



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

Editor: Phyllis Hockley
Phyllish@efn.org

cwulanecounty.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Inside:

Word from our President
Page 2

A Look at our May forum
Page 2

A Freedom of Costly Live
Page 3

Valiant Woman of the Year
Page 3

Think like Jesus
Page 4

Housing the Unhoused
Page 5

Summer Fun Fund
Page 5

Upcoming Events
Page 6

June, 2019

June 7 Friday 9am-11:15	United Lutheran 2230 Washington A Society that Works: Housing
-------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------

June 11 Tuesday 7:30am	Breakfast at Brails 1983 Willamette St. A Look at our June forum
------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------

Sept. 6 Friday 9am-11:15	United Methodist 1376 Olive St. A Society that Works: Education
--------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------

JUNE FORUM

THE PROBLEM OF INEQUALITY

Leading with our hearts, let us share thoughts about inequality, here in a nation with some of the greatest economic disparity in the world. Meeting together we will practice working toward “dialogic freedom”. (Sharon Schumann)

Father Richard Rohr, OFM, names this work “Spirit Energy”. To be both and, and keep from either or, to be patient and long suffering, willing to WAIT for insight and integration, to live in the always imperfect now, and heal our racism, sexism, heterosexism and our classism.

This paraphrase of the Lord’s Prayer is another echo of our call: “May we honor the holiness of creation and act so that love is reflected in the way we live.”

LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER

Three faiths (Jewish, Christian, Muslim) hold Jerusalem sacred. Our nation is deeply involved in the struggles in Israel and Palestine. Plan on sharing thoughts on this topic on September 6th.

PLANNING FOR 2020
Our ad-hoc planning committee is being assembled.
Sipping iced tea and sharing ideas, help with program work.
Connect with Cindy
(gkokis@uoregon.edu)
or Anne
(aobdob@pacinfo.com)

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Anne O'Brien

Heather Buch's presentation does give us pause to consider what each of us can do to help solve this seemingly intractable problem of homelessness. Walking downtown evokes feelings of sadness, frustration and, I'm sure, fear and even anger. Anger at the homeless? More likely anger at the system that created and sustains this problem. What can we/I do? I hope you were able to attend the May 13 joint City/ County meeting discussing the homeless service system improvements recommended by the TAC report that Heather shared with us.

I have my own consultant when I'm stumped: The Bible. Here's what I found regarding how we treat the homeless:

"... free those who are wrongly imprisoned and stop oppressing those who work for you. Treat them fairly and give them what they earn. I want you to share your food with the hungry and to welcome poor wanderers into your homes. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help. If you do these things, your salvation will come like the dawn. Yes, your healing will come quickly. Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the LORD will protect you from behind"

[\(Isaiah 58:6-8\)](#).

I believe this is our motto: Charity is a blessing and system change is required. (thanks, Cindy)

A LOOK AT OUR MAY FORUM

Anne O'Brien

Our May Friendship Day Celebration was held at St. Jude Catholic Church. Yes, 88 folks attended; including our men visitors. We welcome them. Alpine catering's lasagna was enjoyed and we are grateful to the ladies of St. Jude for setting up the beautiful room, working around preparations for their rummage sale on May 18 and 19 and to all who donated dessert items. Thanks also to our readers, Pamela Krause and Diane Beurman and Mary Roth for leading our hymns.

Cindy Kokis was really surprised when she was awarded the Valiant Woman award for 2019. As you can see in the article about her award, she truly deserved it!.



Our speaker, Heather Buch, newly elected County Commissioner, helped many of us to better understand the Shelter Feasibility Study of the Technical Assistance Collaborative (consultants) to Lane County/City of Eugene. Many problems were identified and elaborated upon. One that stood out was the complexity of and lack of coordination among the many services that are available. Such a labyrinth to negotiate! What can we do? Heather says that in response to the TAC report there will be energy on how to coordinate our services throughout the community for those in need and support for the collaboration between county and cities. Maybe some of our Springfield members and their churches could help get Springfield on board with this effort? You can access the full report by going to the Lane County website and searching in top right hand corner: TAC report.

**2019 VALIANT WOMAN OF THE YEAR
CYNTHIA (CINDY) KOKIS**



**And how lovely
to have so many of
Cindy's family members
here to celebrate Cindy with us.**



Deep concern for humanity and therefore resulting activism became a part of this woman's life early. As a part of Trinity Episcopal Parish in New York 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. Two to three times a 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 and George moved to Eugene in 1973. In 1975, while working on economic justice issues, she discovered Church Women United. Cindy found an ecumenical group of activist women ready to support United Farm Worker and Nestle boycott work (infant formula action). Women ready to work to change the system. She found new and exciting support and enthusiasm .

Cindy brought her activist commitment, dedication to the betterment of humanity and deep abiding faith with her. Through her CWU became involved in new ways in our community. This has continued to the present! Cindy serves on the CWU of Lane County Board as Ecumenical Actions Chair through which she has brought connections with groups working on racial justice, labor rights, health care, environmental actions and more. It has opened doors at our city, county, and state legislatures. She continues to ensure that the Unit has excellent programs, tapping into her mass of community resources. Cindy thanks God for Church Women United.

One of the many projects that Cindy has been instrumental in organizing is the Unit's Summer Fun Fund. Through this, at-risk and homeless kids are able to go to summer camps, swim, and other healthy fun. In 2011 she introduced "Breakfast at Brails" to the Unit. Women gather early in the morning (7:30 am) to take a look at that month's forum. This started in the fall of that year and is still going strong. Cindy has also organized the annual writing of letters for Bread for the World both at SME and with our CWU unit plus she's served on the Eugene chapter of Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger, which has sponsored the annual Crop Walk for hunger.

In May of 2011 Cindy received the CWU Human Rights Award which honors someone who has consistently demonstrated a high regard for the dignity of others.

Cindy also organized the "Time Out Nursery" program which ran for many years at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. This program gave young parents a few hours during the week to do errands, etc. knowing that their young children were being well cared for at Cindy's parish church.

Cindy continues to lead by example putting her time, talent and funds into many local, state and national organizations. Included are such organizations as CALC and Wand. She is a testimonial to the adage "walk your talk". If there is a cause related to Human Rights, Cindy is there.

Cindy invites us all to work for justice and peace and reminds us of that famous quote, “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing.” Together “we must speak truth to power.”

Marion Malcom, another community activist, shared the following: “Cindy is for sure a Valiant Woman and wonderfully persistent. Cindy worked for CALC for about seven years, in the late 70's and into the 80's. She worked on issues of food and hunger and more broadly on economic justice. Addressing homelessness was a key focus some of those years. She was always clear that charity was good, but justice is what really is needed. I enjoyed working with her and appreciated her very much.”

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 nearly 40 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. She also has a heart for the incarcerated and has been writing to a prisoner at Folsom Prison for many years.

All of this has been done while supporting her husband through his professorship and career at the University of Oregon, raising 2 children, teaching in the public schools, participating in the care of 5 grandchildren and now great-grandchildren. In keeping with another commandment, “Honor thy Father and thy Mother” She also cared for her mother, Dorothy Pomeroy who lived with them for about 20 years. Cindy is truly a valiant woman!

THINK LIKE JESUS

By Mary Sharon Moore

I remember when economic injustice and resulting homelessness came front and center in my consciousness—ten years ago at those Sunday afternoon meetings of Occupy Interfaith Eugene. Recently Chuck Collins, author of *Born on Third Base*, used to be part of the “three comma” set—you know, those who make so much money that they need three commas to make the figures readable.

Collins says: “Get the diagnosis right: Assets grow on unjust wages.” How do you reverse the inequalities, he asks? Look to Dwight Eisenhower: Through shared prosperity. Raise the floor (with just wages that open the doors to inclusion in society), Collins says, and address the top (fair-share taxation, employee buy-in).

As I listen to Chuck Collins during his recent UO visit, I write in my notebook: “How can I work to invite local wealth to become engaged in a better conversation for a local economy that works for everyone?” I highlight the question in yellow.

By “conversation” I mean a way of being community first through listening, and speaking with love only those words which need to be said, and then, through courageous actions.

I still believe that this community holds all the answers to all of its questions. And it holds all the forms of wealth to respond to all of its needs.

So I ask you: Do we as women of faith dare to believe this? And if we do, are we willing to rise up to act?

Now is the time to think like Jesus, with justice, imagination, and generosity. Or as the Apostle Paul says: Have the mind of Christ.

I want to know your thoughts. Reach out to me at marysharonmoore@gmail.com.

Mary Sharon Moore, an active member of St. Thomas More University Church, is a spiritual director, writer, and speaker on matters of Christian faith in public life. Her forthcoming book, *Dare to Believe, Rise Up to Act: Equipping laity to be the public face of Christ*, is due out in July 2019. Learn more at marysharonmoore.com

HOUSING THE UNHOUSED

Majeska Seese-Green

Have you been wondering what's going on to address the urgent need for a permanent public shelter for this area? It seemed there's been a long silence — until perhaps this week as we go to print. Here is a review of the process so far from Kris McAlister, representative of unhoused/formerly-unhoused on the Poverty and Homelessness Board (used with permission): The TAC Report on Lane County Homelessness System and Shelter Feasibility study came out in January, with its 10 recommendations based on assumptions and data trends. The assessment came from the efforts of the Mayor Vinis's permanent shelter task force to try and coalesce around community needs.

Upon agreeing to work together on these recommendations in March, the City of Eugene and Lane County governments formed a task force to meet 6 times over 6 weeks in April and May, to suggest how these recommendations might be best rolled out. [Kris was on this task force.]

This team had representatives from the Commission, Council, and Poverty and Homelessness Board, who directed points of concern or considerations to the county and city staff and staff leadership. Staff of the city have made loose requests in the process of budgeting to help with earmarks, but nothing is committed by these recommendations of recommendations.

This accumulates into a proposed timeline and focus path by county administrator and city manager to their respective jurisdiction's elected leadership for approval and public consideration. That is what is going before the joint commission and council meeting May 13. [See webcast.]

Public process and comments goes into play, like normal after this work session presentation.

Respectfully,
Kris McAlister

Many advocates will be supporting many of the recommendations, urging changes in some (no doubt), and raising awareness of what will still be missing in the local system. If you're interested in informal meetings — e.g. with others from CWU — for further understanding and actions, please let us know. There's a lot going on — and still needed — and it is complicated.

For the potential new project for CWU and others for recycling/repurposing surgical instrument wraps for useful items for those living outdoors (see May Vine), it's not too late to contact us (Phyllis or Majeska).



SUMMER FUN FUND

Phyllis Hockley

June is sneaking up on us and that means summer is just around the corner. And that reminds us of our SUMMER FUN FUND, the Church Women United project that makes fun possible for homeless and at-risk kids.

Your contribution last year made it possible for hundreds of kids to go swimming, hiking, and skating, go on field trips and to day camps and participate in lots of indoor and outdoor games. ShelterCare, one of the 8 organizations receiving the money said that 36 children (ages 6 months to 17 years) from struggling families benefitted from our grants and that these families were most grateful.

Families who are struggling with homelessness also struggle to create some sense of normalcy, constancy and hope for their children. So I can see why they were most grateful for those fun days.

So here comes the call to participate in this endeavor. The money will go to 8 organizations working with homeless and at-risk kids, who will use the money to provide these kids with fun creative activities this coming summer.

To answer the call, make out your check to CWU, memo it SFF and send it to Phyllis Hockley, 220 N. Adams, #2, Eugene, OR, 97402. A fun summer will be in the making, thanks to you.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Katharine EE Hunt

130 Hansen Lane

Eugene, OR 97404

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

US POSTAGE PAID

EUGENE, OR

PERMIT #356

Happening: A Clean Energy Revolution



A journey into the the clean energy era as it creates jobs, turns profits, and makes communities stronger and healthier across the US. Explores issues of human resilience, social justice, embracing the future, and finding hope for our survival.

Day: Friday, June 7th

Time: Doors open 6:30pm*

Movie at 7pm

Central Lutheran Church
1857 Potter St, Eugene (18th @ Potter)

Enter from the East side parking lot

Presented by Eugene Interfaith Earthkeepers