, and I think it may happen soon.

Robin Morgan

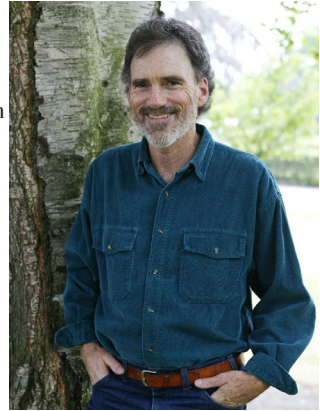
WIFP means consistent focus, dedication, and excellence. Among many other successes, WIFP inspired me, together with Gloria Steinem and Jane Fonda, to co-found the Women's Media Center, now 11 years old. the WMC motto is to make women visible and powerful in the media. I was motivated to become an Associate by my concern over keeping a free press- and trust in the Allen Family Women! These days almost anything would help to bring us closer to media democracy.



Robin is a lifelong media user and worker, author of 21 books, book and magazine editor, journalist; current blogger, and writer/producer/host of "Women's Media Center Live with Robin Morgan," an award-winning nationally syndicated road broadcast and podcast on iTunes in 110 countries. And working on a new book.

Michael Honey

WIFP over 45 years has helped me better understand how the monopoly of the corporate media has blocked people's movements on so many levels, and especially in regards to women's equality and freedom. When I first got to know Donna Allen in 1968, I appreciated her direct and clear explanations of how democracy requires that all people have equal access to the means of communication, but I wondered how it could ever happen. She predicted the internet would make a huge difference, and it has. Martha Allen and the WIFP have helped to chart the ways to keep fighting this battle for media democracy. I also look to Martha and WIFP as a clear bell weather when it comes to all of the issues of our day, from fighting sexism, racism, and capitalism, to fighting for Palestinian rights. I was an organizer, now a professor at University of Washington Tacoma, but in all of these years I continue to follow and support the WIFP as a vital contributor to media democracy and freedom for all.



Michael Honey, PhD, is an American historian, Guggenheim Fellow and Haley Professor of Humanities at the University of Washington Tacoma in the United States, where he teaches African-American, civil rights and labor history.

Sheila Gibbons



Donna Allen pushed hard, really hard, to obtain information about obstacles to advancement for women who worked in media, and to gauge the impact of how the depiction of women by media was affecting women, girls, and society in general. In 1972 she launched *Media Report to Women* to make a record of these industrial and societal shifts. I'm honored to continue that tradition as editor of *Media Report to Women* (www.mediareporttowomen.com). WIFP has valiantly continued Donna's philosophy of creating environments in which women speak for themselves, adapting to new technologies to enlarge its work – as we all must do to continue to remain relevant and influential.