



US Women & Cuba Collaboration: Building a US Women's Movement for Cuba

www.womenandcuba.org

Our mission is to build a strong US women's movement dedicated to ending the US government blockade of Cuba and to creating mutually beneficial US Cuba relations; our work is rooted in the concept of universal human rights, racial and economic justice, and women's rights.

JOIN US AT THE 2010 US SOCIAL FORUM in DETROIT, June 22-26!!

We believe it is crucial to participate in and contribute to the US Social Forums in significant ways to create Another World Possible for gender, racial and economic justice, peaceful and just relations locally and globally, and to achieve dignity for all. From our experience at the Atlanta 2007 Social Forum, we know that the USSF is an important space to further our mission of building a demographically and geographically diverse Women's Movement for Cuba!

At USSF 2010, we will be excited to join some of our national and global network of Advisory Board members, friends and allies at workshops we are organizing and/or co-sponsoring, at tabling opportunities, and while moving forward our shared strategies during informal exchanges of stories, ideas and struggles.

We hope you can be there in person or by using new media to join the 2010 USSF. We especially encourage you to share this invitation with your own networks, friends, and *companeras* who may be going or want to learn more. Details at www.ussf2010.org

Here are some of the places to find us!!

THURSDAY, June 24 – 6:30–9 PM

Cobo Hall, Main Hall

Plenary on US and International Social Movement Responses to Global Crises including Rita Olga Martinez, Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, representative from ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas) and more!

THURSDAY, June 24 – 10-NOON

Cobo Hall, Room 02-43

WHY WOMEN? WHY CUBA? BUILDING A US WOMEN'S MOVEMENT FOR CUBA!

This workshop will discuss the history and accomplishments of the Cuban women's movement under the leadership of the Federation of Cuban Women and in the context of the Cuban Revolution. We will also discuss the role that Cuba has played internationally in advancing human rights especially in the realm of healthcare and literacy. Panelists include Rita Olga Martinez from Cuba, Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, Catherine Murphy, Director of *Maestra*, and Jan Strout and Cindy Domingo, co-chairs of the U.S. Women & Cuba Collaboration. Panel will include discussion of strategies, campaigns and work that participants can take with them to build a women's movement and network of supporters to change U.S. policy towards the Cuban people and to lift the 51 year old U.S. blockade against Cuba. **Featured Discussion with Catherine Murphy, filmmaker, about *Maestra*, including a short trailer of the documentary.** (See more details about film on back of this flyer).

THURSDAY, June 24 – 1-3 PM

Wayne State University, Manoogian Hall, Room 289

END THE WAR ECONOMY! BUILD AN ECONOMY FOR PEACE!

Explore the dangerous addiction to war of our U.S. military-industrial complex through skits, songs, presentations and discussion. Share tools and strategies for building the peace economy we need and want. This workshop is being organized by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and their issues committees. Rita Olga Martinez, Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, and Jayariyu Farias Montiel, indigenous health organizer and media activist from Venezuela, will participate.

FRIDAY, June 25 – 1-3 PM

Cobo Hall Room 02-42

SISTERS ACROSS BORDERS: ADVANCING US WOMEN'S RIGHTS THROUGH GLOBAL FEMINISMS

This workshop will educate and organize about the use of United Nations international human rights treaties to advance women's rights, racial and economic justice in the US and to build solidarity and sisterhood among women worldwide, plus share and develop strategies for organizing specific women's projects and speaking tours on US campuses and communities in solidarity with Cuba and Venezuela. Panelists include Rita Olga Martinez, Solidarity specialist, ICAP in Cuba; Jayariyú Farias Montiel, indigenous health organizer and media activist in Venezuela; Mary Bricker Jenkins, Kensington Welfare Rights Union and WILPF; Jessica Thiel, Sisters Across Borders, MT; and Cindy Domingo and Jan Strout, co-chairs, US Women & Cuba Collaboration. **Featured Discussion with Catherine Murphy, director of *Maestra*, an exciting new documentary about the 1961 Cuban Literacy Campaign.**

➤ **OVER FOR DETAILS ABOUT MAESTRA, A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY CATHERINE MURPHY, TO BE FEATURED IN DISCUSSIONS AT US WOMEN AND CUBA COLLABORATION PANELS**

Featured in Discussion at *US Women and Cuba Collaboration* Panels:

Maestra

**A Documentary Film
By Catherine Murphy**

The Literacy Project in collaboration with ICAIC

The Cuban Literacy Campaign in 1961 was one of the farthest-reaching and most successful literacy campaigns to date, one of the pinnacle moments in the social history of the Americas. This 56-minute documentary tells the story of the campaign through personal stories of women literacy workers who went to the mountains and valleys across the island to teach—and found themselves deeply transformed in the process.

For the rural people who learned to read, it was a transformation in which their humanity was significantly honored and validated in unique ways. And for the young women from the cities who left the relative comfort of their homes to live in the mountains and teach, the campaign challenged and opened their humanity into one of the most profound experiences of their lives. It was first time in Cuban history that thousands of young women broke from the confines of the patriarchal family structure. For many women, it was the first time they felt independent, capable, and free.

The literacy campaign workers are now in their 60s, 70s and 80s. There are thousands of them. But many have passed away, and some are in poor health. Those left are living treasures, the protagonists of a radical social and economic transformation, a popular revolution in the Americas.

Exploring an historic triumph through oral testimonies, this documentary examines connections between national liberation and personal liberation, and between giving and receiving the greatest of gifts. Based in living history, *Maestra* aims to ignite contemporary political dialogue, reflection, and strategies for positive social change.

In an age when so many teenagers—especially girls—are afflicted with low self-esteem, the Literacy Project shows how a whole generation of Cuban youth blossomed by venturing out to the countryside to spread the gift of literacy. Proving the old adage that it is better to give than receive, this film shows how a government mission to help the poorest lifts the entire society to new heights. Watch [Maestra] and rejoice.

Medea Benjamin, Founder, Code Pink/Women for Peace, and Global Exchange; National Advisory Board, US Women and Cuba Collaboration

Este proyecto de Catherine Murphy rescata la más importante experiencia de alfabetización de toda la historia de las Américas. Sus protagonistas tienen la palabra. Son ellos quienes cuentan su experiencia, y por boca de cada uno de ellos habla una formidable aventura colectiva. Catherine ha dedicado a esta tarea su tiempo, su energía y su talento. El resultado está a la altura del desafío.

Eduardo Galeano, Uruguayan writer, journalist, political analyst; Author of "The Open Veins of Latin America" and "Memories of Fire"



Also: look for the US Women and Cuba Collaboration at USSF at the Gender Justice Working Group and the National Network on Cuba tables or at the more than 12 other workshops on Cuba/Cuba related issues (Please check the USSF program for a list of these workshops.)

Please continue to check our website www.womenandcuba.org for updates and more opportunities to build a US Women's Movement for Cuba and to support our work with tax deductible donations!

➤ **OVER FOR DETAILS ABOUT US WOMEN AND CUBA COLLABORATION EVENTS AT USSF**