



The Vine

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY
cwulanecouty.org

Editor: Phyllis Hockley

September 2011

Inside:

Word from our President
Page 2

June Program Review
Page 2

2012 Program Focus
Page 2

Human Trafficking
Page 2

Immigrant Justice Bills
Page 2

Horn of Africa Famine
Page 3

Tips for Giving
Page 3

Celebrating 70th Birthday
Page 3

Green Tips
Page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2 Church of the Brethren
Friday 9:15am 1072 Main St. Springfield
A Path to Peace

September 7 Breakfast at Brails
Wed 7-8:30am 1689 Willamette St.
A Path to Peace

October 5 Breakfast at Brails
Wed 7-8:30 Environmental Care

October 7 First United Methodist
Fri 9:15 1376 Olive St.
Environmental Care

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM BUILDING BRIDGES FOR PEACE

In Psalm 34 we read "Seek peace and pursue it." Church Women United takes this mandate seriously, and women in our organization pursue peace through various means, both political actions as well as lending a listening ear or hand to a neighbor in need. We don't often think of travel as a pathway to peace, yet this can be a key way to build bridges of peace between peoples of different countries. Most of us cannot travel to Iraq to begin to build bridges of peace in that country, but we are fortunate to have a man from Iraq living here in Eugene. Awab Al-ware, whose family lives in Baghdad, is a student at the University of Oregon through a program called the Iraqi Student Project. **In September, we will have the opportunity to hear his story and to gain insights into this country that is so close in the news yet so far away. Bring a friend for this unique opportunity.**

LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER

October's Forum should get us all ready to take some action regarding a few environmental issues that need some tending. Alice Dugan is arranging for a diverse group of experts to get us all started on the high road to environmental action. Issues to be covered include environmental due diligence, birding and conservation and McKenzie River Trust and their work to protect rivers. Come join us and increase your environmental IQ.

**Summer Fun Fund
\$600
given to all 8 agencies
working with
at-risk kids!
You made it happen.
Many many thanks!!!**

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Phyllis Hockley

Church Women United was invited to a private meeting with Senator Merkley - our ties with Citizen Action for Lane County made this possible. Mayor Piercy, WAND, ACLU, CALC, Veterans for Peace, J Street, and the Japanese American Association were all represented. An exciting group.



Senator Merkley shared his background - time with Habitat for Humanity, in Nicaragua during revolution, 3rd world economic development, in Defense Department. He shared that our present debt deal reduces programs for education from Head Start to Pell grants, with no defense cuts. He is now working to end land mines, cluster bombs, but still questions ending the use of Drones. Also voted against the Patriot Act.

Senator Merkley has held 100 town hall meetings - all ask that we leave Afghanistan. And the theme of our meeting seemed to be to bring the war dollars home!

I told him that as a representative of Church Women United, I bring a moral imperative, for our goal is to work for peace and justice and there can be no peace in a family when the children are hungry and no justice when a single mom has her life line services cut. And I told him we needed his help to cut the military spending so we can cut the suffering of the poor.

We all could ask Senator Merkley one question. My question to him was, "What would you see a group of dedicated compassionate women doing that would be helpful."

His answer to us, "Come to Washington DC and become visible for your cause. The only visible demonstrations in DC are the Tea Party, NRA, and Right to Life. The Tea Party I've seen like 10 times. *So bring your women to DC and let them know you have things you care about.*"

So when should we go? And what do we really care about? Our goals include Peace, Environment, Health and Economic Justice. Let me know what you think!

REVIEW OF JUNE PROGRAM

"Faith and Politics: Workers Rights" featured Bob Marshall, organizer for the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), and Susan Given, cashier at Safeway in south Eugene. Ms. Given, twenty-five years at her position, worked 10 years to get the top wage of \$15 an hour. Under the UFCW contract, she has benefits, as do all employees working 20 hours/week or more. Job security of staff with high salaries is at risk, with all new Safeway hires being part time, some for only 10 hours a week.

CWU members have joined with union delegations to Albertson's and Fred Meyers, urging fair wages and decent contracts. Work will continue in our 2012 programs and actions. Without living wages, more of our neighbors risk poverty and homelessness.

PROGRAM FOCUS 2012: POVERTY IN LANE COUNTY

Our topic next year is local poverty. Using a system analysis, CWU will continue work with unions (living wages), federal programs for low income people (Bread for the World), nutrition and food issues (Lane Coalition for Healthy Active Youth), and human trafficking (local coalition). Work with the League of Women Voters and a local environmental organization is also in the plans. Many hours were given in planning by Rose Marie Barber, Kim Bryson-Chamley, Phyllis Hockley, Cindy Kokis, Sheila Lowe, Bev Murrow, Anne O'Brien, Betsy Steffensen, and Dorothy Webber.

HOMELESSNESS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Downtown Neighborhood Association sponsored a panel discussion on July 27th. In a letter to the Register Guard the Board expressed hope for future panels where homeless people speak. Public policies are needed to protect our youth from harm. Most homeless people are not transients or homeless by choice, as was claimed by a panel member.

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE BILLS DIE IN SALEM

Our forums on immigrant issues supported two issues: students who have graduated from high school should pay instate tuition and drivers' licenses shall be restored to all who pass the test and have insurance. These measures failed to pass in Salem. We continue to support the work of the Immigrant Rights Advocacy Program and will give updates on future actions.

HORN OF AFRICA FAMINE: SOMALIA, ETHIOPIA AND KENYA SUFFER WORST DROUGHT IN 60 YEARS

Kim Bryson-Chamley

This is the headline of the London Telegraph, August 4, 2011. Today the drought has captured most of Somalia and the majority of Kenya and Ethiopia (one of the poorest countries in the world). The epicenter is on the three-way border between the countries where a refugee camp has been established. Uganda and Djibouti have not come away unscathed. The UN has declared famine in Somalia.

The cause is multipronged. High levels of malnutrition, ongoing violence, failed rains, constantly rising global food prices, collapse of livestock markets, an al-Qaeda ban on foreign aid agency intervention, and drought killing livestock and crops. The 2010 rainy season failed, and this year's rains performed well below average. Parts of northeast Kenya have received just 10% of the usual level of rainfall. 12 million people are at risk, 2 million of which are children under the age of 5.

10% of children under 5 in Somali refugee camps are dying each day. Somali refugees are spilling over into Ethiopia and Kenya, some having walked 20 days without food or water and facing wild animals and armed groups along the way. 50% of the children arriving are malnourished. 40% of Kenyan children not getting enough. Aid agencies, including UN agencies, are short of funds. Oxfam is making its biggest plea for Africa ever. Children are dying while families are waiting to be registered for assistance.

Needs include food, shelter, health services, water and other life-saving aid. The situation will likely deteriorate further. Kenyan malnutrition is well beyond emergency levels. Al-Qaeda in Somalia has lifted a 2-year long ban on foreign aid agency assistance.

The situation is a perfect breeding ground for measles and polio. UNICEF is providing vaccinations as well as shelter, water and food in conjunction with other UN agencies. UNICEF is the largest supplier of therapeutic and supplementary nutrition in Somalia. Vaccinations are being given to children in hosting communities where refugees are landing as well as the refugees themselves.

Malnutrition itself does not cause death in children. It is because they are more prone to sickness and disease, such as malaria for which there is no vaccine, that take over weak bodies.

TIPS FOR GIVING IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Kim Bryson Chamley

Give To An Established Charity

Don't let an unscrupulous charity take advantage of your goodwill. Find a charity with a proven track record of success with dealing with the type of disaster and in the region in which the disaster occurred. If you do feel compelled to give to a new charity, be sure that the group is a registered charity with 501 (c) (3) status.

Designate Your Investment

Worried that your donation will go towards the charity's general operating fund or saved for a future crisis? Many charities do encourage donors not to designate their gifts so that the charity can decide how best to utilize the money, but you may choose to tell the charity exactly how to use your investment. If you are mailing in a check, write a note in the memo section of the check specifying that you want your gift spent entirely on the current crisis.

Avoid Telemarketers

Be wary of fundraisers who pressure you to make a contribution over the phone. Never divulge your credit card information to someone soliciting you via the phone. Instead, ask the fundraiser to send you written information about their charity and do some research on your own. Only send the organization a check directly in the mail, or give through their website, thus ensuring 100% of your gift goes to the charity and not the for-profit fundraiser.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED CELEBRATING 70TH BIRTHDAY

As you now know, this December CWU is hosting a 70th birthday celebration in Atlantic City. Jane Heidegger from Peace Presbyterian, Katharine Hunt from St. Mary's Episcopal and Kim Bryson-Chamley from Eugene Friends of UNICEF are registered to attend. Thank you to all who have helped to send them through your donations. We've been able to fund registration fees, some flights and a little of the hotel costs. Kim Bryson-Chamley has received a grant from the national office that will cover registration and flight leaving more of your money for Jane and Katharine. They are looking forward to giving a presentation at the December, 2011 forum including pictures. Come to the meeting Dec. 9 at First Christian Church to share in the adventure.

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

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
EUGENE, OR
PERMIT NO 356

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



GREEN TIPS

CLEANER AIR IN YOUR YARD

Did you know that, compared to a car, a lawn mower can produce up to 12 times the amount of emissions per gallon of gasoline burned?

Small gasoline engines used by home owners, including lawn mowers, leaf blowers, chain saws, etc., can be large air polluters. They emit carbon monoxide (a poisonous gas) and other harmful chemicals, which can impair lung function, harm plants, and contribute to the formation of smog.

There are several ways you can lessen this air pollution around your home:

1. Avoid spilling gasoline, since even small spills evaporate and pollute your surroundings;
2. Properly maintain your equipment by changing the oil, replacing air filters, and keeping it clean, which not only keeps your machine running more efficiently, but reduces toxic emissions as well;
3. Use manual tools whenever you can, getting some exercise, caring for both body and your yard.
4. Consider replacing older equipment with newer more fuel-efficient models, or switching to electric tools.

Even a tiny amount of pollution from each small engine produces big problems when multiplied by the millions of machines in use each day.

For further information and more tips on reducing air pollution, go to the Environmental Protection Agency website, www.epa.gov.