



The Vine

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY
cwulanecounty.org

Editor: Phyllis Hockley
Phyllish@efn.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 5 **Breakfast at Brails**
Friday 1689 Willamette
7-8:30am **Bread for the World**

April 5 **St. Jude Catholic**
Friday 4330 Willamette St.
9-11:15am **Bread for the World**

May 4 **First United Methodist**
11:30 1376 Olive St.
SATURDAY **May Friendship Day Luncheon**
"Swinging Wide the Doors of Hospitality"
(Tuesday and Friday forums meet together)

APRIL FORUMS

"The Lord of Hosts will make for all people a feast" Isaiah 25:6
God's kingdom is envisioned with ample food and drink for all people at the table. Millions of people in the United States and around the world face hunger every day. For those people more is at stake now than during any previous Bread for the World Offering of Letters campaign.

This year our 2013 Offering of Letters campaign, "A Place at the Table", aims to prevent deep cuts in funding for programs that save lives and help people around the world overcome poverty. We seek a bold but achievable goal—a united plan to end hunger.

In this workshop you will learn how to use this year's resources to urge our nation's leaders to protect hungry people from bearing the burden of deficit reduction. The presentation will have special emphasis on how Oregon leaders play crucial roles in protecting vital programs that address poverty and hunger. Robin Stephenson, BFW Regional staff will be our speaker.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY

Join us at our May Friendship Day Celebration, starting with a luncheon at 11:30. The theme is "Swinging Wide the Doors of Hospitality." There will be a short worship service and our special speaker will be Susan Ban, Executive Director of Shelter Care, who has welcomed many people into special care.

Tickets will be available at the April Forums and you can check with the rep from your church or call Diane Beuerman at 541-485-8803.

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

We are pretty well into Lent now but I still wanted to share a great list of ideas for keeping a holy lent. I got the idea from Nadia Bolz-Weber in a **House for All Sinners and Saints**. There's plenty here to do one a day for the rest of the season.

Here's the list: Pray for your enemies. Walk, carpool, bike or bus it. Don't turn on the car radio. Give \$20 to a non-profit of your choosing. Take 5 minutes of silence at noon. Look out the window until you find something of beauty you had not noticed before: Give 5 items of clothing to SVDP. No bitching day. Do someone else's chore. Buy a few \$5 fast food gift cards to give to homeless people you encounter. Call an old friend. Pray the Paper (pray for people and situations in today's news) Read Psalm 139. Pay a few sincere compliments. Bring your own mug. Educate yourself about human trafficking and/or join the Parish family from St. Thomas Moore for a vigil on the first Sunday at Gateway Shopping Center. Forgive someone. Try an internet diet. Change one light in your house to a compact florescent. Check out some new Lenten prayers. Ask for help. Tell someone what you are grateful for (maybe it's for them). Introduce yourself to a neighbor. Read Psalm 121. Bake a cake. No shopping day. Light a candle. Write a thank you note to your favorite teacher. Invest in canvas shopping bags. Donate art supplies to your local elementary school. Read John 8:1-11 . Worship at a friend's mosque, synagogue or church and look for the beauty. Confess a secret. No sugar day - where else is there sweetness in your life? Give \$20 to a local non-profit (you've been introduced to plenty at CWU). Educate yourself about a saint. Pray for peace. Pray for your enemies.

At the end of Lent decide which of these exercises you'll keep for good. Imagine that?!

Wishing you a happy and holy Lent and Easter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AT FORUMS & CELEBRATIONS

Anne O'Brien

We will re-institute our "Announcements/ Causes" table at each meeting. If your announcement is a follow up to a CWU program, or related to our priorities, you may briefly (please) come up just prior to start of the meeting time to share your announcement. Please bring printed materials for the table. If you need help getting them printed, notify Anne O'Brien 541-554-2646 aobdob@pacinfo.com. Thank you.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER CELEBRATION

Anne O'Brien

Saturday, March 2, 2013

This was an occasion to get our Friday Forum and Brails women together for celebrating the World Day of Prayer at Allison Park Christian Church. Thanks to Fran Osborne and the women of Allison Park for a warm and welcome table of foods and coffee. Thanks to Rev. Jim Osborne for his welcome and inspiring words.

Thanks to Phyllis Hockley who used input from Women of France via the ecumenical group, World day of Prayer and National CWU to develop a meaningful program entitled, "I Was a Stranger and you welcomed Me."

Thanks to Paula Voborsky and Patty Roland who recruited a fine team to carry out a skit that gave us a clearer picture of what it might be like to be an immigrant in a foreign land, France, in this case. We thank Mary Roth at piano and Susannah Lustica leading the singing, which added to our celebration.

We had a good turnout of about 50 folks who generously donated over \$371 to WDP national committees who will donate to nonprofit organizations that deal with the issues of justice and peace identified by the French women.

QUOTAS

DUE BY APRIL IF POSSIBLE!

This is your church membership donation.

See page 25 in yearbook for suggested amount.

Thanks to all who already donated.



INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAY Phyllis Hockley

Was a great coming together of many religious traditions in one common cause, the cause of justice, ending poverty. Two large vans plus several cars went up from Eugene. There were 4 women in our van and they were all from CWU!

The morning began with a panel and Rabbi Rachel Joseph set the stage for the rest of the day with these thoughts:

You are created in the image of God. Everyone is endowed with this.

Action and prayer go together. It is our faith that motivates us to act in the world. When we're out there acting, it is like our feet are doing the praying.

Reading scripture is important, but not enough. We must act. We must bring the scripture out into the world. We must take the brokenness of the world and make it whole.

We ended the day visiting with our legislators. We hope they can fulfill some of our hopes.

FAITHFUL ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE Cindy Kokis

CWU members continue their witness at our state legislature. A carful, driven by Bev Murrow, brought part of the +120 citizens to Salem to advocate for "Smart on Crime, Restorative Justice" programs. Members also drove I -5 to speak for the environment, advocating for the bill to remove toxics from public parks. Add Interfaith Advocacy Day and Health Care for All-Oregon to the list.

It's not all work. Four of our members went to an elegant lunch at the Hilton, tickets courtesy of Zonta, an international group for professional women. CWU has worked with them on human trafficking.

LIVING UNDER DRONES Cindy Kokis

"When scientific power outruns moral power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men."
..... Martin Luther King

"Drones are unmanned aircraft remotely controlled by U.S. soldiers sitting at a computer console in Nevada or New York, that are used to spy on and/or kill people remotely in Pakistan, Yemen and many other countries" .

.....Michael Carrigan, CALC

CWU members are called to inform our faith communities on issues of justice. Early Christians were killed because they believed "Thou Shall Not Kill", which their leader had affirmed. St. Augustine developed the just war theory enabling Christians to go to war, and Christianity to be accepted by Emperor Constantine. This political move radically changed the faith.

The UN Charter limits a just war to those authorized by the UN and prosecuted in self-defense.

"Wars are a series of otherwise criminal actions and we try to make distinctions that are impossible to police. Once you can legally drop an atom bomb, all questions of legality become insubstantial. ... One useful myth is the idea that you can distinguish between civilians and military personnel in warfare." Ibrahim Gassama, U of O Law School.

Women's Action for New Directions (WAND) had a program on Drone attacks in Pakistan. Begun in 2004, controlled by the CIA, and are seen as (1) causing 75% of Pakistanis to view the US as their enemy and (2) help recruit for al-Quada. There have been over 300 attacks with casualties estimated at 3,220, and 884 deaths.

At CWU we are working with WAND and CALC to present our September forums on Drones. Please keep informed and join us in our efforts to question the justice of Drone warfare. Should Eugene pass a resolution to be a drone free zone? Should the Eugene Police Department be allowed the use of drones?

**WORKING
TO
PREVENT TRAFFICKING**

**SPECIAL INVITE
BY THE UNITED METHODIST
WOMEN**

DOROTHY Weber

Saturday, April 20, 11:30 a.m.
1st United Methodist, 1370 Olive St.



Speakers:

Jes Richardson, trafficking survivor,
Co-founder of Freedom's Breath,
Portland

Liz Ness, victim advocate,
Zonta International, Eugene

Listen as these informed women tell us about human trafficking in our communities along the I-5 corridor.

Learn and strategize together the ways we, as women of faith, can work locally to prevent trafficking of our children, grandchildren, and friends.

We will gather for a potluck luncheon and time to visit. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Main dish will be furnished. Program begins at 12:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to 541-344-4085 or lee.char@msn.com. The event is free however we need to know how many tables to set up.

Bring your friends and your teens.



NEWS FROM NATIONAL



**CELEBRATING WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
CWU National president
Marilyn Lariviere**

We celebrated World Day of Prayer at the Salvation "Army. It was one of 11 services on Cape Cod. There will be two more next week at the Community College and at the jail. Such a beautiful service written by the women of France.

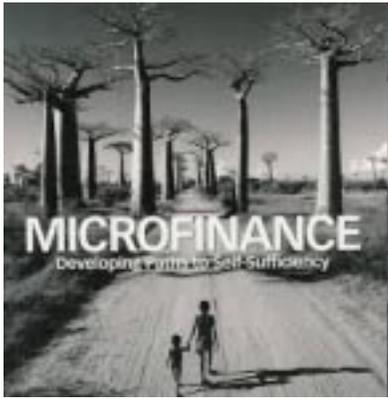
Margaret Koehler told about their celebration:

We had an interesting experience in Church Women United today. Two visitors came to our meeting, a couple from Colorado. They were here visiting and said that they saw our on line communication about the event. The woman said she missed being at home for World Day of Prayer, so they followed the directions and joined us. It was a lovely way to let the program theme come to life, as we "welcomed the strangers."



**STEPHANIE JONES
CWU ADVOCACY
COORDINATOR IN
WASHINGTON, DC**

I'm representing the Church Women United movement at the signing ceremony for the Violence Against Women Act. We all work so hard for peace and justice and face so many obstacles and challenges that we can get discouraged. But days like this remind us that our struggle is worth it and inspire us to continue our work!



SMALL STEPS TO HELP THE POOR. **Judy Romans**

The financial services we take for granted (checking and savings accounts, credit cards, loans, insurance, etc.) may be minimal or non-existent for many of the poor around the world. Enter the concept of "micro-finance", a movement to provide such services usually with the aim to promote economic development, employment, and self-sufficiency on a small, local basis rather than nationally.

In older and/or rural societies, people often used barter or trade of goods and services to obtain needed supplies. But, like the rest of us, there are times when money is needed, such as, weddings or funerals, emergencies caused by illness or natural disaster, or to improve life by starting a business or buying farmland, seed, animals, and equipment. Often small amounts of money are sufficient for this in some parts of the world.

Efforts to aid the poor financially have a long history, from the charitable pawnshops run by the Franciscans in the 15th century, to credit unions of 19th century, and the micro-credit movement in the 1970's. These activities differ from charity, which provide survival aid to people too impoverished to generate any cash to repay loans.

In the United States, micro-finance institutions (MFI), started developing in the 1980's and by 2007 there were over 500 MFI, including ACCION USA, aiding small businesses which cannot get loans from other sources, and Capital Good Fund, which includes financial education, savings programs, and free tax preparation in addition to loans.

While the work of such MFI is often praised, critics point out some dangers, since these organizations are often unregulated and establish individual loan practices. The poor can be lured into high interest rates, unrealistic ideas about starting and sustaining a business, and becoming low paid workers in industries managed by a MFI. In 2004, the G8 summit endorsed a set of principles addressing such practices, but, without any national or international enforcement, these principles may or may not be followed by a MFI.



HELEN EMMA CRABTREE

TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Rev. Leslie Hall

Helen Crabtree was most often described as "sweet."

Born in 1918 in Nebraska, Helen passed away January 12 at the age of 94. She served many years as a deacon in the McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church and active in Church Women United for many years.

Helen worked as a professional custodian at schools in Waltherville and Springfield, and was an extraordinary cleaner at the church as well.

Making quilts and reading to children were favorite activities. She had cats, and until recently raised several chickens. Helen lived in the same house for many decades, continuing to do her own housework and yard work.

She is survived by her son, Loren, two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister. She will be missed by those of us who knew and loved her.

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 14, First United Methodist, 1376 Olive St.

Occupying the Gospel: Ched Myers, an activist theologian who has worked in social change movements for 40 years. Register and pay on line at www.eugenefumc.org. Call 541-345-8764 for information.