



**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY**  
*cwulanecouty.org*

Editor: Phyllis Hockley

June 2011

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**June 1**                      **Breakfast at Brails**  
**Wed**                         1689 Willamette St.  
7-8:30am                    Faith and Politics: Worker's Rights

**June 3**                      **McKenzie Valley Presbyterian**  
**Fri**                            88393 Walterville Lp, Walterville  
9:15am                      Faith and Politics: Worker's Rights

**Sept**                         **Church of the Brethren**  
1072 Main St. Springfield  
A Path to Peace

**JUNE PROGRAM**

**Faith and Politics: Workers Rights**

Should workers make living wages, have health care and union representation? Can union workers make a positive impact on the rate of unemployment, poverty and homelessness in Lane County? Bring your experience and questions to our June meetings.

Nationally, faith communities support the right of workers to organize, to earn fair wages and to have safe working conditions. The Rev. Lorne Bostwick (Central Presbyterian) will present at Brail's and the Rev. Leslie Hall (McKenzie Valley Presbyterian) will speak at the Friday meeting.

Brandy Stachowski, from the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and Bob Marshall, with the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) will speak at both meetings. The local media need not be our sole source of information.

Friday has an additional delight - our strawberry festival. Enjoy a ride up the McKenzie, local berries and an exciting program.

See you Wednesday - or Friday - or both.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER**

**A Path to Peace**

Awab Al-rawe, an Iraqi who fled to Syria with his family during the war, is now a student at the U of O and is part of the Iraqi Student Project. Awab is an excellent speaker with many experiences to share. You will enjoy his presentation as well as being enlightened.



**Enjoy the summer!!**

## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Phyllis Hockley

Our first reading in church yesterday was from the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Acts, giving us a look at the early church. "They had all things in common, they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread together, they had the good will of all the people." Our priest said they built community, real community, and that gave them their power. I came home and continued to give the idea of "the power of community" some thought. And then I began to see the power of community here in Eugene. This morning I stood with several men, women and children, waving signs that said, "Yes for Education. Yes for Eugene schools." I stood with a 4<sup>th</sup> grader, her mother and another teacher. I felt the power of community standing together as cars passed with honks blaring. I felt the power of our togetherness.

I'm in a community garden and we love our togetherness. I've gotten small spinach plants from Gary, lettuce plants from Leslie and gave from my abundance of swiss chard to Lynne. Saturday was a workday where we all worked together.

But what gives the power from being in community? In the early church it came from the sharing and the caring. It came from having all things in common. It came because what was important to them was the good will of all.

And I think the power of community still comes from the same things today. Take a look at Church Women United. In Church Women United, we have in common, our goal, striving together to make a better world. The early church broke break together. Makes me appreciate why we have nutbreads together before we start our meetings. They had the good will of all the people. Tells me why we celebrate. The CWU state assembly was great and a special addition was the birthday cake for lunch celebrating our 70th anniversary. We will celebrate again at our national meeting in December. Church Women United has 3 celebrations each year. And how great it was to celebrate the lives of 3 great women who gave so much to CWU in the past and celebrate the life of one great women still giving of her all.

Church Women United: United in Christian fellowship and action for peace and justice.

**"The Power of Community!"**



### ANNE O'BRIEN

Our May Friendship Day Celebration, "Living our Friendship, Passing on the Key," attracted a large (80) group of friendly women. We heard two of Sue Gordon's daughters: Jenny and Debby sharing their mother's passing of the key in her legacy to them. Shirley Kingsbury presented our Valiant Woman award to Sue Gordon posthumously with her daughters there to accept it. Alice Dugan gave us a lovely glimpse into the life of Dora Harris and her many years of service to CWU. Cindy Kokis spoke of the many contributions of Dorothy Sistrom and her legacy to our organization. Three wonderful women who blessed us for many years.

Then, a wonderful surprise to Cindy Kokis as she was given our Human Rights award. This was only the second time we have done this with Sister Margaret Graziano being our only other recipient. Cindy was truly surprised and we were warmed by how touched she was. Cindy's husband, George, and the family were there to share making it all the more delightful.

Rebecca Larson, music director at St. Thomas Moore, made all of us sound good as we sang out some old time hymns. Trudie Atkinson, Alice Dugan, Trudie, Alice, Jane Heidegger, and Connie Newman were our skilled leaders in prayer and scripture.

We heard nothing but raves about the work of the St. Jude Women's Club Reception group. The room looked lovely, the food was splendid and the service was the best. The swarm of helpers got the food out to all tables in 5 minutes. We thank St. Jude for hosting us.

Our great thanks to Susannah Lustica who did a wonderful job of putting this celebration together. She inspired us all with her energy and good spirit and we give her blessings and thanks. A job well done.



## **CINDY KOKIS RECEIVES HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD!!**

Deep concern for humanity and therefore resulting activism became a part of this woman's life early. As a part of Trinity Episcopal Parish she was guided and directed to a life of deep faith. The Parish adopted many liberal causes and in those days, had lots of resources. The foundation for her future was set.

University studies led her to take more risks, listen to the things most of us choose to push aside for fear of seeing too clearly, speaking the truth and making the tough statements. In 1966 life took her to Ohio State with her husband, George, and graduate studies. There she had a mentor who encouraged her to adopt more of an activist lifestyle. 2-3 times/week she could be found marching, sitting in, and handing out flyers. All the things she still does to raise awareness about the human condition.

Cindy Kokis who has been a part of Church Women United of Lane County pretty much since she moved to Eugene in 1973, 38 years ago, brought her activist commitment, dedication to the betterment of humanity and deep abiding faith with her. And thru her, CWU has found new involvements. One is the Summer Fun Fund project, which Cindy started years ago, to be used to give at-risk and homeless kids a chance for camps, for swimming, for having some healthy summer fun. Last year we raised \$5000.

And of course we at Church Women United have benefited so much from Cindy's expertise. As the current Ecumenical Action Chair, Cindy has ensured we have excellent programs, tapping into her mass of community resources.

And Cindy puts her time, talent and funds into so many local, state and national organization. She is such a testimonial to the adage "walk your talk". If there is a cause related to Human Rights, Cindy is there. She was at the United Food and Commercial Workers Rally this spring supporting local grocery workers and inviting us all to work for justice and peace and reminding us of that famous quote, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing." Together, she said, "We must speak truth to power."

When you talk about Cindy you cannot neglect her dedication to her faith. Cindy has made a life commitment to the Holy Eucharist, penitence, personal prayer, self-denial, retreat, study, simplicity of living, work and obedience as a part of the Third Order of St. Francis.

For 30 years Cindy has followed this spiritual path, grounded in Social Justice and Peace Making. The aim of the Order is "to make our Lord known and loved everywhere, to spread the spirit of fellowship, and live simply" which Cindy does with her whole heart. She has cared for the sick and less fortunate physically and spiritually, developing lasting relationships.

All of this has been done while supporting her husband through his professorship at the University of Oregon, raising 2 children, teaching in the public schools, participating in the care of 5 grandchildren, taking care of her mother until her passing, and generally running a household, although she will definitely tell you that she is not a homemaker.

And of course we cannot forget about George. He has supported Cindy in all of her activities and commitments with a true loving heart.



Cindy Kokis truly deserved the Human Rights Award for her lifelong dedication to those who deserve more, who are all seen in her eyes as children of God.

And Church Women United was very very pleased to present this award to Cindy.

**JOIN THE PLANNING TEAM  
FOR 2012  
Cindy Kokis**

We meet on Monday, July 11th at 10:30 am, location tba. Now is the time to get one of your pet ideas into a forum. This year we had great programs on health and immigration because Charlotte Maloney and Peg Morton cared.

E-mail [gkokis@uoregon.edu](mailto:gkokis@uoregon.edu) or leave a message at 541-342-6450.

See you for fellowship, lunch, and good company.



**DID YOU KNOW  
THIS ABOUT  
CHURCH WOMEN  
UNITED?**

**Kim Bryson-Chamley**

Church Women United is the agency in charge of Fellowship for the Least Coin, an International ecumenical effort of prayer, peace and reconciliation. Started in 1956 by Shanti Solomon who traveled through Asia as part of the Pacific Mission Team seeking reconciliation among women in war torn countries. Today women are asked to spend time in prayer, upholding those who are victims of jealousy, hatred, violence and injustice to family, community, nation and the world. Each time one prays, she is asked to set aside "least coin" as a tangible token of her prayer. In 2010 the money collected from around the world enough to grant \$195,000 to different regions and projects that supported women, girls and children.

Church Women United of Lane County, guided by Diane Beuerman and Dorothy Webber, will be closing each forum with the prayer of the least coin and ask you contribute your least coin. We look forward to making a difference in the world this way.

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE - 70TH  
BIRTHDAY**



It is arriving sooner than we think! Soon four representatives (Phyllis Hockley, Katherine Hunt, Jane Heidegger, and Kim Bryson-Chamley) will be whisking off to Atlantic City to join women from across the country in a celebration of CWU's 70th year. Registration is due June 30. Our Board has decided to give \$500 of our collective money with the goal of raising \$500 in matching funds from our participants. This \$1000 will pay for registration and provide a small food stipend.

Hotel and airfare are the responsibility of the attendee. We will be part of a presentation highlighting the 2 units that celebrated 100 years recently! 50 people contributing at \$10 each will do. A basket will be passed at our June meeting given time is running out. National conferences occur only once every 4 years.

We would like to be well represented with your love and support.



**DISH LENDING KIT COLLECTION:**

We are collecting plastic dishes for the Florence Master Recycling Program. We need:

- 25 Plastic or Melmac dinner plates
- 25 Plastic or Melmac side plates
- 25 Plastic or Melmac bowls
- 25 Plastic or Melmac coffee cups
- 25 Plastic glasses
- 1 plastic 22 gallon plastic container.

**PLEASE BRING YOUR DONATIONS  
TO THE JUNE FORUM.  
CARLA BUCKNER  
IS THE COORDINATOR  
FOR THIS PROJECT.**



## IT'S SUMMER FUN FUND TIME!

Time to celebrate that last year we raised enough money to give \$600 to each of the 8 different agencies that work with homeless and at-risk kids. Time to celebrate that this money, which was used to provide summer fun for the kids they work with went a long long way.

Womenspace wrote of the tremendous difference it made in the lives of their children. Yes, it provided fun, but more than that, they said, the activities created hope and safety for children whose lives are impacted by domestic violence. What a gift that must be.

Centro Latino Americano shared that our gift made it possible for an unemployed Latino couple to place their 3 small children in the UO Moss Center Summer Camp and partially fund children from 2 other families. The remainder was used to buy arts and crafts for their weekly play group, which is cared for by a bicultural instructor. During this time the moms get together and share stories and conversation. A time enjoyed by the children and the moms alike.

The children at Shelter Care were able to participate in 20 different activities, going to Lone Pine Farm, Amazon Pool, AC Gilbert Discovery Village, Potter's Quarters, Oregon Zoo, etc. ShelterCare expressed their thanks for lots of "extras" that were enjoyed as a result of our gift. They stated that these activities are important not only in themselves: the impact of these summer adventures enable children to keep pace with their more fortunate peers. The enrichment encourages both their development as well-rounded individuals and helps build self-esteem at a time when their family's instability is greatest.

Now it is 2011, and time to do what we can to make this summer fun and safe and filled with hope for these at-risk kids. Think of one of these children having fun at camp, at the Potter's Quarters, or at Splash, then write a check to Church Women United, to the amount that feels right to you. Memo it SFF and send to Phyllis Hockley, 220 N Adams, #2, Eugene, OR 97402.

Funding for social services is being cut drastically this year. But we're not letting it happen to "FUN!! 5

## KEEP CLUSTER MUNITIONS OUT OF CHILDREN'S HANDS

Kim Bryson-Chamley

There are millions of pieces of unexploded weapons scattered around the world. To kids, some of them look like toys, inviting them to play. But even though some of them are decades old, they still explode when disturbed, maiming and killing innocent children. A cluster bomb is designed to come apart in the air, dispersing up to 2,000 bomblets to saturate an area. However, in older weapons, too many of the bomblets don't explode on impact. Even though the US now produces only cluster munitions with a failure rate of less than one percent, our Defense Department still has millions of old cluster munitions in its stockpile with failure rates of as high as 20 percent.

The U.S. Government is a world leader in helping clear these unexploded weapons. UNICEF focuses on Mine Risk Education (MRE) to make children aware of the threat from unexploded weapons. These efforts have made a huge difference: according to the United Nations, in 2009 there were 4,000 casualties worldwide from leftover munitions, down from 26,000 civilians in 1997. That is still 4,000 too many, especially when 40 percent of those casualties were children.

### **Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act of 2011.**

In addition to helping find and eliminate old cluster bombs, as a Nation, we need to make sure that we never use cluster munitions that leave dangerous duds. Right now, that is not current U.S. policy. The U.S. Defense Department says it will give up its high-failure cluster munitions after 2018. Some Members of Congress believe that 7 years is too long to wait, that there is no justification for using antiquated weapons that so often fail, kill and injure, when we have modern cluster munitions that almost never fail.

The Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act of 2011, introduced in the Senate by Sens. Leahy (D-VT) and Feinstein (D-CA), and in the House by Reps. McGovern (D-MA) and Issa (R-CA), would ban the use of cluster munitions with failure rates higher than 1% beginning on the date of enactment, not in 2018. This bill also makes clear that American-made cluster munitions will only be used against clearly defined military targets, not against civilians or in civilian areas.

### **What you can do**

Contact your Representative and Senators and urge them to cosponsor and support S. 558 and H.R. 996, the Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act, to help protect children from needless injury and death.

# CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS IN FASHION



Â© Toby Melville / Reuters

***Princess Beatrice wearing the Philip Treacy hat to be auctioned on eBay to raise funds for UNICEF and Children in Crisis.***

NEW YORK (May 12, 2011) "UNICEF was selected as the beneficiary of a public online auction being hosted by Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice. Starting Thursday, May 12, Princess Beatrice will be auctioning off a Philip Treacy hat, worn at the recent nuptials of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Proceeds will be shared between UNICEF and Children in Crisis of whom Princess Beatrice is an Ambassador.

"We are delighted and grateful that Princess Beatrice has selected UNICEF as a beneficiary of this auction. Children are always in fashion," said Caryl Stern, President and CEO of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. "We appreciate the goodwill and the spotlight this auction will focus on the world's most vulnerable children."

**Where to Bid:** Please visit <http://bit.ly/royalhat>

Funds raised will support UNICEF programs that provide lifesaving medicines, vaccines, nutritious foods, primary education, clean water and sanitation and emergency relief for millions of children and women in more than 150 countries.

The other beneficiary of the auction, Children in Crisis, is a London-based charity founded in 1993 by Sarah, Duchess of York. Currently operating in seven countries, its mission is to give children the education they need to help transform their lives.