



The Vine

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY
cwulanecounty.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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| Sept 4
Tuesday
7-8:30am | Breakfast At Brails
1689 Willamette
Contract with Justice: The Labor Issue |
| Sept 7
Friday
9am | Northwood Christian Church
2425 Harvest Lane
Contract with Justice: The Labor Issue |
| Oct 2
Tuesday | Breakfast At Brails
Celebrating Women's Suffrage |
| Oct 5
Friday | Peace Presbyterian
3060 River Rd.
Celebrating Women's Suffrage |

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

CONTRACT WITH JUSTICE: THE LABOR ISSUE

Bob Bussel (Labor Education Research Center / LERC) is speaking at our September forums. While worker pay fell, top administrators made huge gains. e.g. in 1973 CEO pay averaged 70 times workers, now it is 440 times. Bussel gives us a view of how this happened. He will discuss the actions against unions in the public sector as part of the strategy to shrink government.

Bring your thoughts and questions as we discuss advocacy work. Our religious denominations affirm unions. Local CWU members have stood with workers at the McKenzie Willamette Hospital (Service Employees International Union)/SEIU, at Albertson's and Safeway stores (United Food and Commercial Workers/UFCW), and in front of local banks (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees/AFSCME).

LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER

Working with the League of Women Voters, we will be celebrating 100 years of women's suffrage in Oregon. Information will be shared about voting rights and ballot measures. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) plans to have their positions on ballot measures available. On the ballot will be the Estate Tax issue and the reform of the corporate kicker. Become informed. Ask questions. Get materials to take to your home community. Learn. Honor all the women who worked so hard to give us the right to vote.

NEED RIDE TO THE FORUM?
Call Diane Beuerman at
541-485-8803

CHECK OUR WEBSITE!
Cwulanecounty.org

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Phyllis Hockley

Last week a school bus brought about twenty 4 and 5 year olds to Sladden Park, which is right outside my window. As we ate our lunch, watching them laughing and playing together, I said, "Wow, "They have a whole life before them." And Len said, "I don't envy them with the world that we have left for them." It got me thinking about coal trains and droughts and drones and conflicts world wide, just for starters. I didn't want to go there. I wanted to remember them laughing and having fun. Not sick with a respiratory disease from the pollutions and toxics, not hungry because dad lost his job, not saddled with a huge college debt, not filled with fears.

Then I read this quote by the Dalai Lama, "I have great hopes that the world may become a better, more peaceful, more equitable place in the twenty-first century. From my own experience, at 16 I lost my freedom, at 24 I lost my country and for the last more than 50 years have faced all sorts of problems, but I have never given up hope. We have a Tibetan saying, 'Nine times fall down, Nine times pick yourself up.'"

So I decided to not give up hope, and to do my part right now to create a better Eugene, and to do it on behalf of these 20 kids, playing and laughing, and to do it so that their laughter can continue.

So how will I keep hope alive? I guess from focusing on the positive of the "right now". For starters, our ballot measures are looking good. The city council will put the on ballet for our vote "Should there be a constitutional amendment to reverse the adverse effects of citizens united and to limit independent campaign spending." This will get the issue out to the public for discussion. Also on the ballot will be "Should we redirect our kicker refunds to our schools rather than corporations." Both will reverse the flow of money and that gives me hope.

And my hope comes from my faith in a God who loves those children and loves us all. And how do we begin to return that love? Jesus said, "As you do it onto the least of these, you do it unto me. And I find that in the process of this "doing" I not only give hope, but find hope for myself.

CWU SUMMER ACTIVITY

Cindy Kokis

Members attended the Medea Benjamin talk, an opposition to the use of DRONE warfare. Work is ongoing with staff of Senator Merkley on this issue. There was attendance at the ACLU meeting discussing the City of Eugene's exclusionary zone, which is up for repeal or renewal this fall. CWU has opposed this zone.

CWU was present at the public meeting dealing with coal trains passing through Eugene en route to Coos Bay. Beyond Toxics, our presenters at the June meeting, urge opposition to the trains, which will bring more air toxins to our area.

(See related article on page 3.)

RAISING OUR VOICES LOUDER THIS FALL

Cindy Kokis

At our April meetings, working with Bread for the World staff Robin Stephenson , CWU wrote letters urging a circle of protection around funding for programs vital to hungry and poor people. Over 35,000 BFW activists told Congress not to balance the budget on the backs of poor and hungry people.

"If the House of Representatives proposed FY 2013 budget is approved, however, it would cut \$169 billion from SNAP (formerly Food Stamps).

In practical terms, every faith congregation in the United States - which has more than 330,000 Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, and Jewish congregations would have to raise an additional \$50,000 every year for the next 10 years to make up for these cuts. The decisions Congress will have to make after the elections in November will affect anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs for years to come." (BFW newsletter)

Now is the time to start our calls to Rep. Peter DeFazio (202-225-6416), to Senator Jeff Merkley (202-228-3997) and to Senator Ron Wyden (202-224-5244). Call several times. Tell them no cuts in the safety net. Only hold back if your faith group has \$50,000 to give away for the next ten years. If not, lobby for the safety net.

CWU THANKS COALITION WORKERS

Every forum we have is led by local experts who freely share their time and wisdom. Look at your annual CWU calendar: we have so many groups working for justice here in Lane County.

A LOOK AT OUR JUNE FORUM Environmental Justice

Bilingual? Working with vulnerable communities that don't have a voice in decisions? Meet Alison Guzman (Beyond Toxics) and Roxanne Franco (Centro Latino). CWU learned about the terrific work that they are doing with Latino families in the Royal-Trainsong-Roosevelt area of Eugene. In this industrial corridor a survey showed that 63% of the families had respiratory problems. Bethel District reports that 19% of their high school students have asthma.

Children exposed to toxics are more sensitive with their developing lungs and will have impaired lungs as adults. Leaders empower parents and caregivers with home visits and neighborhood meetings, using culturally specific, linguistically appropriate skills.

"Better asthma education is needed among low income, uninsured Latino families experiencing significant barriers to care." Centro Latino and Beyond Toxics have made this happen.

Copies of "The Naturally Clean Home" were snapped up at the June meetings. It was a joyous time where young leaders met with CWU members, long time advocates for justice.

VOTE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

An article from "Our Oregon." Agree??

The Secretary of State's office announced that the Corporate Kicker for K-12 initiative has officially made the November ballot. By voting yes to reform the Corporate Kicker, we could begin the process of finally reinvesting in our K-12 classrooms, rather than sending kicker refunds to large, out-of-state corporations. As much as 80% of the corporate kicker dollars go to corporations headquartered out of state.

It is also true that Kevin Mannix's Estate Tax Break for Millionaires has qualified for the ballot. This massive tax break for the wealthy few would force hundreds of millions of dollars in cuts to our schools, health care, & public safety.

With both of these measures appearing on the ballot, Oregon voters this fall will have an opportunity to make a clear decision about our values and priorities.

At a time when we're cramming K-12 students into overcrowded classrooms, closing schools, and cutting basic care to seniors and people with disabilities, voting Yes on Corporate Kicker for K-12 and No on the Estate Tax Break will be the first step in a much bigger conversation about protecting the things that make Oregon great. Agree?



Beyond Toxics and No Coal Eugene talk to Mayor Piercy at Coal Protest Lisa Arkin, Executive Director

In spring of this year, Beyond Toxics submitted a Public Records Request to the Port of Coos Bay to learn the details of plans to haul coal through Eugene for export to nations in the Far East. Remember that they demanded \$22,000 to get what should be public information? If that wasn't enough, the Port of Coos Bay tacked on a long list of intrusive questions, demanding the disclosure of our members' names and addresses.

Recently,, a Coos Bay judge ruled that non-profits like Beyond Toxics and Sierra Club do not have to obey the demands of the coal industry by turning over the names of our members! The Port of Coos Bay's excessive inquisition of small non-profits was thrown out of court!

This important victory is just one step along the legal path to give the public all the facts about hauling dirty coal through the Columbia River Gorge, the Willamette Valley, and out to the coast via downtown Eugene.

In a new twist, on July 9, the Port of Coos Bay asked the Eugene City Council to approve a resolution they (or probably their lawyers) wrote, specifically stating "Be it resolved by the City of Eugene that The City strongly supports the use of the Coos Bay rail line for the movement of freight in western Lane, western Douglas and Coos counties..." and furthermore that "The City will work with the Port and other regional and transportation stakeholders to identify and recruit additional opportunities for the development of rail..."

Why should residents of Eugene support the dirty, destructive and polluting coal industry? Why should we agree to foul our air and poison our lungs, and destroy climates by burning more fossil fuels?

Do you want to stand up to dirty coal? Then join us in the Eugene Celebration Parade where we will march as King Coal and the Fossil Fools. We need a big group so sign up to help us. Send an e-mail to Info@beyondtoxics.org. Let's show big dirty coal where Eugene stands when it comes to envisioning a clean energy world.

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

2ND ANNUAL INTERFAITH BREAKFAST

CWU co-sponsored this Eugene/Springfield Solidarity Network (ESSN) event and twelve of our members attended.

Cindy Kokis, from our CWU Ecumenical Action committee was on the panel. She gave a faith perspective and reminded us of the story that Jesus told about the rich man who went to Hell. It was the story of a poor man named Lazarus who came daily to his gate, but this man though rich did nothing. And she stressed the fact that this man went to Hell, not because he was rich, that wasn't his sin. He went to hell because he did nothing to help him, but just passed him by. His real problem was not caring! And she ended with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King. "And I come by here to say that America too is going to Hell, if we don't use her wealth. If America does not use her vast resources of wealth to end poverty, to make it possible for all of God's children to have the basic necessities of life, she too will go to Hell.

Bob Bussel, who directs the Labor Education and research Center at the Univ of OR put the focus on the need for moral clarity as we look for worker justice. Recalling the struggle of David and Goliath, where the "weaker" won, he said, "we need to win." The new normal for workers is jobs with no vacations, no retirement and no benefits. Wages are frozen while profits soar.

Karen Creighton, United Academics, cited corporatized universities where cuts are in tenure track positions and increases are in part time faculty with no benefits.

Cindy Clarke, President of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees/ AFSCME local 1724 noted the loss of 80 positions in the city, causing cuts in workers in parks and libraries. Recalling the twelve hour shifts, with a four hour break to sleep before the next shift, she spoke of the workers who cleared trees from power lines after this winter's storm. "They showed pride in their work and commitment to our community."

Greater awareness of human trafficking is leading to more trafficking victims being identified and served, Polaris Project announced with the release of its 2011 Annual Report of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline. Victims of human trafficking are especially difficult to identify since they often do not self-report and because the crime of trafficking is both clandestine and involves holding victims in situations against their will. In 2011, call volume increased by 64 percent over the previous year. Call Specialists answered 19,427 calls, and 2,945 victims of human trafficking were connected to services and support. Most encouraging, the report highlights that calls from self-identifying victims increased by 61% in 2011, a sign that the hotline number is reaching those people most in need. However, the report also noted significant gaps in the national and local response to human trafficking.

"There is an increasing awareness that people are being exploited, forced to work, and manipulated into commercial sex all over the United States, and new approaches that help to identify and reach more victims of human trafficking are desperately needed," said Sarah Jakiel, Deputy Director of Polaris Project. "We are just beginning to scratch the surface of the problem. By providing an outlet for survivors and community members to call and share tips, the hotline helps to harness the collective power of a national grassroots response that is uncovering much higher volumes of human trafficking than had previously been identified."

The 2011 Annual Report, entitled , highlights that non-governmental organizations, community groups, state agencies and government officials have launched numerous outreach and awareness campaigns on human trafficking. The NHTRC has seen that as these groups increase engagement, training and awareness of human trafficking and the hotline number, there is a corresponding increase in credible reports about human trafficking in those states.

Less obvious groups — including truckers, faith-based organizations, educators, and hotel staff are also in a position to help identify cases. This is where we come in.



FIVE A DAY
Judy Romans

At this time of year, an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables overflow into local farmers markets and grocery stores, and we hear over and over "5 a day, eat your fresh fruit and veggies".

We also hear the advantages of eating organic produce to reduce our exposure to pesticides and other chemicals used to give us the blemish-free fruits and vegetables we see displayed in stores. But, let's face it, buying organic is often more costly, so we ponder cost versus health effects.

The Environmental Working Group (www.ewg.org) has published its "2012 shopper's guide to pesticides in produce", available on the website. The booklet lists the food with the most pesticide residue, and with the least.

So, here are the "Dirty Dozen Plus Two", with some vegetables added to the original dirty dozen list. Alas, the fruit we most identify with healthy eating tests out with the greatest amount of pesticide: apples. The rest of the list includes celery, bell peppers, peaches, strawberries, imported nectarines, grapes, spinach, lettuce, cucumbers, blueberries, potatoes, green beans, and kale. Buy organic from this list if at all possible.

The "Clean 15" list includes those with the least amount of pesticide: onions, corn, pineapple, avocado, cabbage, peas, asparagus, mangoes, eggplant, kiwi, domestic cantaloupe, sweet potatoes, grapefruit, watermelon, and mushrooms. If you can't afford to buy all organic produce, at least these will have the least amount of pesticides.

If you do buy non-organic produce, the National Institutes of Health advises that you peel the fruit/vegetable or rinse it well with water mixed with salt and lemon juice or vinegar to get rid of as much surface contamination as possible. Of course, organic produce also carries dirt from harvest and handling, so wash it as well. As we know from recent news stories, organic does not mean automatically healthy if used without hygienic handling in the kitchen.

Whether organic or not, enjoy the delicious bounty and variety of vegetables and fruits these summer months offer.



SUMMER FUN FUND
Phyllis Hockley

Many thanks to all who contributed to our Summer Fun Fund Project.

With your generosity, we raised over \$4000, giving \$500 each to 8 different organizations working with homeless and at-risk kids.

A lot of kids will spend some meaningful structured time together because of you!

A lot of kids will participate in summer camps, trips, swimming, etc. because of you.

A lot of kids will have a lot of fun this summer because of you.

The pictures above arrived from Pearl Buck Center, an organization working with people having developmental disabilities. They want to give special care to these children.

Included was the following thank you note:

"Thank you for your very generous donation. You sponsored a grand family night! We had fun with magic, balloon art, cake and ice pops! We are very grateful for your gift!"

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, August 14, 7-9pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 West 13th Ave.

Hosted by Opportunity Village (OVE) with special guest speaker, Mark Lukeman. Mark is the principle and design lead of Communitecture, a Portland based architecture and planning firm. He is also the co-founder of the City Repair Project, a non-profit organization that educates and inspires communities and individuals to creatively transform the places where they live.

Saturday, September 8, 3pm. St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 13th and Pearl

Nancy Roberts, Ph.D. will present a seminar focusing on Thomas Merton and Daniel Berrigan, highlighting events in their lives to compare and contrast their spiritual development, and how it led them to different life courses. We will reflect on poems by Merton and Berrigan that reveal the way these men "work through" their ideas during the stresses of their life choices and how the poems demonstrate another angle of their faith formation and action through creativity and insight. Goodwill offering at the door. For information call (541) 343-9253.

Tuesday, September 11, 5:30-7:00pm. 730 East Broadway (Cafe Yumm)

ACLU Civil Conversations: Patriot Act & National Defense Authorization Act: Are we safe and free? The speaker is Gregory Hazarbedian, Executive Director, Public Defender Services of Lane County, Inc.

Monday, September 17, 7:30 Eugene City Council

Public Hearing on plastic bags. Please attend and wear your CWU nametag if have one.