



The Vine

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

Editor: Phyllis Hockley

February 2011

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 2** **Brails Restaurant, 1689 Willamette St.**
Wed 7-8:30am Immigration Program
- Feb 4** **Peace Presbyterian, 3060 River Rd.**
Fri 532 C St., Springfield
9:15 Immigration Program
- Mar 4, 9:15** **United Lutheran**
2230 Washington
World Day of Prayer

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

IMMIGRANTS AND IMMIGRATION

Presenters at Brails will be Courtney Toch, sharing her experience in Oaxaca, Mexico with a Witness for Peace delegation, "Roots of Migration." She is a UO graduate student in International Studies and Conflict and Dispute Resolution. Itahi Diaz, who has served on the board of Amigos Multicultural Center in Eugene and worked in its youth leadership program, is an immigrant from Oaxaca. Samantha Chirillo, who is the Lane County Organizer for the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign.

Presenters at Peace Presbyterian will be Guadalupe Quinn, Coordinator of the Immigrant Rights Advocacy Program of the Amigos Multicultural Center, who will speak from her broad experience, both as an immigrant and as a long-time resident of Eugene and worker from immigrant justice. Penny Palmer, from 1st United Methodist Church in Eugene, will share from her experience

COMING IN MARCH WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer Committee in Chile sees the theme question, "How Many Loaves Have You?", as an invitation to enter a process that draws us into the Bible, into the context of Chile, and into the real situations of our lives and communities. This will be both informative and grounded in our everyday living. Plan to bring a friend.



A WORD FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

Dorothy Sistrom

"Blessed are the Peacemakers"

To work for peace requires endless patience studying the views of all sides carefully weighing what justice demands,

In Church Women United let us continue to foster bipartisan dialogue prayerfully avoiding self-righteous adherence to our own tightly held beliefs. Let us encourage the expression of disparate viewpoints and the patient study of mollifying actions. Let us speak out for the cause of justice and the amicable resolutions of differences.

How can we as Christian women react to differences of opinion—political or religious? We need to bear in mind that all persons are children of God entitled to have opinions just as we do. To resolve differences of opinions we must listen tirelessly and respectfully and prayerfully to each other's views and refrain from excesses of hurtful speech, expressions of hate from inflammatory words that can stir passions in unpredictable ways.

To work for peace requires endless patience studying the views of all sides carefully weighing what justice demands. We must work patiently and tirelessly to bring about justice.

These responses are not easy. That is why peacemakers are blessed and why we must seek and rely on God's help and guidance and endurance.

Phyllis Hockley

It's a new year. So let's welcome it with all our heart as we say goodbye to the old. And that means, "Let it go!" 2010 was a year of struggle, strife, suffering, war and violence. The more I was reading of the disasters, pain and suffering around the world, the more I felt depressed and saw no way out. But I'm letting all that go! Just now read of the tremendous work of the UN Peacekeepers in the Ivory Coast and Sudan, and of many different groups working together. A friend sent me what someone saw coming in 2011. "This will be the phase of universal brotherhood and peace, abundance and affluence". Time for me to see the new in a positive light.

Before us are open doors. Seeing them as new possibilities gives the needed energy to walk boldly through them. Join me as I let go of worry or regrets and walk boldly into the new.

GLOBAL WARMING

Dorothy Sistrom

Has your church taken any action to reduce your global warming footprint? To assist your group in this effort Church Women United has two copies of "Cool Congregations" a step-by-step workbook from Oregon Interfaith Power and Light. To borrow a copy, call Dorothy Sistrom (541-342-4066).

You could also consult representatives of First United Methodist Church in Eugene or St. Mary's Episcopal Church that have taken steps as "Cool Congregations".

First United Methodist is installing solar panels in its parking lot and would be willing to share their experience with your congregation. St. Mary's Episcopal has a "Cool Congregations" committee. Among their plans are "meatless Mondays" in Lent which will feature meals and menus using local ingredients. Contact them for advice and assistance in organizing your congregations.

You women's' groups can do what CWU has done: borrow non-disposable service kits for 25 from Lane County Landfill at no charge. You just need to reserve in advance and return the kits clean. Call 541-682-2353.



GREEN TIPS

"Getting rid of single-use plastic check-out bags will eliminate the number one item of plastic found on beaches."

"The City of Portland estimates that it spends \$2.3 million each year to clear streets, storm drains and water pipes of plastic bags and film."

So keep lots of cloth tote bags in your car. We'll be part of the solution from now on.

**JANUARY MEETING
UPDATE ON HEALTH CARE REFORM
Charlotte Maloney**

Thank you to Oregon Representative Val Hoyle and Lane County Commissioner Pete Sorenson for updating us about the current effects of health care reform in our community!

At both the first breakfast meeting and at the usual monthly meeting, handouts were provided. As I explained the federal health care bill, gains for women and their families from the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act were listed in a handout with sources of more information and the local phone numbers of our members of congress. We discussed taking action, after we learn about upcoming votes in the news, by communicating to each congress person what we do and don't support on regular basis- even weekly.

Commissioner Sorenson provided information about primary care and mental health care available to 15,000 people in our 4 Community Health Clinics- RiverStone in Springfield, Springfield High School Clinic, the new Charnelton in downtown Eugene and Lane County Mental Health Clinic. The capacity is expanding this year to over 20,000 people. He described the county responsibility for public health services, as distinct from individual health care services- and the importance of both. We discussed the interest of some CWU members taking action to observe the County Commissioner meetings and speak at the public comment time about issues of concern. A brief training in observing and making public comment may be held following the February 4 meeting.

Rep. Hoyle, who is also the director of 100% Access Program at United Way, provided business cards with #211 phone number, which is a 911 type phone line for referral information about social services and health care. This includes mental health care and dental care questions, as well as a parent question hotline. The #211 cards will also be available at the February CWU meetings for those who can distribute them. She described innovative public health programs in her district being instituted block by block, such as the "walk to school" groups for students and corner stores selling locally grown produce. She also described Community Health Outreach Workers located at the Emergency Rooms to give referral to social services. Val also addressed some of the difficult decisions required with the \$3.5 billion budget deficit creating the environment of improving the way some services are delivered instead of simply cutting services with "business as usual."

If anyone would like copies of the handouts provided, request from me via email at charuhc@comcast.net with subject "Handouts."



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

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE
NOV. 30 TO DEC. 3
ATLANTIC CITY**

Hotel costs have come in. The Conference spans 2 weekdays and 2 weekend days. Weekday rate: \$65/night. Weekend rate: \$125/night. Hotel cost for the entire conference: \$380. It's a little early to determine flight rates as those rates will change as we get closer to the date. If you are interested in attending this celebration of 70 years of Church Women United, please contact the Recording Secretary (Kim) at 541-517-4280 or kimbrysonchamley@yahoo.ca.

52 Weeks of Devotion

Just recently available, "52 Weeks of Devotion: Weekly Thought for our 70th Year". You can order your own copy of this commemorative anniversary book of prayers and devotions written by women from our past and present. Call Kutztown Distribution Center at 1-800-298-5551, prompt #1, to order yours for \$11.95.

National Priority: Gather Around the Table - CWU and Diabetes

CWU has made diabetes education a priority. Today almost 21 million children and adults in the US have diabetes. 9.7 million are women. 1/3 of those women don't know they have diabetes. It occurs 2-4 times more often among the African American, Hispanic/Latino and Native American populations over Caucasians. The incidence increases (in all populations) with age. Diabetes is now the 5th deadliest disease in the US and has no cure.

March 21 - 26th is Diabetes Alert Week. If you would like to order CWU materials for your church to address this issue in your women's group, contact the Recording Secretary (Kim) at 541-517-4280 or kimbrysonchamley@yahoo.ca.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR INPUT

Kim Bryson-Chamley

The Finance Committee is putting together a strategic plan - a 5 year overview of goals, how to reach them, how much they will cost and how we are to raise the money. Your input in this process is imperative. A few times this spring you may be asked to complete a survey. Included in your newsletter is the first. As has been printed previously in the Vine, National CWU is hosting a 70th Anniversary/Birthday conference from Nov. 30 to Dec. 3 in Atlantic City. Under consideration is whether our local unit should contribute (degree to be determined) to the cost of sending representatives from our local unit. Please complete the inserted card, attach a stamp and pop it in the mail. If you receive the Vine via email, please complete the questionnaire sent as an attachment with the Vine and email it to kimbrysonchamley@yahoo.ca. Many thanks!

WHERE DO I FIT INTO THE TRAGEDY?

Phyllis Hockley

I have been praying for all those involved in the Arizona shootings. And now I ask, "Where do I fit into all of this. Then this article by Marianne Williamson's popped up in an e-mail.



This is part of her article,
called "Words have Meaning".

Tragedy takes us to the very state of consciousness which, were we to hold to it, would go far toward preventing further tragedies. Whether pundits, politicians and media personalities choose to use this tragedy to grow spiritually, to increase their compassion, to commit more deeply to love, is under no one's control but their own. But each of us can decide for ourselves what we will personally do with this latest national tragedy. We can remember that just as hate thought and hate speech do indeed affect the entire world, so do loving thought and loving speech. The only thing greater than a forcefield of hate is a forcefield of love. And each and every one of us -- with the thoughts we think, the words we use and the things we do -- contribute, or fail to contribute, to the field of consciousness that will save us all.

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IMMIGRANT RIGHTS LEGISLATION: MOVING FORWARD

Peg Morton

The comprehensive federal DREAM Act that would have opened avenues for undocumented youth to become citizens was defeated in the Senate. It is exciting that CAUSA, a state-wide immigrant rights organization, working with a strong local support coalition, is calling a meeting of community leaders and participants in faith communities to learn about proposed state legislation that will;

1. Restore access to an Oregon State driver's license for undocumented immigrants. The coalition working on this legislation wants to eliminate unnecessary barriers for individuals to legally drive and purchase insurance.

2. Create a policy that allows all students who have graduated from high school or received their GED in the State of Oregon the opportunity to pay in-state tuition to continue post-secondary education regardless of immigration status.

Leaders from the faith community and community organizations will ask local elected officials from the cities of Eugene and Springfield to work with them at the Oregon State Legislature for the Restoration of Driver's License and In-State Tuition.

The Assembly is being planned for Thursday, February 10, 6:00 pm at the First Congregational Church, 1050 23rd St., Eugene.

Note: The coalition wishes to pack the church!

WE WELCOME TRUDY ATKINSON OUR NEW TREASURER

If you haven't already, and would like to send your \$10 for your Vine subscription, send to:

Trudy Atkinson,
812 W. Olympic
Springfield, OR 97477

If you are coming to February forum, bring it then.

And quotas for 2011 are due by April, but you may want to send now.

And that would be great!

Thanks for keeping us afloat as we strive to be a vibrant force in our community.

HOW WE MISS HER!!!



Dora Emma Harris 1927-2010

Dora Emma Harris, daughter of Euel Varner Wright, and Marrine Estelle Rhoades Wright, was born July 1, 1927 in Progresso, New Mexico. She died on December 29th, 2010 at the age of 83 of liver cancer, at her home in Eugene, Oregon. She was preceded in death by her husband, Samuel Russell Harris, and her son, Jeffrey Sean Harris.

During the harvest season in 1943, in the pinto bean fields on the family farm in New Mexico, Dora, a sweet 16 year old, fell in love and became a young wife, and then mother to six children. She and her family moved to Oregon in 1962. Five years after the birth of her sixth child, Dora became a young widow, and began a new role as breadwinner, mother, father, counselor, and friend to her children. Dora's first job outside the home was at Chase Gardens Nursery in Eugene in 1964. She learned that working was fun and an act of service, which is the attitude she maintained throughout her career. In 1969 Dora began her career at Sacred Heart General Hospital in Eugene in the housekeeping department at \$1.25 per hour. In 1978 Dora transferred to the laboratory, and became one of the first phlebotomists at Sacred Heart. She became an ASCP certified phlebotomist the first year the exam was given.

She was instrumental in helping phlebotomy become a recognized profession on the laboratory team. Dora worked as an Assistant Phlebotomy coordinator from 1978 until 1994. During that time Dora trained 82 medical technology students. Upon her retirement, Dora began her service as a volunteer at Sacred Heart, working another 15 years, and contributing over 5,000 hours of service. During retirement, Dora remained active in International Training in Communications (I.T.C.), serving as the president of the Eugene Council, and treasurer of the Columbia Region. 5



Dora participated in speech contests. She was also involved at the state level planning and coordinating events. She became a member of the Obsidians, and took over 100 trips, earning the endearing name from her grandchildren of 'Dora the explorer'.

Dora was a strong civic leader and a loyal member of the League of Women Voters.

Dora was a faithful servant in her church and community, serving as a Stephen Minister, President of Church Women United (C.W.U.), Secretary of United Lutheran Church Women, Chair of the Social Concerns Committee, and the church representative to 'That's my Farmer' program.

In 2008, at the age of 81, Dora was given the Valiant Woman Award from the National Church Women United organization for recognition for service to C.W.U., her own church, and her community - as a woman who lived the gospel message in her everyday life.

Dora's last request of her family and her friends is that we 'live, love, laugh, and be happy.' She will be missed by her children and their spouses; Jean and Art Garboden, Las Vegas, Nevada; Joe and Carolyn Harris, Burleson, Texas; Jerry and Stephanie Harris, El Segundo, California; Jacque Branford, Springfield, Oregon; and Judi and Jeff Scranton, Bakersfield California. She also will be forever remembered as Grandma Dora the Explorer by 18 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Dora generously gave to many local, national, and international causes. In lieu of flowers, you are invited to contribute to a charity of your choice. A celebration of life took place on Saturday, January 8th, at 1:00 p.m. at United Lutheran Church, 2230 Washington St., Eugene, Oregon.

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COMING EVENTS

January 31, Earth Care Summit, 6 to 8:45 p.m. (display tables and optional tour at 5:15 p.m.), Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland. EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns invites all congregations interested in caring for creation to a celebration and gathering of congregations going green. Interfaith environmental advocacy training from 2:30-5 p.m. Learn about environmental priorities in the 2011 legislature and how to be an effective faith-based advocate. Pre-registration is required for both events. Cost: Earth Care Summit - \$40 regular, \$20 students, advocacy training - \$15 regular, \$10 students. Registration forms can be found at http://www.emoregon.org/emo_events.php, or you may call Alison at 503-221-1054 ext. 210. Scholarships are available.

Thursday, February 10, 2011, 6:00 pm Lane County Leaders Assembly,

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, 1080 23rd Street, Eugene
Issues to be discussed: Drivers License, In-State Tuition. Leaders' from the faith community and community organizations will ask local elected officials to work with us (CAUSA) at the Oregon State Legislature for the Restoration of Driver's License and In-State Tuition.

February 19-21, Food Justice: Community ,Equity and Sustainability, U of O.

Food Justice explores the history and future of our food system with a focus on three themes: community, equity and sustainability. Sponsored by the Wayne Morse Center. Free, open to the public. For more information, <http://waynemorsecenter.uoregon.edu/foodjustice>

Saturday, February 19, 4:00 p.m. 175 Knight Law Center, Fred Kirschenmann,
Distinguished Fellow for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

Monday, February 21, 9:00 a.m. Gumwood Room, Erb Memorial Union, Darra Goldstein ,
5:15 p.m. Erb Memorial Union Ballroom, Dr. Vandana Shiva Tickets for the Shiva address will be available from the UO Ticket Office after Jan. 19.