



## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

Editor: Phyllis Hockley

January 2011

### Inside:

Word from our Presidents  
Page 2

December Annual Meeting  
Page 2

Bread for the World  
Page 2

Did you know?  
Page 3

Dream Act passes House  
Page 3

CWU Plays Santa Claus  
Page 4

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 5                      Brails Restaurant, 1689 Willamette St.  
Wed 7-8:30am      Health Care Reform

Jan 7                      Ebbert Memorial United Methodist  
Fri                        532 C St., Springfield  
9:15                      Health Care Reform

Feb 2, 7-8:30am      Brails Restaurant, 1689 Willamette St.  
Feb 5, 9:15            Peace Presbyterian, 3060 River Rd.  
Immigration program at both sites

### JANUARY PROGRAM HEALTH CARE REFORM

Curious about how the federal health care reform affects your life? Wonder what's happening in Oregon health care reform? Know what's being done to help the uninsured in Lane County? Find out! Join us Wednesday January 5th at 7:00 AM at Brail's or Friday, January 7th at 9:15 AM at Ebbert Memorial UMC, Springfield. Bring your specific questions for Rep. Val Hoyle, Director of 100% Access Coalition, and Commissioner Pete Sorenson!



### TIME FOR BREAKFAST AT BRAIL'S

Wednesday morning, January 5, 2011, is our first outreach to new women at CWU meetings. Treat yourself and bring a friend to a delicious breakfast and an exciting discussion of health care issues.

Brail's is at 1689 Willamette, ample free parking, our own private meeting area.

### UPCOMING IN FEBRUARY IMMIGRANTS AND IMMIGRATION: THORNY ISSUES, AND HUMANE RESPONSES

We can't go deep into this complex combination of issues, but we can start. Courtney Toch and Samantha Chirillo will be our presenters at the "Breakfast at Brails" program. Courtney is a graduate student at UO in International Studies and Conflict and Dispute resolution. She will share her experience as a Witness for Peace "Roots of Migration" delegation to Oaxaca in souther Mexico last summer. Samantha, the Lane County Organizer for the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign will discuss relevant upcoming legislation. Guadalupe Quinn will be our presenter at the Friday morning program. An immigrant herself, long-time resident of Eugene and worker for immigrant justice, she is currently Coordinator of the Immigrant Rights Advocacy Program of the Amigos Multicultural Center here in Eugene.

## A WORD FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

### Dorothy Sistrom

Be not afraid, the God of peace assures us.  
Be not afraid of your weaknesses, your inadequacy,  
or your imperfection. Love banishes fear.  
God became weak and little, a baby in need of help,  
so we could face our own limitations  
with faith and hope.  
God didn't promise days without pain,  
laughter without sorrow or sun without rain.  
But he did promise strength for the day,  
comfort for the tears,  
and a light for the way.  
And for all who believe in his kingdom of love,  
he answers their faith with peace from above.  
Just as with candles,  
we only fulfill our purpose in life  
when we allow ourselves to be sacrificed—used up—  
to dispel the darkness of the world.  
As Christians we are called  
to bring the light of Christ  
where the world is darkest  
wherever people have yet to experience  
the saving power of God.

### Phyllis Hockley

Over 100 women gathered together at the candle  
light vigil sponsored by the Zonta Club to mark the  
UN International Day for the Abolition of Slavery.  
They asked Church Women United to join them and  
several of us were present holding our Church  
Women United sign. Deeply appreciated was the  
spirit of the event. And learning that Portland and  
Seattle are key cities in the United States for  
trafficking and that it is happening right here on the  
streets of Eugene opened both our eyes and our  
hearts. This is a hideous human tragedy, and I add it  
to the many other areas where I must put my efforts  
in the coming year. And that reminds me of this poem.  
When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with the flocks,  
then the work of Christmas begins:  
**to find the lost,**  
**to heal those broken in spirit,**  
**to feed the hungry,**  
**to release the oppressed,**  
**to rebuild the nations,**  
**to bring peace among all peoples,**  
**to make a little music with the heart...**  
**And to radiate the Light of Christ,**  
**every day, in every way, in all that we do and**  
**in all that we say.**  
Then the work of Christmas begins.

## DECEMBER ANNUAL MEETING

Anne O'Brien

The women of First Christian outdid themselves  
with a wonderful spread of great foods and a  
warm and welcoming space. Thanks to them all.

Women brought warm and practical items for the  
teens at Station 7 and also signed up to go on a  
tour of the Station on December 9 to see just  
what is being done to help these at risk youth.

We held our election of officers and the following  
slate of officers was installed with fine words  
from Eunice Kjaer: Co-presidents Phyllis Hockley  
and Dorothy Sistrom, Vice President Anne  
O'Brien, Recording Secretary Kim Bryson-Chamley,  
Treasurer Trudie Atkinson. Other leaders for the  
year are Cynthia Kokis, Chair of Ecumenical Action  
Committee; Diane Beuerman, Chair of Ecumenical  
Development Committee; Dorothy Webber, Chair  
of Nominating Committee; Kim Bryson-Chamley,  
Chair of Finance Committee; Phyllis Hockley, Chair  
of Communications Committee; Judy Romans,  
Chair of World Day of Prayer; Susannah Lustica,  
Chair of May Friendship Day; Martha Neuman,  
Chair of World Community Day; Dorothy Webber,  
Historian.

Cynthia Kokis led us in group discussions at each  
table related to sustainability: something I've  
done that helps the earth: recycling Styrofoam at  
St Vincent; giving donations to appropriate  
organizations rather than stuff as gifts; Some  
Thrifty Action in transportation (always do more  
than one errand per trip, leave the car at home one  
or two days a week, Food: eat locally;  
Organization that I support that works for  
change: St. Vincent de Paul.

The meeting ended on a sweet note with all of us  
joining in singing Christmas Carols accompanied by  
our own Mary Roth at the piano.



Bread for the World scored two major  
victories. Congress passed the Healthy,  
Hunger-Free Kids Act (also known as the Child  
Nutrition Reauthorization), and immediately  
afterward passed the Middle Class Tax Relief  
Act of 2010. This act makes permanent the  
Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax  
Credit, the goal of the Offering of Letters  
that you participated in.



**DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT  
CHURCH WOMEN UNITED  
Kim Bryson-Chamley**

**70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**Save the Date!**

CWU is turning 70! Please let Kim Bryson-Chamley (541-517-4280, kimbrysonchamley@yahoo.ca) know if you are interested in attending the party in Atlantic City, New Jersey from Nov. 30 - Dec. 3.

The Finance Committee is collecting names to see how many are interested in attending. Get your name on the list early. By indicating interest you are not committing yourself to attending.

**CWU REPRESENTED AT SENATE HEARING**

CWU was represented at the Recent Senate Hearing Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

It is important to continue the CWU witness in support of CEDAW. Go to [http://www.cedaw.org](#) for updated information on taking action. Contact your Senator(s) urging them to support CEDAW.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) has been in existence for 30 years. The US has not signed this treaty. November 18 was the very first time the United States Senate held a hearing on this issue. It was an opportunity for proponents and opponents to be heard by the Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law concerning whether or not the United States should sign the treaty.

Anne Griffis, (Acting) Action/Global Concerns Committee Chair, provided to the Senate committee the written CWU National Resolution prior to the hearing and listed the movement as an official proponent for the US to sign the treaty. Betty Adams, Prince Georges County Unit, and Blanche Smith, DC Unit were present to represent CWU as observers of the hearing. Shirley Cason-Reed, DC Unit member was also present with the Ward Memorial AME Missionaries.

The CWU observers were positioned 1 and 1/2 hallways beyond the entrance to the hearing room despite having arrived at the Dirksen Office Building between 1 and 1:15 pm for the 2pm hearing! Decals to wear to show our support for the signing were provided. Hundreds if not thousands of people were present. Senator Durbin softly acknowledged the size of those waiting and wished he had a larger room. The CWU observers were escorted to the

overflow room. Proceedings were viewed on the big screen. The testimonies witnessed were impassioned and emotional on both sides of the issue (five proponents and one opposed were observed presenting their statements by the CWU representatives.)

There were two panels that were comprised of the six speakers. Once the statements were heard questions were asked by the Chairman and responded to by the appropriate panel member. Many of the questions posed centered on how signing the treaty as an international commitment would affect the US Constitution? Would the US have to meet and respond on demand to the directives of the CEDAW committee?

Presently President Obama's Administration is calling for the US to sign the treaty. Senators Patrick Leahy and Benjamin Cardin sent letters encouraging the signing and Arlan Specter was present at the hearing to present his statement in support of the signing. All statements are posted on the senate website. CWU members should make themselves aware of what the treaty is and is not.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Blanche Smith, CISA, CISSP, CISM, PMP/IT Security Division

**ECUMENICAL ACTION**

**Cindy Kokis**

**"DREAM" ACT PASSES IN HOUSE!**

Last March 8th, CWU co-chair Phyllis Hockley urged the Eugene City Council to support the DREAM (Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act. A round of applause followed the council's unanimous support vote.

This act faces tough opposition in the Senate. It is the only piece of legislation working to help bring change in our flawed immigration policies.

Who will benefit? A youth who entered the US before the age of sixteen, who graduates from high school or gets a GED, who has been here continuously for five years before the passage of this bill can use the DREAM Act. She will get citizenship if, with-in-six years, she obtains a two year college degree (with state benefits) or does two years military service.

It's not perfect but it's a step. Our February meeting will have leaders from Latino community to help us understand better their struggles.

Remember the poor widow who badgered the judge until he finally gave her what she asked for? (Luke 18, 1-8). Call our senators and make a New Year's gift to our young people. Ask Senator Merkely (202-224-3753) and Senator Wyden (202-224-5244) to work to pass the DREAM Act.

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**  
Jane Heidegger  
2810 Warren St.  
Eugene, OR 97405

**NONPROFIT ORG**  
**US POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**EUGENE, OR**  
**PERMIT NO 356**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **CWU PLAYS SANTA: STATION 7 TOUR** **Cindy Kokis**

On Thursday, December 9th, CWU members Phyllis Hockley, Mary Roth, Peg Morton, Barbara Davis, Sarah Smith, Cindy Kokis, and Edith Roberts brought your gifts to Looking Glass's Station 7. Opened in 1996, this former Fire Engine Station 7 works 24 hours a day with youth ages 11-18 and their families.

There are fifteen staff, and meals and spaces for fourteen youth to overnight. Family reconciliation councilors, a 24-hour hotline, and two places for teen parents are offered.

Station 7 operates Project Safe Place, sites where threatened, frightened or runaway youth can immediately get help.

As part of CWU national focus on Human Trafficking, we support this agency working with a population at risk. Lane County lacks enough shelter spaces for youth.

Many of these children are throwaways or fleeing abuse, hunger, or drugs in the home.

Does your faith community know about the local human trafficking problem? Any youth on the street overnight faces rape.

Consider having a program for youth and adults in your faith community. Contact Kirsten Lee, Program Supervisor, Station 7 Runaway Youth Services.

kirstin.lee@lookingglass.us. phone: 541-607-0627