

World Fellowship

PO Box 2280 Conway, NH 03818 (603) 447-2280 www.worldfellowship.org

Fall/Winter 2025/2026

From the Co-Executive Directors

To the beloved WFC community,

From the shock of last November to the “shock and awe” that began at a relentless pace in January, it is hard to find the right words to offer solace and hope to our community as this year draws to a close. Yet, we have a somewhat unusual perspective on all that is unfolding – and that is what we have to offer in this moment.

Our perspective is one of two people who did NOT live through the first Trump administration as a daily reality, but rather took it in from afar with regular doses of Nigerian pepper sauce. In 2025, thus, still newly reorienting to a United States that has changed dramatically in the 13+ years we lived primarily overseas, our disorientation may well have been double that of others who rather sighed, “Well, here we go again.”

Yet, our perspective from being grounded for many years in the type of “competitive authoritarianism” towards which the U.S. is now rapidly careening makes the strategies and modalities of this administration feel remarkably familiar. The daily recalculations of grassroots organizing in the face of the onslaught, the necessity of constantly tapping into new wells of community spirit to find optimism and hope to fuel persistent action, the knowledge that what we need to hold onto is the very thing they are trying to destroy – we know this well. And most importantly, we find our eyes flickering all the time between the visions of how far things *could go* and how much we still have that is still working, still intact, still abundant – ready to be harnessed.

We can reflect on the last year of arranging trainings and facilitating community conversations at World Fellowship and supporting the organizing of our local community that has come together to form the Mount Washington Valley Resistance; we can re-read the WFC Board Statement & Call to Action of February 7, 2025; we can flip through pictures of demonstrations organized, relentlessly, from February to November – all this is useful to see how much has been nurtured and catalyzed and supported through the space WFC offers to many.

We can also try to step back and look at the emerging lessons of this moment that point to where we need to go in our organizing work and community conversations over the months ahead: root causes of tribalism in partisan politics that tear communities asunder into “us” and “them” as we pursue victory through narrow margins rather than commonality of unifying messages; divergent media and social media universes that make it ever harder to have a common factual basis for clashing viewpoints; the issues that still divide the left.

From here, it is our task to see how to use the spaces we are privileged to steward, and the communities in which we are so fortunate to find a multiplicity of homes, to forge ahead with daily persistent action – not losing sight of the broader perspective that we need to avoid pitfalls and missteps we can so easily fall into. Yes, there are a lot of specifics. But that is the broader goal. And we hope we can continue this journey together.

We are grateful to know there’s next summer. We are grateful we can frequent Whitton Pond and the places of quiet peace and beauty throughout the seasons, and for the intergenerational community that cherishes these places with us. We are happy to be able to keep tending the gardens that have gone from reestablishment in 2023 to expansion in 2025 – and to donate our kale and greens to fuel local mutual aid during times of need.

A luta continua, vitória é certa. Andrew Maki & Megan Chapman, Co-Executive Directors

2025 WFC Team

Board of Trustees

Patricia Cantor Petrucelly (*Co-Chair*), Marc Mauer (*Co-Chair*), Sara Keenan (*Treasurer*), Dave Malekpour, Ellen Perlstein, Stu Ball, Julia Busto, Saskia Talay, Izzy Koyama

Co-Executive Directors

Andrew Maki & Megan Chapman

Former Directors

Howie Fain (2023), Octavia Driscoll (2022), Andrea Walsh & Andy Davis (2001-2021) Christoph & Kit Schmauch (1970-2000)

Want join a committee or working group? Interested in being part of the summer 2026 team? Contact us!

Staff & Volunteers

Ailina Homann, *housekeeping*
Andrew Gael, *general*
Ashley Morgan, *kitchen*
Axe Quidone, *b & g*
Ben MacDonald, *rec. coordinator*
Benedikt Wildoer, *general*
Cat Roberts, *team coordinator*
Courtney Samba, *ssji*
Daniel Kelly, *gardens*
Danielle Egic, *general*
Dela Vuckovic, *body mvmt*
Ed Parsons, *recreation*
Edy McAndrews, *art*
Elena Cobo, *children's fellowship*
Eli Givens, *general*
Erin Lockett, *general*
Hannah Lally, *office manager*
Horst Wildoer, *b & g*
Izzie Mogelgaard, *meditation*
Jalevina King, *general*
Jan Lederer, *b & g*
Jayda Evans, *dining hospitality*
Jennifer Simpson, *body mvmt*
Julie McLeod, *housekeeping*

Lee Mooney, *children's fellowship*
Lila Iyengar Lehman, *head chef*
Lily Kapiloff, *ssji*
Lynn Niizawa, *head gardens*
Marika Wildoer, *housekeeping*
Matt Parks, *b & g manager*
Micah Baker, *recreation*
Michael Cisternino, *ssji*
Mikhail Pokushalov, *housekeep.*
Noan Le Vot, *general*
Nora Iyengar Lehman, *housekeep.*
Olivia Tourangeau, *kitchen*
Payton Mellan, *head chef*
Priscilla Perez, *ssji*
Rose Solga, *head housekeeping*
Scott Fishman, *head gardens*
Scott Melman, *kitchen*
Shana Aisenberg, *music*
Shannon Waits, *team coordinator*
Shira Silverman, *general*
Siena Johnson, *children's fellow.*
Silas Koyama, *general*
Sylvester Greene, *kitchen, b & g*
Thomas Whitehead, *general*
Zain Adams, *kitchen*





Dear World Fellowship Community,

This year we are proud to report that the World Fellowship Center, despite the assault on democracy in our country, the ongoing genocide in Gaza, the persistent war in Ukraine, to name just a few disasters, is thriving. Under the inspiring and energetic leadership of Megan Chapman and Andrew Maki, in their second full year as Co-Executive Directors, together with the dedicated staff and volunteers they assembled, WFC has kept true to its core objectives while expanding into new areas.

This year's accomplishments include:

- Developing and fundraising for installing solar arrays toward the goal of establishing energy independence
- Enlarging the organic gardens to supply fresh vegetables in greater quantity and to cover a longer season
- Expanding the typically robust summer program through a weekly social justice film series, concerts in many genres, and regular community meetings
- Welcoming an increasing number of retreat and other groups, including a Zimbabwean girls math camp, New Hampshire environmental educators, and a leftist marching band, as well as a second year of the Summer Social Justice Institute
- Building strong relationships with other New Hampshire social justice organizations, including conducting immigration "Know Your Rights" training, organizing weekly "Walkout Wednesday" visibility actions, and working on the "No Kings" rally and attendant mutual aid fair.

In collaboration with our core staff, the Board is prepared to focus on long-term strategies, including:

- Conditions and improvements in buildings
- Use of our extensive campus
- Development and growth of on-site and virtual year-round programming
- Connections with local social justice organizations

We look forward to working with the community on these challenges.

Marc Mauer & Pat Cantor Petrucelly
Co-Chairs, Board of Trustees

2025 End-of-Year Appeal:

Help us
raise \$150,000
to harness the sun &
protect our
collective future!

From the Development Committee

Dear Friends,

We write to bring you up to date on our exciting plans to install solar panels on the roof of the Bath House and behind Uphaus Lodge. If we can raise the \$150,000 this will cost, the panels will provide 115% of our electrical needs each year – so that this big up-front investment will significantly offset our carbon footprint.

Together, these installations will pay for themselves in saved electric bills over the next 10-15 years. Besides ‘walkin’ our talk’, investing in solarization is a strong statement of support towards the future of WFC.

As a not-for-profit organization, we have until July 4, 2026, to get the panels installed but to avoid some additional requirements we must purchase all the materials in 2025 to take full advantage of (Biden era) government subsidies. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of a few community members, we are almost halfway towards our goal and we’re hoping you can help get us the rest of the way.

How did we already get halfway towards our goal? In July, an anonymous donor offered a \$25,000 matching gift! Your round-ups this summer raised the first \$15,000 towards this match, your monthly support has come to \$4,400, and other solar-specific gifts, including loans forgiven, have added close to \$13,000. In the last month, another donor has stepped forward to offer another \$25,000 matching gift towards this goal.

We are aiming to raise the remaining \$67,600 by the end of the year. Can you get us over the top by offering our next matching gift? By making a one-time special donation? By increasing your monthly support? As ever, we are deeply grateful for your support in whatever ways you are able. Thank you!

Jane Becker, Marc Mauer, Norma Wassel, and Saskia Talay

Big Thanks to Building & Grounds Manager Matt Parks!

We are heartbroken to share that Matt Parks, who has been on staff for years, and has served as year-round Building & Grounds Manager, will be moving on to new professional endeavors towards the end of 2025. We thank him for all his service, and are glad that he, Lia, Oren & their goats will still be just around the corner and regular visitors at WFC!



Fighting Fascism Then and Now: Abraham Lincoln Brigade Plaque at WFC

Locked in a vault in the NH State House for 24 years, a plaque honoring the New Hampshire veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade finally found a new home at WFC in July 2025. *But why is this plaque so important?* In 1936, the Neutrality Act made it illegal for Americans to go to Spain where the fight against fascism that previewed the ambitions of Hitler and Mussolini was already raging. Defying the law of the time (the First Neutrality Act of 1935 enacted during a period of isolationism), about 2,800 brave Americans from different walks of life joined the international Abraham Lincoln Brigade to defend the Spanish Republic against Franco's fascist invasion in what became the Spanish Civil War.

Over the last few decades, a few states have erected plaques and memorials to honor the courage and sacrifice of members of the Lincoln Brigade. In 2001, New Hampshire was poised to follow suit, with a plaque honoring the Brigade members from the state. Yet, just an hour after the plaque was installed on a State House wall, it was removed due to outcry from NH conservatives – the same fate as the Elizabeth Gurley Flynn historical marker suffered in 2023!

Attended by over 75 people, the unveiling of the plaque at WFC included opening remarks by former NH State Senator Burt Cohen who originally led the effort to see the plaque commissioned, a performance by Dan and Molly Watt, the son and daughter-in-law of Lincoln Brigade member George Watt, and surprise appearances by NH State Representative Luz Bay and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archive (ALBA) executive director Mark Wallem.

The plaque bears particular significance to numerous long-time WFC community members whose relatives served in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade or were otherwise connected to the U.S. activism of these “premature anti-fascists.”

The timing could not be more apt. Against the specter of rising fascism within the US, the re-installation of this plaque is a moment of reckoning with attempts at historical erasure and the true legacy of previous generations of freedom fighters in whose steps many of us now follow. Events like this make us ever more convinced we should keep singing Woody Guthrie: “...the people of this world are getting organized... you bound to lose, you fascists, bound to lose.”



2025 Highlights in Numbers!

- 20.3 people-miles hiked by 7.8 guests, *on average*, each day of the summer (WFC group hikes only)
- 47 *new* WFC guidebooks printed
- 23 organic WFC garden-share boxes distributed
- 26 consecutive weeks (and counting) of Walkout Wednesday demonstrations in 3 MWV locations
- 87 fungi species, 22 tree species, and countless bird and bug species found during the 2025 Bioblitz!
- 6 unique tree stands identified in our new Forest Management Plan

- 3,608 overnight guests (~5% increase over 2024)
- 241 nights of campsites occupied, 2 new sites created
- 50 ft of new brick pathway laid enroute to Schmauch
- 1 new bridge installed on the path to Whitton Pond
- 14 retreat groups / orgs convened at WFC
- 175 lbs of fair-trade coffee brewed
- 61 days without rain (out of 67), a historic drought
- 158 round-up donations (THANK YOU!)
- 330 buckets of compost emptied, to be returned to our organic gardens
- 1 historic plaque liberated from the NH Statehouse
- 2 loon chicks on Whitton Pond (2 years in a row!)
- 4+ times “Crowded Table” was sung at Fun Night!



We Celebrate

Awards

Arnie Alpert received the President's Award from the Granite State Organizing Project at their annual Micah Dinner for his longtime leadership in grassroots organizing in New Hampshire. Arnie has passion for justice, loves mercy, and walks humbly in service to others. He has come to WFC for decades, including with Clamshell Alliance.

Amy Antonucci received the Martin Luther King Award from the Martin Luther King Coalition for her work building local community for sustained activism for peace in Palestine and Israel. Amy has come to WFC for successive summers with the Peace Action regional retreat.

Marriages / Anniversaries

Olivia Zink, executive director of Open Democracy NH and longtime WFC presenter, married Kevin Kurkul on October 18, 2025

Kit and Christoph Schmauch, longtime WFC directors, now 92 and 90, celebrated the 70th anniversary of their meeting in Germany on November 3, 2025, in Columbus, Ohio. Kit was a Fulbright Student in 1955-56. They enjoy their four children and seven grandchildren.

Births

Sacha Wuchinich, born on January 25, 2025, to Sarah Wuchinich

Suliana Valencia Shapiro Santiago, born on January 14, 2025, to Tammy Shapiro & Nelson Santiago

Johanna Andrea, born on July 13, 2025, to Emma Hofman and Andres Limongi (grandmother Hanny Veenendaal)

Kobi Arthur Koyama-Alford, born on October 11, 2025, to Isabel "Izzy" Koyama (WFC Board, former Staff Coordinator) & James Alford

Deaths

Kathy Platsky, beloved wife of Michael Platsky, passed away on 18 May at their home in Woodstock, NY. WFC held a special place in their hearts — as a place of joy and connection. In honor of Kathy's memory, some of her ashes were spread at WFC, a place she deeply loved.

You Honored

In Honor Of - Gift Made By

Andy and Andrea - Maria Scharfenberger

Ellen Perlstein - Fay Radding

Ellen Perlstein - Rita Rosenkranz

Ellen Perlstein - Keystone Partners

Hannah, Andrew, Megan and Matt - Dean (Izzy) Mogelgaard

Judith Woodruff - Barbara Moss

Kit and Christoph - Steve and Luci Stroiman

Peter Lowber - Margot Ingrassia

Peter Lowber - Susan Feinberg

WFC community- Debora and John Mayer

WFC staff - Jennifer Lai-Peterson

In Memory Of - Gift Made By

Carla Horowitz and A. Martin Bloom - Milt Horowitz

Carol Bates - Gail Pamela Dubov

Celie Greene - Ellen Perlstein

John Lamperti - Arlene S Ash

Nadya Disend - Linda Hammond

Peter Carroll - Burt Cohen

Sylvia & Leo Bilander - Gina Bilander

Yolanda Edwards - Chip McNeal

COMMUNITIES NOT CAGES

STAND OUT! 11/9 @ 4pm
opposite Mt. Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods, NH

greet county staff + commissioners arriving for the NH Association of Counties Annual Conference with a unequivocal message: **"Don't sell out to ICE!"**
 We don't sell out our communities for \$\$\$!!

tell ALL NH counties: no ICE in county jails!

Strafford started it, now Rockingham, Merrimack & Hillsborough are on the line... time to push back!
<https://linktr.ee/ICEoutNH>

dress warm! bring friends + water-proof signs/banners!



MWV DEMANDS ACTION TO

WE ARE ONE PEOPLE, ONE FAMILY, AND WHAT AFFECTS ONE OF US AFFECTS US ALL

bring signs! bring friends! bring donations for folks in need!

PROTECT HEALTH ACCESS!

PREMIUMS WILL SKYROCKET FOR GRANITE STATERS IF CONGRESS DOES NOT ACT

\$1,344 ANNUAL PREMIUM INCREASE, INDIVIDUAL, MID-40s MAKING \$31,300

\$13,213 ANNUAL PREMIUM INCREASE, COUPLE, EARLY 60s EARNING \$85,000

PROTEST! NOV 7 • 12:30-2:30PM



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MT. WASHINGTON VALLEY

WE ARE ONE PEOPLE, ONE FAMILY, AND WHAT AFFECTS ONE OF US AFFECTS US ALL

STAND WITH COMMUNITY (NOT KINGS. NOT DICTATORS.)

Protest @ 4 Corners, Conway (Rt 153 & 16)
 + mutual aid fair, music & family fun @ Library Park, Conway, NH

OCTOBER 18 • 12-2PM

bring signs, friends, donations to support local needs - all welcome!

sign up!



ICE OUT OF PEASE

bring signs! bring friends!

KEEP ICE OUT OF PEASE!!!

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 8-10am
@ Pease Development Authority (PDA)
55 International Dr, Portsmouth

during the PDA Board meeting

CENTRAL NH INDIVISIBLE

New Hampshire Peace Action

AFSC

VETERANS FOR PEACE

NEW HAMPSHIRE YOUTH MOVEMENT

PSA

KENT STREET COALITION

Southern NH INDIVISIBLE

SEACOAST



A Year of Resistance

Local organizing in Mount Washington Valley began in February when two generations of WFC leadership joined hands to organize a local demonstration on the March 4 national day of action – and has continued with local and state-wide organizing throughout the spring, summer, and fall, as WFC offers training and strategy support to a growing movement.

FOUR CORNERS FOUR PRIORITIES

1. ICE OUT
2. FEED GAZA
3. CIVIL LIBERTIES
4. SOCIAL & ECONOMIC RIGHTS

JOIN US ON AUG 2
2-4PM @ RTE 16 & 153
CONWAY

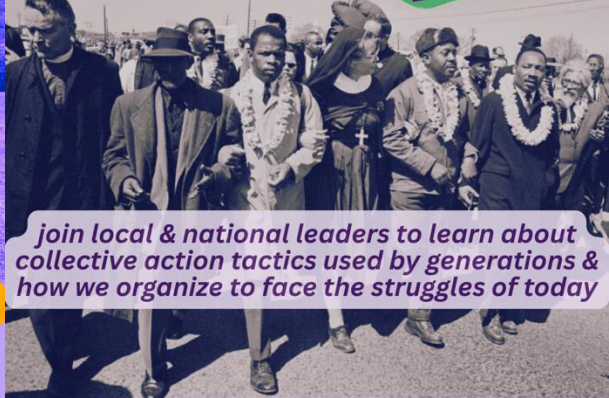
date aligned with **RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE**



Thursday, July 17

Schouler Park, North Conway

Good Trouble Lives On



join local & national leaders to learn about collective action tactics used by generations & how we organize to face the struggles of today

4-5pm: music & singing
5-6pm: speakers/teach-in





World Fellowship Center
PO Box 2280
Conway, NH 03818



We urgently need to bring to our communities the limitless capacity to love, serve, and create for and with each other."
- Grace Lee Boggs

How can I get involved?

- ❖ **DONATE!** Every dollar helps - ways to donate include:
 - Send back the enclosed envelope with your gift included!
 - Donate online, go to worldfellowship.org/ways-to-donate/
 - Be a sustaining donor - *set up a monthly gift through your bank or our online portal!*
 - Buy a commemorative brick for the ever-growing walkway to Schmauch Meeting Room
 - Name WFC as a beneficiary on your retirement or bank account, or life insurance policy
 - Make a stock transfer - *we appreciate the gift!*
 - Remember us in your will - *we will certainly remember you!*
- ❖ Share your love of World Fellowship with friends and family and come up for a group stay!
- ❖ Join a committee or volunteer to be part of ongoing off-season projects, a spring work weekend, or helping to make next summer a success - *all hands on deck!*
- ❖ Reshare our social media posts with your network - *help World Fellowship reach the world!*