



The Vine

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY
cwulanecounty.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 4 Ebbert United Methodist
Friday 532 C St., Springfield
9-11:15am "Stewardship of Creation"

January 8 Breakfast at Brails (2nd Tuesday)
Tuesday 1689 Willamette
7-8:30am "Stewardship of Creation"

February 1 United Lutheran
Friday 2230 Washington St.
9-11:30am "Our Justice System"

February 5 Breakfast at Brails
Tuesday 1690 Willamette
7-8:30 am "Our Justice System"

JANUARY FORUM Stewardship of Creation

Lisa Arkin, director of Beyond Toxics will share info and compelling stories from Oregon about a big problem, one your tax dollars are paying for. It is the pesticides that are routinely sprayed in the places you thought were safe in public parks, in and around public buildings and on public roads. As a consequence, we are often exposed to poisons without even knowing it! She says, "The scientific evidence is abundantly clear: *pesticides are a public and environmental health problem, linked to persistent ecosystem damage and multiple chronic illnesses.* But Lisa plans to solve this problem in 2013! Come and hear how.

LOOKING TO FEBRUARY Our Justice System

Meet a woman who is a 4 point student at LCC and headed to the University of Oregon this fall. A woman who earlier cost our state thousands of dollars in incarceration fees, attorney fees and uninsured hospital visits. Patricia Coldeen will share how she turned her life around and is realizing the dreams she had for herself when she was a young girl at South Eugene High School.

CARING CONNECTION

If you know of a CWU woman or family member needing a card or connection because of sickness or other need, call Jane Heidegger at 541-485-6229.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Anne O'Brien

This is my first Vine column as your new president. I want to thank you all for allowing me to embark on this adventure. I am humbled to follow in the foot steps of the women I have known who were previous presidents: Sue Gordon, Jane Heidegger, Rosemary Batori, Alice Dugan, Dora Harris, Dorothy Sistrom and my predecessor Phyllis Hockley. How to follow Phyllis??? I love and respect Church Women United and I will be doing my best to work with our Board to help all in our organization to continue the good work CWU has been involved in for over 100 years here in Lane County. That has to do with our mission to advocate on behalf of women and children throughout the world, finding unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice. Peace and hope to you all in the New Year and **let the work continue.**

This was a prayer from Voice of the Faithful, a group working to help the faithful to actively participate in the governance and guidance of the Catholic Church that I'd like to share with you.

Our Prayers Are with Those Affected by the Tragedy in Connecticut. Although our faith may be tried by tragedy, like the school shooting in Connecticut, we know we may always pray to God for consolation and support.

As our prayers go out to those affected, our hearts cry out with the psalmist:
"Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer! From the ends of the earth I call; my heart grows faint. Raise me up, set me on a rock, for you are my refuge, a tower of strength against the foe. Let me dwell in your tent forever, take refuge in the shelter of your wings." Psalm 61:1-5

A LOOK AT OUR DECEMBER FORUM

Anne O'Brien

Kay DeBates and Ola, the ladies of Emerald Baptist Church, were our gracious hosts for the meeting. Kay welcomed us all. Judy Romans brought in some relevant scripture for us to ponder.

Phyllis Hockley was honored for her years of service as our President. Knowing that Phyllis is not very interested in stuff, we presented a small token: a guest book for the very hospitable Hockleys to keep track of their many visitors. CWU will make a donation of endorsement to a charity of Phyllis's choice. (She decided on SLEEPS of Eugene, seeking solutions to the problem of those who need a place to sleep)

Officers for the next year were elected. Shirley Kingsbury who first attended CWU in 1958, installed the officers in a professional and warm manner.

New and returning officers for 2013 are:

President: Anne O'Brien

Treasurer: Trudie Atkinson

Recording Secretary: Katherine Hunt

Ecumenical Action Co-Chairs: Leslie Hall
and Anne O'Brien

Ecumenical Development Co-Chairs: Diane Beuerman
and Judy Romans

Finance Committee Chair: Dorothy Webber

Communications Chair: Phyllis Hockley.

Mary Roth with assistance by Susannah Lustica, led those assembled in the singing of three lovely advent songs.

The morning was capped off by a moving Advent reflection on peacemaking in our world today by local author, our own Mary Sharon Moore, M.T.S. Mary Sharon helped us to find some peace at this time of the year with her opening comments and with a reading from her latest book, *Moving in God's Direction (Awakening Vocations, 2012)*, *Embracing the Beatitude Life.*

We were able to share our own peacemaking activities in diads and triads, a nice way for each of us to get to know more women in our group. She left us with questions about how we each relate to the 8 Beatitudes. Oh, that all the world (or at least everyone in Lane County) could experience this wonderful message of peace and blessings.

THANK YOU, Mary Sharon.

WITNESSING WITH PRESENCE & VOICE HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Health Care : A Human Right

Anne O'Brien

Over 100 folks gathered in Harris Hall on Monday, December 10, 2012, to commemorate the anniversary of Human Rights Day with a focus on health as a human right. How proud I was to look around a see at least 6 of our members in the group, with three: Phyllis Hockley, Peg Morton and Ruth Duemler speaking. Phyllis represented CWU and our national and local commitment to health as a human right. Peg Morton described her attendance at the meeting, convened by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1947. And Peg is still advocating for human rights. Ruth was the chair of the event and did a wonderful job. Occupy Interfaith, another example of local churches' social justice activism, was represented by Patty Hine, who spoke on their behalf. We church ladies are on the move.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY Sleeping: a Human Right Cindy Kokis

A dozen CWU members gathered at the Free Speech Plaza at 6:00 pm on December 10th.

Occasions require standing beside and supporting those struggling for justice. To be present is to witness. And for some, to speak is our witness.

At 7:30 pm CWU members signed up for 2 minute talks to Eugene City Council.

Helen Liguori asked that the camping ban be lifted, ending the criminalizing of normal human activities. Eugene needs to be starting to follow the International Declaration of Human Rights.

Barb Prentice stated that 1,115 people are unhoused each night and deserve legal places to sleep.

Jane Smith affirmed that CWU stands with the call to remove restrictions and lift the camping ban.

Mary Sharon Moore reminded City Council that "each human being has inherent dignity that transcends ability to pay. End the camping ban."

Forum speakers like Jean Stacey enable CWU members to witness for justice. We are on the move.

SUPPORTING WITH YOUR ANNUAL GIFT

We asked in our December forum why you are active in CWU. These are some of the reasons you gave:

Christian fellowship-women from other churches,
Great social justice forums,
Sharing our faith,
Connection with National,
Learning about current issues,
Being involved in action related to the gospel,
Witnessing for justice,
Being given hope for the church, building bridges,
The celebration services, praying together,
Support of community organizations.

2013 is upon us, and we are asking again for your support with an annual gift to make all the above possible. Suggested gift is \$20, but is open to your desires.

If receiving Vine via mail, please use the card and envelope enclosed.

If receiving Vine via e-mail, make check to CWU. Send to Trudie Atkinson, 812 W. Olympic, Springfield, OR 97477, or bring to January forum.

Many thanks for keeping CWU alive and well in Lane County!

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

Ruth Duemler

It's time to remember! Dec. 10 was the 64th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and it was celebrated in many Oregon communities. Eugene Activist Peg Morton was a 16-year-old high school girl in Geneva when she looked down from the balcony on the U.N. gathering with the leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt. What a thrill!

The Declaration begins with "Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in world." It continues with Article 25 stating, "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control." All are issues many are now facing.

WE LOVE OUR VETS

Candy Neville

In the early 1940's my father joined the Marines to escape responsibility and to see the world. While he was enjoying the self-indulgent high life in China, the United States entered World War II. He entered a 44 month life of hell. He was dispatched to the Philippines, was in the infamous Bataan Death March where nine out of ten soldiers died before reaching their destination. He endured 44 months of starvation, torture, loss, and atrocities as a prisoner of war. At 5'11" he emerged at under 90 pounds and just shy of death. The concept of post traumatic stress had not been conceived. Rife with anxiety, fear, he struggled unsuccessfully with a multitude of demons. He sometimes went to the VFW where he found some solace and understanding with other veterans of foreign wars.

Today's veterans are no different. They need privacy and they need each other. We can help. We can prepare a gathering place for them with new comfortable leather seating, shelves, a couple computers, t.v. for gathering together. We can welcome them to their own, private meeting room designed for relaxation, privacy, hanging out, planning, whatever.

It is my desire that individuals and groups from the City of Eugene sponsor a chair, a table, a lamp that is affordable. En masse it will equal a fantastic family room/den for them to just be. It is my desire that this yoke be very light on the individual and the group and reflects both affection and joy of the givers.

You can help by donating money, having a group of your own sponsor an item, invite me to deliver my elevator speech to groups you believe may be interested also. You may assist me as a committee member if you so choose.

Call me at 541-683-4003 or e-mail me at inklinks@comcast.net



PRETTY POISON

Judy Romans

Many people enjoy house plants, especially in these winter months when garden flowers and greenery are scarce. But not all house plants are harmless beauties. Some can be poisonous or cause skin irritation to people or pets. Luckily, many poisonous plants taste bitter and discourage the eater from consuming a large quantity, but children might be attracted to bright colored leaves or berries, and pets seem to enjoy chewing on plants.

Some examples of common hazardous house plants are:

- All parts of the Calla Lily;
- Leaves of Chrysanthemum;
- Rhizomes (roots) of the Cyclamen;
- Daffodils have poisonous sap;
- English Ivy leaves are poisonous and the sap can cause skin irritation;
- All parts of Lily of the Valley are extremely poisonous;
- Philodendron leaves can cause skin irritation.

The University of Connecticut Home and Garden Education Center also includes the following in their list of toxic plants: Amaryllis, Azaleas, Holly berries, Hyacinth, Mistletoe, Ranunculus, and Yew, with symptoms that range from an upset stomach to serious heart and kidney problems.

The Poinsettia has a hearsay reputation as a poisonous plant, and eating the leaves may irritate your stomach, but is not considered toxic, although other members of its botanical family (Euphorbia) are poisonous.

If you suspect a child or pet has eaten a poisonous plant, call your doctor or veterinarian immediately. For more information about house and garden plants, toxic or benign, see www.ladybug.uconn.edu/.



ROSEMARY BATORI

Born July 14, 1913—Died Nov. 22, 2012
Dorchester, England Eugene Oregon

That dash between her birth and death was a dash toward a full life. With her strong courage, she met life head on.

Rosemary was president of Church Women United from 1997 to 2000. She attended the National Women's Conference in Houston in 1997. She had a deep sense of human fairness and civil responsibility and she brought that to our attention. She had grown up in England during the war and made her first visit to Warsaw, which was almost completely destroyed by the war. There she saw a Jewish ghetto where they were all herded inside before burning it to the ground. From then on she was determined to speak out vocally on behalf of civil rights for all.

A woman of deep faith, her church life was very important to her. She was very involved in St. Mary's Episcopal, and was the first woman Senior Warden, head of the church's governing body. The first in the state of Oregon. She attended national church conventions and spoke strongly on behalf of women being able to become priests. Again this was a case of fairness for her.

Rosemary was very active with the PTA, various school board advisory committees and the central curriculum committee.

She was very politically active, working on campaigns, serving as a precinct committee person and ultimately running for state representative when she was 62. She was on the board of the League of Women Voters, a 50+ member. She served on the Eugene Commission of the Rights of Women and the Eugene Human Rights Commission and the Governor's Commission for Women. She was very active in the Million Mom's March.

An amazing woman who indeed lived life to the fullest, who wanted to make a difference, and indeed she did.



CWU, NCC ANNOUNCE ANNUAL YOUNG WOMEN LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES March 1-6 AT U.N.

New York, December 5, 2012 —Church Women United, Inc.

(CWU) and The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) are offering Young Women's Leadership Experiences to provide opportunities for women between the ages of 18 and 30, who are active in a NCC member communion or Church Women United unit, to engage in global women's issues through the ecumenical movement.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) event will be a five day experience March 1-6, 2013 providing orientation to the CWU, NCC, Ecumenical Women at the UN, the UN-CSW, and this year's theme - Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. As visitors to the CSW, participants will get a small taste of this annual UN event and will be involved in side events at the Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN). For more info go to <http://www.ncccusa.org/>

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SOME CALENDAR ITEMS FOR 2013

Time to mark our new calendars. Get ready for exciting events where we renew our faith and witness our convictions. The legislature is meeting.

Saturday, February 23rd, 3:00 pm, Eugene Public Library:
Opening event, community read, Dead Man Walking.

Monday, February 25th, 9:00 am, Salem
Partnership for Safety and Justice lobby day. Car pool sign-up Feb 1st.

Thursday, February 28th, 9:00 am, Salem
Interfaith Advocacy Day. Special bus - watch for news.

March: "International Women's Day" Special Events

Saturday, March 16th, 2:00 pm, Eugene Public Library
Sister Helen Prejean: talk, book signing