



Editor: Phyllis Hockley  
Phyllish@efn.org

# The Vine

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

[cwulanecounty.org](http://cwulanecounty.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY 2022

#### Friday Forum: Springfield-Eugene SURJ

We welcome friends from the Springfield-Eugene unit of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) on Friday, January 7. Local members of this innovative national organization have carved out time to share their perspective for 2022 with us. We are thrilled to meet them, and join in their activities. You may have received bulletins from SURJ in recent weeks. In December they alerted us to the need to support local K-12 students impacted by racial harassment. Advocating change to school district policy, our SURJ friends invited us to “show up” on December 15 at a sidewalk location near South Eugene High School, and one near North Eugene. You may have been there, that day. This as an example of the important work our local SURJ friends coordinate. Speaking up, and showing up, demanding respect, amplifies the quiet voice of the person marginalized by injustice.

It's 2022! Church Women United of Lane County joyfully commits to supporting actions led by SURJ. Please join us on Zoom, Friday, January 7, beginning at 9:00 for socializing. The forum starts at 9:30. SURJ will be with us through 11:00. Even if you can't be on time, tune in!

**TO JOIN:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88239545095>

Meeting ID: 882 3954 5095

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,88239545095# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,88239545095# US (Tacoma)

**Dial by your location**

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 882 3954 5095

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbC3iilwYe> Anne's cell 541-554-2646

#### LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY Many Faiths One Earth

In February representatives from Eugene/Springfield Interfaith EarthKeepers will share about this local group committed to the care of God's creation. The panel discussion will include information about the Earth Care Interfaith Fund which was organized by St. Mary's Earth Stewards a number of years ago. Please plan to join others on Friday, Feb. 4 to learn how you and your faith community may become part of our climate solution.

Inside:

- Upcoming Events Page 1
- Word from our President Page 2
- A Look at our December Forum Page 2
- Letters to the Editor Page 3
- Divest Oregon Page 3
- New Horizons Await Page 4
- The Third Harmony Page 4

## INTO THE NEW YEAR!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Anne O'Brien

### Happy New Year to All!

It looks like we are in for another roller coaster year. I'd like my first message of 2022 to reflect Pope Francis's message in his 2022 World Day of Peace message released on December 17, 2021, in which he urged leaders all over the world to spend more on education and less on weapons. Pretty radical!

He starts by telling us that it is "high time" that we develop economic policies that focus on education as opposed to weaponry. He proposes greater solidarity and dialogue among different generations, devoting resources to education and more opportunities for dignified work. This is a theme he has emphasized since his inauguration in 2013. I appreciate that he calls spending on education an **investment** not an expenditure. He does acknowledge the many ways that the pandemic has disrupted relationships, economic opportunities and made inequalities worse. We know this makes a world at peace much more difficult to achieve. But I say we must continue to do all that we can every day in every way to work for world peace.

Imagine what a wonderful education system we would have all over the world if we spent as much or more on education than we did on "defense."

Imagine what a wonderful world we would have. Maybe we need to follow the lead of our Beyond War Northwest speakers in November and work for the Third Harmony in our lives as a start.

Let us pray for a more peaceful world as we enter the unknowns of 2022.

In working toward peace, in working to end homelessness, in working toward containing the pandemic. I think we can all benefit from the words of Ruhi Sophia Motzkin Rubenstein in the RG on December 12th:

*"It may be slow work, but let's work towards a vision rather than succumb to despair."*

Blessings to all,  
Anne

## A LOOK AT OUR DECEMBER FORUM ANNUAL MEETING

After Anne Obrien called the meeting to order and read a prayer, we viewed a video created by Mary Sharon Moore for the first week in her series of Advent meditations, "Promises." Mary Sharon's website for advent meditations is [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=mary+sharon+moore+words+of+advent](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=mary+sharon+moore+words+of+advent).

Nancy Anderson then performed O Come, O Come, Emmanuel before the annual business meeting began. A list of nominees from the board as required by our by-laws for the open two-year term board positions- Vice President and Treasurer, as well as the one year terms of the committees were presented. After an unanimous vote for each of the presented nominees, the nominees were installed by Majeska Seese-Green following the script from national CWU.

### Current officers are:

**President** for second year of her term:  
Anne O'Brien

**Vice President** for first of 2 year term:  
Charlotte Maloney

**Secretary** for second year of her term:  
Katharine Hunt

**Treasurer** for first of new 2 year term:  
Nancy Vrijmoet

**Committee Chairs** (one year terms)

**Ecumenical Action** Chair returning:  
Sarita Lief

**Ecumenical Development** Chair returning:  
Sara Michener

**Celebrations** first term: Susannah Lustica  
Hall

**Communications** returning:  
Phyllis Hockley

There were no nominees for Finance Committee Chair or Nominations Committee Chair. Positions can be filled by appointment.

Contact Anne if you are interested in either position. If you believe someone you know would be good fit, please encourage her to explore it with Anne.

## OUR RG LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



### Social Conscience still Matters

My thanks to the Eugene Chamber of Commerce for its recent webinar on "the state of homelessness" in Eugene.

As tragic as this form of human suffering is, we urgently need to address the economic crisis that forces many people, including families, into couch-surfing, car-camping, or life on the streets.

Unjust wages, corporate tax breaks, and an outsized appetite for maximum return on investment have crippled this entire nation. We're left with broken people, broken communities, and no money for baseline services that make for a robust community that works for everyone.

I suggest that Chambers of Commerce, here and nationwide, face the deeper economic issues, and not only the social fallout--tragic as that is.

Low wages, corporate tax breaks, and fantasy returns on investment urgently need to be recast in the cause of human decency and simple fairness. Social conscience still matters.

Enough of the Land of the Upside Down. I believe that the Land of the Rightside Up is possible—a land that works for everyone.

**Mary Sharon Moore**



### DIVEST OREGON COALITION UPDATE Charlotte Maloney

As Vine readers know, CWU of Lane County is a member of this coalition. As reported in last month's Vine, the Divest Oregon Coalition is a growing organization working to remove funds invested in fossil fuels from the State of Oregon portfolio managed by the Oregon Investment Commission (OIC), which is led by the State of Oregon Treasurer. The Coalition is demanding that the OIC: 1/ make no new investments in fossil fuels, 2/ disclose all fossil fuel holdings, and 3/ by 2026 phase out all fossil fuel holdings. So far, the OIC has reported the fossil fuel investments to the coalition on December 9.

At the December Divest Oregon Coalition meeting, the participants discussed the next actions and reviewed the progress to date. Rep. Pham, Rep. Holvey, and Sen. Golden are co-chief sponsors of the Treasury Transparency Bill submitted to the 2022 short legislative session. The bill directs the OIC to disclose all the funds currently invested in fossil fuels. Focus of organizing is preparing for and conducting visits (Zoom) with every legislator to ask their support of this bill.

As reported by The Guardian, the state of New York and the two largest global pension funds have each already divested from fossil fuels. Much work is needed to achieve that for our PERS fund managed by the OIC. The coalition has formed several work groups and plans to continue to demonstrate on OIC meeting dates at the building where they're held. The coalition now has 80 group members, which produced 1,500 phone calls and 200 emails sent to the OIC prior to their 12/9/21 meeting.

More details: [www.divestoregon.org](http://www.divestoregon.org)

## NEW HORIZONS AWAIT

### Become a Member of Church Women United Today Nancy Vrijmoet

The new year is upon us. What better time to resolve you'll make the world a better place? When you become a member of Church Women United of Lane County you put a shoulder to the plow, pushing for the fair treatment of those in need. Demanding a place at the table for folks who are marginalized. Speaking up for change to protect our planet. Now is the time. Join us!

Each forum or celebration features a message from an organization active in our area. Your contribution makes possible a monetary gift to each. The Eugene chapter of the NAACP, Food for Lane County and 350 Eugene are three such organizations. Altogether, there are dozens we've supported over the course of the last three years. In 2022 we'll expand our horizons. We'll open our arms and our hearts to partner with those working "on the pavement." Your ideas, and your support, are the essential component, each time we meet. These local partners get things done, with your help.

National priorities of Church Women United guide us. Learn more about these goals at our website, <http://www.cwulanecounty.org/>. Joining with friends far and near at last year's quadrennial assembly, we were reminded of the importance of this connection. While our unit's monetary commitment to the national organization is relatively low, the returns are high. Factor in the drive toward building a better world that we share with sisters throughout the country. Spiritually-inspired action is the path we walk, together.

Agreed to differ. Resolved to love. United to serve. Truly, there is strength in numbers.

Send your check to 42091 McKenzie Highway, Springfield, Oregon 97478, directed to Treasurer Nancy Vrijmoet. Memberships for 2022 are \$50 or, if you'd like to take advantage of the sliding scale, the lesser amount that fits your budget. Remember, the number of dollars you send is less important than the fact that you commit to join your Church Women United friends, putting shoulder to the plow.



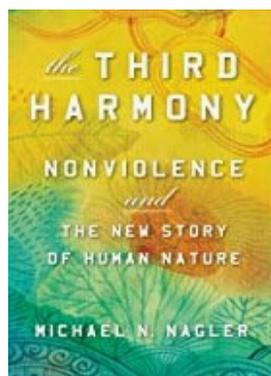
Your support counts in ways you'll never know.

Led by love, together,  
let's make it happen.

## THE THIRD HARMONY Charlotte Maloney BEYOND WAR NW BOOK

If you would like to purchase a copy of The Third Harmony: Nonviolence and the New Story of Human Nature by Michael Nagler, which our November Celebration speakers discussed, you can have one brought to your residence for \$15. Contact Ann Cole at (541) 505-0106 or [anncole123@aol.com](mailto:anncole123@aol.com). It is also available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) in paperback, audiobook, and Kindle.

### INVITATION TO THE THIRD HARMONY FEBRUARY BOOK GROUP



Our November celebration speakers from Beyond War NW invite us to join their book group studying The Third Harmony: Nonviolence and the New Story of Human Nature by Michael Nagler.

The book group will convene virtually on the four Sundays in February from 4-5 pm. Each week the participants will read two chapters and bring the quotes that impacted them or caught their attention in the readings to share. Learning about nonviolence is learning about an inner power that is as inexorable as gravity. To sign up, call or email Ann Cole at (541) 505-0106 or [anncole123@aol.com](mailto:anncole123@aol.com). She will email you the Zoom link.

We hope you join us in this important journey,

Ann Cole, Martin Jones,  
and Kara Steffensen