



The Vine

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

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UPCOMING EVENTS

June, 2018

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| June 1 | Episcopal Church of the Resurrection |
| Friday | 3925 Hilyard (Strawberry Fest) |
| 9-11:15 | War, Costs and Commitment |
| June 5 | Breakfast at Brails |
| Tuesday | 1983 Willamette St. |
| 7:30 a.m. | A Look at our June forum |
| September 7 | Unitarian Universalist |
| Friday | 1685 W. 13th St. |
| 9-11:15 | Housing as a Human Right |

JUNE FORUM

Susan Cundiff serves on the national board of Women's Action for New Directions (WAND). She is chair of the National WAND Education Fund Board and chapter leader of Oregon WAND. Join us as she reviews the importance of women in peacemaking.

Women in elected office reduce the use of military solutions. Makes sense - we practice diplomacy at home . When women are involved in peace negotiations the accords last longer. True - women favor long term solutions, not Band-Aids.

Susan will bring an updated budget banner, showing how the current jump in Pentagon spending diminishes allotments to other programs. Our response: offering of letters. Invite friends: this will be another exemplary forum from Ms. Cundiff.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER

For decades, CWU forums have spoken on the issue of the right to a home. We have heard from un-housed high school students, community leaders, and began the program to shelter families in faith communities. In September we take a hard look at our progress.

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CHURCH WOMEN UNITED NW Regional Event

Friday, Sept 14, 2018
Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018



Save the Date!

Gresham United Methodist Church
620 NE 8th St. Gresham, OR.

Registration: Contact Katharine Hunt,
NW Regional Coordinator
541-607-0106 <keehhunt@gmail.com>

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Anne O'Brien

Concerns about proposed cuts to SNAP:

Earlier in the month we sent out a request that people call their Representatives to request that they vote against the proposed cuts to the SNAP (formerly "food stamps") program.

On May 8th a group of legislators and representatives from the 3 Abrahamic faiths gathered to pray, voice their concerns re the cuts, and to share bread. The sharing of bread served as a symbolic reminder across faiths of the requirement to feed the hungry, as Congress considered this new farm bill that would dramatically scale back funding and access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

As part of the House's proposed Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, HR 2, SNAP benefits would be cut approximately \$20 billion over the next decade, according to a [Congressional Budget Office report](#) released May 2.

Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-Maryland) said the attempts to cut back SNAP benefits, estimated at an average cost of \$1.40 per meal, at a time of massive increases in military spending was startling. "America is the bread basket of the world, and we should have it within our budget,... to make sure that no American goes to bed hungry at night," he said.

Recalling her youth of spending Sundays at multiple church services and summers in Christian vacation Bible schools, Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Ohio) described hearing House colleagues quote Bible verses one moment and then support scaling back SNAP the next. "There is no faith that does not talk about how we treat widows and orphans. There is no faith that doesn't talk about how we treat the least of these. There is no faith that says that you punish hungry children," Fudge said, adding she hoped those faith leaders present would "let your voices be heard" opposing the SNAP cuts.

During the interfaith service, Rabbi Alana Suskin noted that Leviticus, "informs us if your brother is becoming poor and unable to support himself, then you must support him." Further, "The Jewish tradition tells us explicitly that it is an offense to God when we do not feed the hungry. ...

Jesuit Fr. Patrick Conroy, [the recently reinstated House chaplain](#), was quoted back in November as the House debated tax reform: "May we be mindful that the institutions and structures of this great nation guarantee the opportunities that have allowed some to achieve success, while others continue to struggle. And may the efforts of our lawmakers guarantee that there are not winners and losers, but benefits balanced and shared by all,"

Dominican Sr. Quincy Howard, with the Catholic Social Justice Lobby, offered the closing prayer : "Bless our work to soften the heart of a generous nation. For we know that it is giving that we receive, and that there is a universal holiness in food for the hungry."

I hope that people of faith and all of good will can convince our lawmakers that there is no fairness in punishing the less fortunate among us. I don't get it.

CWU and CET

At our Board meeting this month, Cindy Kokis voiced her concern for the lack of action on the part of the City Council in making a decision about whether the City would be collecting a Construction Excise Tax (CET) on new construction. Note that CWU Lane County is a member of the Oregon Housing Alliance which was instrumental in lobbying for the legislation that allows for a CET to raise funds for affordable housing. Terry McDonald and Jacob Fox noted in their April RG Op Ed piece that seven other communities in Oregon who face the same problems we have here in Eugene, have adopted the CET. So, Anne emailed each of the councilors and Mayor Lucy Vinnis. Most responded and said that they were in support and that these things take time to get everything in place. I said we are impatient. We may have to accept that things do not go quickly in the public forum. We think this small fee could make for a nice contribution to the low cost and affordable housing budget. I'm personally optimistic that it will happen. I think that we are just as caring and willing to assist with lower cost housing needs as are Bend and Portland and Hood River City, Cannon Beach, Corvallis and Medford. Here's a link to an interesting article from a national publication: <https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/to-fund-affordable-housing-oregon-cities-turn-to-construction-excise-tax>

MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY CELEBRATION 2018

Anne O'Brien

We were pleased with the turnout to our May Celebration at First United Methodist. First we must thank FUM women for their usual amazing hospitality. They do it right. I loved the comment from one of the veteran FUM Women's group when I commended them on their skills at running this event: "This isn't our first rodeo." Obviously! Thanks to Pastor Pamela who is, sadly, retiring at FUM, for her inspiring and loving words. Thanks to all the women of CWU who worked so hard to make this happen, led by Nancy Vrijmoet and by Mary Roth who organized the Celebration program with Carla Buckner and Barbara Sumner and played the piano too. Thanks, also to Alpine Catering with Paul Webber, Dorothy's son.



Our guest speaker, Val Hoyle, inspired us with her commitment to helping those less fortunate and with her real spirit of empathy toward folks who live in poverty. I hope we can all commit to working toward a fair system where we see a significant number of people in poverty in the midst of plenty.

ACTIONS, HERE AND BEYOND

Cindy Kokis

"Be the Grown-ups in the Room"

How did you like the election results? Is CWU doing a good job informing the religious community? Do we need new ideas for forums in 2019???

New skills?

Summer is the time we plan next year. Be a planner. As Val Hoyle urged: "As women, we need to be the grown-ups in the room. We have to do our job in rooms that we are privileged to be in AND SPEAK OUT."

It's a lot of fun to plan. Just e-mail Anne (aobdob@pacinfo.com) and join the executives.

Standing Rock Awakens the World

Climate direct action has led courageous people to shut down five tar sands pipelines in four states. Valve turner Michael Foster is serving prison time in the North Dakota State Penitentiary. Leonard Higgins was ordered to pay \$3,755.47 restitution. Ken Ward, Washington, had a hung jury and has produced a great documentary film about his witness.

Emily Johnston and Annette Klapstein will be tried this summer in Minnesota. This trial will allow the NECESSITY DEFENSE.

THIS IS A GREAT WIN. Necessity is an effective defense to a criminal charge "if the harm that would have resulted from compliance with the law would have significantly exceeded the harm actually resulting from the defendant's breach of the law."

This is the first time this defense has been allowed. Lawyers will have opportunity to show facts about global warming and fossil fuels. Our Children's Trust plans to use this defense. Keep them all in your prayers.

Hate Group Action in Oregon

Oregonians for Immigration Reform (OFIR) seek to overturn Oregon's 30-year-old sanctuary law. The Southern Poverty Law Center has identified OFIR as one of the 18 hate groups operating in our state. Decline to sign any OFIR initiative petition.



KATHARINE HUNT-- 2018 VALIANT WOMAN

Katharine was raised in the Anglican tradition in Canada. Her father was a priest and her grandfather a bishop. And Katharine's involvement with the church has never stopped. She was the pastoral assistant while living in Utah. Moving to Eugene she joined St. Mary's Episcopal and became active with Episcopal Church Women, a national organization empowering women to work together on local and global issues. She became president of the local group, then became secretary, vice-president, then president of the state board for the Diocese of Oregon.

The list of committees she has or is working on at St. Mary's is long! Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Iraqi Student Project, Community of Welcoming Congregation/Integrity Committee, Earth Stewards, Refugee Resettlement Coalition. And is the Chair of the Outreach Ministry Council and is invaluable in keeping all informed of events, and needs of our community.

Katharine's involvement with Church Woman United started thru a project that her mother-in-law was involved in. A gal by the name of Justine Merritt had the idea of wrapping the Pentagon with a mile of ribbon as a reminder to love the earth and its people. A group of women with [Church Women United](#) led a grassroots effort around the country They sent out the call to action to every denomination. When her mother-in law, a cloth artist heard about it, she was in and soon had Katherine and her kids involved as well. More than 3,000 Ribbon panels were contributed by this Church women United group and they wrapped the Pentagon. And Katharine's panel was one of them.

Many years later, when Katharine had moved to Eugene, and Peg Morton re-enlivened the ribbon project, Katharine was there to help. And she created another panel, this time with her grandchildren, and stood with her panel that helped create a ribbon of tangible hope that we wrapped around the new Federal Building. Prayers were offered for the people inside and for peace and hope to reign.

Katharine is key to our local Church Women United as our secretary. She has also been on the state board for many years in different roles, first as Global Relations chair and then secretary. Now she is the NW Regional Coordinator.

And Katharine has always found time for the needs in her community. While living in Salt Lake City, she was the Vice-chair of the Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council, program coordinator for the West High Community Peer Court Oversight Committee, chair of the Boy Scout Troop 1151 Parent Committee, and member of the Wasatch Fish and Garden Board which developed and directed community gardens.

Moving to Eugene she became an active member with Eugene Interfaith Earthkeepers, working with others to care for our sacred planet. She is the coordinator for "That's My Farmer", a partnership of faith communities and local farmers practicing Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). She is an active volunteer for the Egan Warming Center, which cares for the homeless on cold winter nights, often working at 2 different sites. Katharine served as president of the Lane County Beekeepers Association and used her knowledge to help others with their hives and to make beeswax candles for children and adults alike. She is still very active with this group.

It may be hard to believe, but in the midst of all her volunteer activities, Katharine found time to work and to raise a family, two sons, a teacher and a doctor. Katharine had a long career in Special Education. While living in Utah, she was special education Instructional Assistant for the school district's hospital/home-bound program. Moving to Eugene she continued as a special education instructor, working for the 4J Eugene School district.

Katharine is a full time wife, mom, grandma and volunteer. Katharine puts her heart and soul into everything she does. She is more than deserving of the Valiant Woman Award.



PHYLLIS HOCKLEY, SENIOR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

On Friday, April 20, Lane County United Way honored community volunteers who'd been nominated for RG Volunteers of the Month throughout the year. There were 3 finalists in each category. Our own Phyllis Hockley was one of the finalists in the Senior Volunteer category. Her 20+ years of service to CWU plus her numerous other activities about town were the basis for her being named Senior Volunteer of the Year. Our CWU table at the luncheon honoring these special volunteers was a sea of happiness.

Yes, we were happy but little did we know when we nominated her, that the volunteer of the year in each of 9 categories garners a \$500 award to their nominating organization. What a bonus. Our wonderful Phyllis receives a well deserved honor and CWU receives a wonderful donation.

CONGRATULATIONS, PHYLLIS. Thank you, all the sponsors of this event.

P.S. Here's what homeless advocate, Jean Stacy had to say about Phyllis: "When we were putting out community calls for support for the SLEEPS protest camps I knew that even if no one else in the world showed up, Phyllis would. She inspired me beyond words.

HOPE RANCH BENEFIT

Mary Roth

A recent benefit for Hope Ranch, which is an effort to help survivors of sex trafficking, was held at Northwest Christian University in Eugene. (In the May Vine the benefit was publicized, and Diana Janz, founder and president of Hope Ranch, was our speaker at the October 2017 forum).

The program was titled "No Longer Slaves." It was the idea of Annie Anderson, a senior at NCU, majoring in music. She had done an internship at Hope Ranch. Many other students were involved in the music, dance, and readings that focused on causes, recognizing signs of trafficking, and ways of helping survivors.

There was a silent auction to benefit Hope Ranch. At the end of the program, Diana Lanz, along with a young woman survivor responded to questions. It was an impressive evening.



SUMMER FUN FUND Phyllis Hockley



Summer is special for our CWU unit because we help bring joy to so many kids. And this happens because of our Summer Fun Fund project that raises money for homeless and at-risk kids, just for them to have fun. We give it to 8 organizations working with these kids and they provide safe creative fun. Swimming, camping and lots of fun trips for starters.

And beyond fun, the thank you letters tell us why it is so important.

Womenspace told us how important it is, when moms are fleeing a violent situation, that they know both care and fun will be provided for their the kids.

ShelterCare told us that for families struggling with homelessness, we help create some sense of normalcy, constancy and hope for the kids. So Important!

And if you'd like to participate in making this "Importance" happen, write your check to CWU and memo it SFF. Send to Phyllis Hockley, 220 N Adams #2, Eugene, OR 97402. Many thanks for the difference you will make in some kid's life this summer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 3, St Jude Catholic Church, 4330 Willamette, 5:30 PM

Buddhist Christian Dialogue presented by Mark Unno, Associate Professor of East Asian Buddhism and Psychotherapy at University of Oregon

Potluck Dinner followed by the presentation. Bring a favorite main dish or salad to share.

More information: Garry and Sandy Swanson 541-726-3997

TWO World Refugee Day 2018 Events!

Mark Your Calendar!

Wednesday, June 20, 5 - 8:00 pm

Community Celebration in honor of World Refugee Day 2018

First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive Street, Eugene Speaker Paul Jeffrey.

Paul Jeffrey is an award-winning journalist who has traveled to more than 80 countries, including Sudan, Syria, Bangladesh, Haiti, Gaza, and Guatemala. He has witnessed everything from hurricanes to health care crises and, most recently, refugees trying to achieve safety in camps and refugee communities. His photos and writing have appeared in many newspapers and magazines and have been used by the World Bank, World Health Organization, and UNESCO.

Saturday, June 23, 4 - 5:00 pm

Eugene Public Library, 100 W 10th Avenue, Eugene Speaker Tod Schneider,

researcher and storyteller extraordinaire. Eugene resident Tod Schneider is a writer, researcher, and advocate currently focused on international humanitarian crises. He will show slides and share the story of one refugee family he met last spring while in Greece. Don't miss his powerful presentation, and bring your friends. You will never forget it!