



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY
cwulanecounty.org

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April 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 13** **Breakfast at Brails**
Tues 7-8:30am 1689 Willamette St.
Bread for the World
- April 13** **Church of the Resurrection**
(2nd Friday) 3925 Hilyard (Note change from yearbook)
9:00am **Bread for the World**
- May 4** **First United Methodist**
Fri 11:30 1376 Olive
May Friendship Day Luncheon
Listening to my Sisters

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APRIL PROGRAM

Bread for the World

Protecting Funding for Hungry People

Bread for the World's motto "Have Faith, End Hunger" comes to life as we write letters to protect federal programs vital to hungry people.

Robin Stephenson, BFW Western Field Organizer, will come from Portland to speak at our Friday Breakfast (7:00 am, Brail's) and at the later forum (9:00 am, Church of the Resurrection). Our brief handwritten letters get more attention than e-mails or printed ones. Robin's presentations are always exciting and faith based. Our letters help prevent cuts in international food aid and in domestic programs for families and children. Please join us on April 13th.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY

This will be our May Friendship Day Luncheon and our theme is "Listening to my sisters". We will have a special speaker along with the program created by our national CWU. If you still need your ticket, please check with the rep from your church or call Diane Beuerman at 541-485-8803. This is one of our 3 celebrations, and always a great event.

NEED RIDE TO A FORUM?

Call Diane Beuerman at 541-485-8803

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Phyllis Hockley

April 8th is Easter, the time to celebrate new life, new hope, new joy.

But we are still in Lent, when many people take on the disciplines of Lent: repentance, prayer, fasting, and charity, which for some is a giving up and for others, adding something to their daily life.

And each year I find myself giving more emphasis to one than the other. One year my fasting during holy week consisted of only liquid for 2 meals each day. The hunger pangs really linked me to those forced to fast by their poverty. My thinking went back to the year I lived in a little village in Indonesia. The baby next door to the family I was living with, suddenly got sick, turned blue and died. He died of malnutrition as his mom had very little milk for him. I often held that baby and had grown to love him. And as I grew hungry I became aware not just of that baby, but of the babies throughout the world, dying of malnutrition.

This year I'm taking a look at charity and what that really means for my life. In looking at the Lenten Discipline of Charity -Love for others, it is described as sharing with those who cannot repay your kindness. Cooking breakfast for the Egan Warming Center gave me a good chance to practice. It made me listen a long time to Ella, when at first I thought I had other more important things to do.

Perhaps for Holy Week, you might like to consider doing one of the disciplines. Early morning prayer time, fasting, or making a special contribution. Perhaps it will raise your consciousness, perhaps quiet your mind and give a sense of God's presence, perhaps bring about a closer connection to God and neighbor.

May Holy Week be especially meaningful to you this year. May it prepare you for the fullness of Easter and the power of life over death.



A LOOK AT OUR MARCH FORUMS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Anne O'Brien

Our March celebration for World Day of Prayer was put together by Rose Marie Zook Barber based upon the celebration planned by the women of Malaysia, with the theme "Let Justice Prevail!" We heard stories of the difficulties of seeking and receiving justice in Malaysia, and spent time in prayer for Malaysia and other places in our world in need of justice and enjoyed singing some appropriate hymns to the accompaniment of our own Mary Roth. Susannah Lustica, Helen Liguori and Alice Dugan assisted Rose Marie in the readings at St. Jude on Friday. On Tuesday, Breakfast at Brails gave an opportunity for many women there to be involved in the readings and it was a meaningful experience for the group. It seemed to be a hopeful celebration at both venues.. Thanks to all.

Many thanks to Linda Sogge of St. Jude Woman's Club for the use of her keyboard.

BIBLE STUDY

We were amazed at the wonderful response to our first post forum Bible Study after our March Forum. Rose Marie Zook Barber facilitated the Bible study at St. Jude, where we discussed 2 different ways to look at the story of the Woman at the Well from John 4. 15 women attended. Rose Marie facilitated a lively discussion with lots of input from the women gathered.

DEALING WITH JUNKMAIL

Eunice Kjaer

One option is to Google "junk mail" and there will be several choices helping you eliminate it.

Or you can send them this letter:

"I am concerned about the use of natural resources when companies advertise through direct mail. I believe LESS IS BEST when it comes to unnecessary waste. In the interest of waste reduction, please include my name in your "do not mail file". I understand my name will remain on the list for five years. Please also remove my name for telemarketing lists. Thank you.

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Signature _____



**ROBIN FILLMORE,
CWU ADVOCACY
COORDINATOR
IN WASHINGTON D.C.**

Sisters,
Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has been a champion for women and children since her earliest days in the Obama administration. One of her great passions is the 1,000 Days Campaign. The idea behind this campaign is simple: The 1,000 days from pregnancy through a child's second birthday are the most crucial for a child's development. With proper nutrition, children grow to their full potential, are healthier throughout their lifetime, increase their standard of living, and can increase a country's GDP by at least 2 - 3 percent. On the other hand, malnutrition contributes to more than one in every three deaths of children under age 5 each year.

Secretary Clinton has mobilized her staff at the State Department to promote nutrition programs throughout the world. She has worked with a coalition of faith groups and international providers, known as the 1,000 Days Partnership to bring attention to this problem.

With this petition, we want to send a strong signal that the women of Church Women United and other women's groups throughout the country support her efforts and encourage her to keep in the fight even after leaving the State Department.

You can sign this petition by going to our website, churchwomen.org. Move down the page to Thank You and click on it. Then fill out the form.

A goal set by CWU President Margurite Carter is to deliver 50,000 signatures to Secretary Clinton by May 15, 2012. I encourage each of you to sign the petition, forward it to your friends and your networks, download the hard copy and take it to your church and civic gatherings.

And more will be coming. This is the first action of several in which Church Women United will be engaged with the 1,000 Days Partnership. Visit our website churchwomen.org or a more information about the 1,000 Conversations program that will be started in the coming weeks.

Blessings,
Robin Fillmore, PhD

**CWU CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY, MARCH 8TH**

Cindy Kokis

CWU attended ZONTA's luncheon at the Hilton. The panel's topic was Homelessness and Trafficking: Keeping Our Kids Safe. Valarie Rae, a trafficking victim, stated that our city and county needs to fund programs for those who have been prostituted. These Lane County youth need "cognitive restructuring" in a residential program to prevent them returning to abusive situations.

Working to end human trafficking is a national CWU priority. Sheila Lowe and Cindy Kokis attended this \$25 luncheon, courtesy of SELCO. If this is your bank, tell them thanks. Upcoming coalition work will focus on outreach to motels: the Olympic Trials will bring an influx of young women to be trafficked as prostitutes. Remember: the average age to enter trafficking is 12 years. Annually, 246 million youth ages 6-17 are victims.

**Show care and respect for our downtown youth.
Smile and make eye contact as you pass.**

GOOD NEWS

LOCAL:

(1) Awab Alrawe, CWU Forum speaker in September 2011, was front page in the Register Guard, February 28, 2012.

(2) The "exclusion zone" in downtown Eugene is reauthorized only through November. ACLU and CWU have questioned this zone, and council support is fading.

(3) The plastic bag ban is coming. The Eugene City Council has directed staff to draft an ordinance to ban single use plastic bags at city retailers.

STATE: Rep. Paul Holvey, Eugene, worked hard and our Salem legislature passed a rule requiring a three party meeting before foreclosure. The lender, the resident and a neutral third party will work to adjust terms and prevent eviction.

NATIONAL: In December, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized the first-ever national standards limiting toxic emissions from coal-and-oil-fired power plants.

As a Christian...

I will do more than belong,
I will participate.
I will do more than care, I will help.
I will do more than believe,
I will live my faith.
I will do more than be fair, I will be kind.
I will do more than forgive, I will love.
I will do more than teach, I will enrich.
I will do more than be friendly,
I will be a friend.
I will do more than live, I will grow.
Amen

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The quarterly reading group, **"What I'm Reading And Why It Matters"** (or WIRAWIM) will have its next gathering on Tuesday, April 17th, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the upstairs **Community Room at Market of Choice at 29th and Willamette in Eugene.**

Facilitated by Church Women United member Mary Sharon Moore, this gathering invites participants to talk briefly about what they are reading and why it matters to them. Topics so far have spanned organic farming and gardening, environmental concerns, social and economic issues, religion and society, justice and humanitarian concerns, peacemaking, and more.

Bring whatever you are reading, and be ready to talk about why it matters to you. The event is free, with freewill offerings accepted for St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County.

Details at (541) 687-2046) or on the web at www.awakeningvocations.com/wirawim.