



Editor: Phyllis Hockley



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

cwulanecounty.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 2024

INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE

FOCUS OF CHURCH WOMEN UNITED FORUM

On Friday, April 5, Reverend Dr. Allen Buck will join Church Women United of Lane County at its forum. Meeting at 10 a.m. to share fellowship at Wesley United Methodist Church, 1385 Oakway Road, in Eugene. Church Women United wants YOU to know that ALL ARE WELCOME.

Dr Allen Buck is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. He serves Great Spirit United Methodist Church in Portland as an elder and co-pastor. For the Pacific Northwest, the Oregon-Idaho and the Alaska Conferences of the United Methodist Church, Allen serves as director of the Circle of Indigenous Ministries. Collaborations fostered by the Circle are key strategies in an ongoing effort to heal historic trauma and dismantle racism.

Arrive ready to ask Rev. Allen about inequities members of the Indigenous Community face. In a world filled with economic challenges, what are the most difficult issues facing his people? What are the "givens" faced by those not gifted with generational wealth, here in the Pacific Northwest? Are there specific factors preventing Indigenous peoples from achieving their goals?

Upon the occasion of Reverend Allen's 2021 appointment as director of the Circle of Indigenous Ministries, United Methodist Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky summed it up. "The Christian Church has done deep and lasting harm to Indigenous peoples and cultures around the world for centuries. Reverend Buck is helping us learn our history, repent of our sins and form healing partnerships based on humility and mutual respect." Damage perpetuated over many lifetimes must be acknowledged. It is time to begin the process of repair. Join Reverend Allen Buck on April 5.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Our May Celebration, May Friendship Day, emphasis is to love mercy. It is part of the overall theme of "What does the Lord require of thee?"

We will convene at St Jude Catholic Church at 42nd and Willamette, on Saturday, May 4. We gather for fellowship at 10 with the Celebration beginning at 10:30. Our speaker will be Joe Clig of Hosea Youth Services in Eugene.

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See you Friday!!

Click below for invite from our president, Mary Sharon Moore.

Here's the link: <https://youtu.be/Mkbj6Z-N4y8>

MARCH CELEBRATION-WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

by Charlotte Maloney

Our World Day of Prayer Celebration was held on March 9th at St. Mark's CME Church.

Fellowship at began at 10:00 and included several new friends from St. Mark's. We enjoyed Middle Eastern foods of pita bread and hummus, many types of fresh fruit, bagels and cream cheese, and beverages. 40 were in attendance. Because our President, Mary Sharon Moore, had a professional commitment, Vice President, Charlotte called the meeting to order. First, we surprised Shirley Kingsbury with a cupcake and singing "Happy Birthday," to celebrate her 95th!



Next Charlotte introduced Pastor DeLessa, who welcomed us enthusiastically, and then invited us to move to the sanctuary. As we moved into the sanctuary, we each

received a palm branch as Nancy Anderson played "Prayer for Peace," which was written by the Palestinian Christian women for the WDP Celebration. Jo Anne Arnold read the greeting and Opening Prayer. Then, we sang the refrain between the verses sung by Nancy Anderson. Susannah Lustica then read a story of a Palestinian woman, Eleonor about resilience after being forced to become refugees.

Pastor DeLessa provided an inspiring reflection on "bearing with one another in love."

Then Nancy Anderson played and sang "I Urge You," also written by the creators of our program. Then Sarita Lief read the story of Lina about her Aunt Shireen, who was an Al Jazweera journalist and was killed in 2022, This was followed by another hymn, "We Walk the Light."

Jo Anne Arnold read an intercessory prayer with group response "Hear our prayer." Barbara Sumner then read the story of Sara. Then Nancy Vrijmoet explained our offering for the World Day of Prayer organization, read the Offertory Prayer, and the baskets were passed.

Then Jo Anne read the prayer, The Peace of Christ, followed by our exchanging the palm branches with each other. She then read the reading from the program of the Words of Commitment. After announcements of our April forum and other community events, we closed with, "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

HERE'S SARA'S STORY

My name is Sara. Sometimes, I feel like the leaf on an olive tree, connected to the roots, blooming from within. I was born and raised in Jerusalem as a Lutheran Christian. Life as a Palestinian woman surely has been, and still is challenging. I am glad that things are changing in society through my church by having ordained the first female pastor. Throughout the years, I have seen and admired the persistence of Palestinians. My own family history is connected to our Palestinian history, which is the case for many. I want to share a story with you that shows what it means to be a Palestinian in our land. My grandparents used to live in Jaffa. They grew up there before 1948, living alongside other Christians, Muslims, and Jews. When the state of Israel was created in 1948, it was a catastrophe for Palestinians who had lived on the land for thousands of years. We call this catastrophe the Nakba. The Israeli forces came to my grandparents' home and kicked them out by force. This caused my grandparents to become refugees in Jordan.

Many years later, my grandparents came for a visit to Jerusalem and my parents took me and my siblings on a trip to Jaffa. They were excited to show us the home they used to live in. My grandpa told us stories about his childhood, and how he used to plant trees with his father. In fact, that's how we found the house! Everything had changed except for the trees, which helped us to identify the place.

Sadly, the people currently living in the house were hostile towards us. I was quite young, but I do remember them shouting and kicking us away from the house. It wasn't like we wanted to go into the house, we were just viewing it from the outside. My grandpa was trying to explain to them and telling them that this used to be his house. However, they refused to hear any part of it and chased us away. The feeling must have been even worse for my grandfather, being kicked out of his own house twice.

Later in time, when I visited my grandparents in Jordan, my grandma showed me the keys that her mom had kept when leaving their house. She kept the keys with the hope that one day they would be able to return to their home. Sadly, this is the case for many. Following the two Nakbas of 1948 and 1967, and even until today, people are still being kicked out of their homes. Many have kept their keys with the hope of return, a hope that is passed on through many generations.

I know that the tree from where I came is strong and resilient. I am nourished by the love of my ancestors. I can bear with others in love because they did. Their love is what made me bloom as the leaf on an olive tree. Their love has helped me become strong and resilient.

ELEONOR'S STORY

My skin is wrinkled like the trunk of an olive tree. Like them, I have witnessed many wars and violence. I am a Palestinian Christian – a member of the Greek Orthodox Church in the Holy Land. I come from a deeply rooted old Jerusalem family. In the early 19th century, my great grandfather established St. George's Orthodox Church, which enabled Christians living outside the city walls to have a place to worship. That church remained in existence until the catastrophe, or Nakba, of 1948, when 750,000 Palestinians were forced to flee, disperse, and become refugees. My family was included. Due to heavy shelling and bombardment, my parents ran for their lives. They took shelter at my mother's cousin's home, hoping to return soon to their original home and St. George's Church. That never happened.

Today, my parents' home and St. George's Church have become the Confederation House, an Israeli cultural center. Prior to fleeing, my parents' Jewish neighbors offered to store the treasures of the church, including icons and precious communion cups. They promised to safeguard my parents' property and belongings until the family's return.

As my brothers and I were growing up, my parents remembered their neighbors graciously as they waited for the big day of return. They imagined themselves collecting these sacred items and thanking their neighbors for keeping their promise. Sadly, my parents have passed away without realizing this dream.

And yet, I vividly remember that, despite their pain and suffering over all they had lost, my parents were always thankful and spoke kindly about these Jewish neighbors. My parents taught me how to bear with others in love, always remembering to be grateful for those who do good.

As I have gone through life as a Palestinian Christian living in Jerusalem, I have chosen to be fully engaged with all members of the community at local and global levels. I learned from my parents' example how important it is to stay together with others, even when life is harsh and difficult.

My commitment to my community started when I was in the 6th grade. My Arabic teacher engaged me in running errands for her humanitarian work. She was gentle and loving, which helped me grow to value and love working to make life better for others.

Later in life, I designed and implemented humanitarian aid and development programs, as well as social and community projects. These programs and projects served all people, regardless of religion, ethnicity, gender, status or need. I was privileged to help hundreds of women in Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to sustain their families as breadwinners. For many life has not always been easy. I have setbacks, obstacles, and even threats. However, I firmly believe that our community can be strong together if there is genuine love, understanding, gentleness, humility, and patience.

Since my childhood, I have known that life is fragile, and peace is not a guarantee. I could have left the country of my roots, but I made the choice to stay and live out Jesus' commandment to love others as God has loved me.

LINA'S STORY

My name is Lina. On May 11, 2022, I lost my Aunt Shireen, a famous journalist who was killed in Jenin. For me, Aunt Shireen was like the branch of an olive tree, resisting the strong winds that threatened to erase the truth of Palestinian experience. When Aunt Shireen died, Palestine lost an icon, a legend, and a famous Al Jazeera journalist. And yet, Shireen is all of the above and more. She was also my aunt, my godmother at baptism, and my best friend.

Shireen has been my role model for as long as I can remember. She was also a role model to many young Palestinian women. Growing up, I aspired to be as successful, professional, and empathetic as her. I will cherish all the moments I spent with her talking about art, politics, and life, watching shows, going on vacations, and spending time with the family.

For 25 years, Aunt Shireen dedicated her life to telling the stories of Palestinian experience, and to being the voice of truth. She entered every house in Palestine and the Arab world through the TV screen.

The day of Aunt Shireen's funeral was proof that she had also entered the hearts of Palestinians. The outpouring of solidarity we witnessed at her funeral will forever be ingrained in my memory and the collective memory of Palestine. We are forever grateful to the strong and courageous Palestinians who resisted the threats from Israeli forces and carried Shireen's casket on their shoulders.

Many people did not know that my aunt was a Palestinian Christian. Shireen's faith led her to bear with all in love, despite differences in faith traditions. She stood with all who were being harmed. She struggled for both Muslims and Christians to have access to the holy sites in Jerusalem. Her truth telling was even a way of bearing with the occupiers in love.

Speaking the truth is a form of loving resistance because it calls the oppressor back to their humanity. Although Shireen, a branch of the olive tree, was cut down too soon, her legacy lives on.

Her memory now nourishes the earth, from which we will gain strength to continue telling the truth and demanding justice.



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT
Mary Sharon Moore

A CLOSER LOOK
AT TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE

The word *transformative* has a certain “Easter” ring to it. Which means that Transformative Justice brings *life—new life*—to what is broken, not working, fruitless, dead.

For every *-ism* we try to uproot or weed out—from within ourselves or in our world—we find more weeds, deeper roots. The many forms of injustice are pernicious, causing great injury, destruction, ruin.

Trying to uproot or weed out injustice, in myself and in my world, can leave me feeling overwhelmed. Discouragement sets in, and it’s easy to abandon the effort altogether.

But I can do as Jesus did: start living *resolutely* the Good Way *now*, walking *resolutely* the Good Road *now*, building *resolutely* Beloved Community *now*.

Each of us can call forth the good we see, and the potential for good we know is waiting for permission to emerge, *now*. We can set things right (Isaiah 1:18). We can choose creative, even joyful, nonviolent noncooperation with unjust structures, systems, and arrangements of “power over” that are deemed Too Big to Fail.

We can do as Jesus did, and as many of his followers have done: *Build what is new* in the shell of the old, feast on the Good in the presence of the foe (Psalm 23). As the Apostle Paul says: Choose the more excellent way: the Way of Love (1 Corinthians 13).

Let’s never tire of pursuing justice that *thoroughly transforms*, starting inside our own minds, hearts, and attitudes. Let Easter be your wellspring!

YOUR SHARED IDEAS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

1. Another recycling option—If Sanipac is your service provider, there is an option called Sanipac Plus (go on-line for details and to sign up). This service currently costs an additional \$13/month, but it allows you to recycle light bulbs, batteries, block styrofoam, #5 plastic containers and lids, all sorts of plastic bags and overwrap, and textiles/shoes. Sanipac provides a collection box and bags for your collectibles, and it’s picked up the same week your recycling is picked up. If several households go together, this is a great and inexpensive gift to the environment.

2. *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning*, by Margareta Magnusson, mentioned by Nancy Gallagher in her February CWU presentation. There are many, many posts on the internet about this concept.

3. An opportunity to donate fabric— I’m a member of the Refugee Resettlement Coalition—Kits Team—and we have a project for kids we do every year. Members of our team and other members of the community sew 1000 cloth drawstring bags which are then filled with basic school supplies at a community school kit event. The completed school kits are delivered to a Mennonite Central Committee collection center, and are then distributed to refugee kids throughout the world where they are needed most. If you have cotton or cotton-blend fabric you’d like to donate, please contact Becky Schenck (beckyschenck@yahoo.com).

4. Avoiding plastic containers—to avoid mayonnaise in plastic make your own. Pretty easy with eggs, lemon juice, oil, mustard. Here’s the link to one recipe: <https://downshiftology.com/recipes/how-to-make-homemade-mayonnaise/> For homemade salsa: here’s the link to one easy recipe: I don’t have a Vitamix but Cuisinart works fine. <https://joyfoodsunshine.com/easy-homemade-salsa-recipe/>

Please send your idea to share to Phyllish@efn.org. We are building the beloved community.

LOCAL ISSUE UPDATES
by Charlotte Maloney

DIVEST OREGON

HB 4083 (COAL Act) Passed. With 37 co-sponsors including locally: Sen. Manning and Reps. Fahey, Holvey, and Lively.

Revising Measure 110

HB 4002 Passed. Re-criminalized possession of illegal drugs, while giving the counties funds to offer “deflection programs” and to set up systems to gauge the outcomes.

HB 5204 Passed. Providing funding for increased mental health and addiction treatment facilities, locally including \$4M to Willamette Family Treatment to construct a medical detox and resident services facility. Rep. Conrad said “Funding behavioral health treatment facilities and programs needs to be an ongoing priority – the legislature can’t fix decades of neglect in one session.”

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE GOVERNANCE BOARD

The board members are all “sworn in” and have selected the executive director. Next issue of The Vine will have names & bios, if they are on Oregon Health Authority website; they aren’t yet. Details about the board’s structure here:

<https://www.hcao.org/uhp-governance-board>

HCAO BILLS

HB 4130. Did not Pass. Corporate Practice of Medicine would have prohibited non-physician “... shareholder, director or officer of a professional corporation organized for the purpose of practicing medicine” to hold 100% ownership of physician practices and health facilities. Passed House, but died in the Senate, falling victim to the early adjournment. Bill sponsors plan to reintroduce next year.

HB 4070. Did not Pass. Would have increased funding for mental health services at school based health centers throughout Oregon and created opportunities to increase our capacity to serve young people in their school setting
HB 4149. Passed. Requires pharmacy benefit managers to be licensed by the Department of Consumer and Business Services, a first step to increasing transparency and accountability in the pharmaceutical sector.

SB 1595. Passed. Improves Oregon's consumer protection and debt collection laws plus holds corporations accountable. Protects Oregonians from unfair debt proceedings in bankruptcy, 60% of which are due to medical debt in our state.

HB 4136. Passed. Creates "Innovation Fund" for Lane County health services effort to mitigate the negative consequences of the closing of the Eugene’s only Emergency Department and Hospital.



NATIONAL CHURCH WOMEN UNITED NEWS....

CWU has moved their physical location back to New York City!!! They have digital technology available, AND.... CWU has a newly hired executive director, Dr. Aigner Holmes. The new address is Church Women United, 475 Riverside Drive Suite 1374, New York, New York 10115 There is a new phone number (212) 870-1030. Please email the national office at info.churchwomenunitedinc@gmail.com CWU normal business hours will be 9:30am – 5:00pm.

For future reference please note this in your CWU of Lane County 2024 Year Book.

Diane Beuerman Obituary



Diane Dixon Beuerman of [Eugene, OR](#), died peacefully on February 3, 2024 at the age of 83, from metastatic cancer at Pete Moore Hospice, surrounded by her family and friends. She was married on September 30, 1961 in [Buffalo, New York](#) and lived in diverse places such as Vancouver, British Columbia and Kingston, Ontario, Canada; Lusaka, Zambia; Bath and Sheffield, England.

Diane is survived by her loving children, Kim M. Beuerman, David R. Beuerman, Jr. (Kari), and Rachel J. Nosce (Louis); and grandchildren: Alexandra, Marcus, and Darien Rodriguez-Beuerman; Emma and Harrison Beuerman; and Ellie and Leah Nosce; her sister-in-law JoAnn Dixon, and numerous nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her [beloved](#) husband, David Beuerman, her parents Doris (Rundell) Dixon and Thomas Dixon, sister Ruth Wortman, and brother Thomas Dixon, Jr. Diane was known for her expansive, tolerant, and forward thinking. In her early adulthood, Diane was instrumental in establishing the Kingston Free School in Kingston, ON, with Dave and family friends, Jean and Ron Murray, a Montessori-like elementary school which was integrated into their public school system. She traveled the world with her husband Dave, and their three children. Diane had the ability to make friends wherever she went and was a creative decorator, both of which helped her manage the relocations gracefully. She was also an excellent listener who really cared about others: she had many intergenerational friendships and could relate to her young adult grandchildren, local graduate students, and to elders beyond her years.

Diane was also an advocate for social justice. 60 years of participation in social justice events included the 60-70's Civil Rights demonstrations, the Native American 1000 Mile Walk, and as of late, Women in Black. This leaning was always integrated in her life. She was outspoken about it and encouraged others to try to make a difference.

She was dedicated to continual learning and spiritual/religious discovery: Diane finished her Bachelor of Arts, in Philosophy and Religion, from Albright College in 1985 and proceeded to involve herself in careers which served others socially and spiritually. She worked for Head Start as an early childhood specialist and for St. Mary's Church as a Pastoral Associate and hospital chaplain in [Oneonta, NY](#). Once she moved to Eugene, she helped establish and support the contemplative prayer and social justice communities. Diane was a proud member of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection and Church Women United. She was especially fond of her weekly (contemplative prayer group?) better known as the Monroe Park Quartet -- where she met with several dear friends, including Judy Roman, Anne McGrail and Jane Mazetier. At Resurrection, she was known to deliver the homily on an annual basis. Her wisdom, expressed with philosophical and scriptural insight, were cherished by all.

Diane was loved by everyone for her expansive/astounding ability to listen, to love, and affirm. Her poetry and stories, often dedicated to her family members, will be cherished. She had a special relationship with her grandchildren, calling and texting them frequently, and sending homemade cookies for special occasions. In Portland this past October she was able to attend Emma's wedding, her first grandchild to marry. Diane was thrilled to have so many family members together, dancing, laughing, and sharing yummy food. We are so sad to lose her. Her beautiful presence and acceptance are irreplaceable, leaving a profound absence in our hearts. We also appreciate the outstanding time we spent with her over the years and know she lives on with each of us.

Diane's life was celebrated on Saturday March 16th, 2024, 11am at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 3925 Hilyard St., [Eugene, OR](#) 97405, (541)686-8462. A time of quiet reflection began at 10:30am and the memorial service started at 11:00 am followed by a light luncheon.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be directed to the Hospitality Village . Diane often cooked holiday meals for this transitional, tiny house community located in the church parking lot. To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Katharine EE Hunt

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UPCOMING EVENTS



You're invited!
Saturday, April 13
5:30-7:30 pm
Central Presbyterian Church
555 E 15th Ave, Eugene

Fundraising Dinner

RSVP to truckmanti@gmail.com
with number of people attending
\$20 / person -- Pay at the door

The Ibrahim family--Nasrat, Suraya & their 2 children, and Suraya's brother Hamid--came to Eugene from Afghanistan as asylum-seekers. The adults are working now and they want to start a food truck business to further their financial independence. This fundraiser will help get them started.

Enjoy Afghan and other regional food and a presentation from the Ibrahimis.

This is a fundraiser
Please bring your checkbook



Want to donate and can't attend? Write a check to Manti LLC, mail to Central Presbyterian Church, 555 E 15th Ave, Eugene OR 97401



BREAKFAST AT BRAIL'S

Wednesday, April 10th, 9am
1689 Willamette St.
Food and discussion
of April Forum

Please join us!