



The Vine

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LANE COUNTY

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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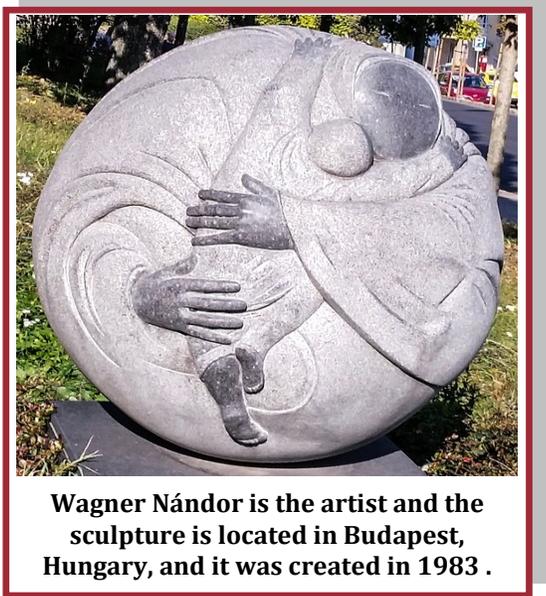
- September, 2022
- Sept 9 (Note change to 2nd Friday)
St. Jude Catholic Church
4330 Willamette St.
9-11:15 "Natives" program at 4J
- October 7
Friday
9:45 Unitarian Universalist Church
1785 West 13th Ave.
Basic Rights Oregon

SEPTEMBER FORUM

We will be meeting at St. Jude on 43rd and Willamette at 9 for fellowship and at 9:30 the meeting begins. Note that we will not be serving our usual continental breakfast. Masks are encouraged and it is difficult to manage masks and eat. We will serve coffee and tea which can be sipped with a quick drop of the mask. Our speaker will be from School District 4J (Eugene). The topic will be the "Natives" program at 4J. We are looking forward to finding out what we at CWU can do to support the program.

LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER

Basic Rights Oregon. A Zoom program on October 7, 2022. Beginning at 9:45 a.m. Basic Rights Oregon is a statewide Portland-based advocacy group for people in Oregon who are LGBTQ. Basic Rights seeks to ensure that people who are LGBTQ can live with dignity by removing discrimination in housing, employment, healthcare, and more. <https://www.basicrights.org/>



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Anne O'Brien

We are in the process of planning programs for next year. One issue that has come up is Climate Change. I have heard some say that if we don't deal with this problem nothing else really matters. We have to preserve our environment for the sake of future generations, including our grandchildren. Many of our faith communities have active groups working on this and we hope that Church Women United will have one or more programs dealing with "Care for our Common Home" as Pope Francis calls his encyclical on the environment. You can get the entire 120 page encyclical online at the Vatican website https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

Note that one of our Quadrennial Priorities for National CWU is "Quadrennial Priority #2". Church Women United believes that our earth is a gift from God entrusted to us to care for. We believe it is our responsibility to pay attention to and offer remedy where the growing climate issues are concerned. In particular we support the idea of Environmental Equity. We affirm the science that informs us. We are committed to raising awareness and educating when we can about environmental issues."

Relying on the power of prayer: One of my friends sent me this prayer:

Creator of our common home,
You fill the earth and sea and sky with life
Forgive us our neglect of your creation
The choking waste of our pollution
The damage done by careless habits
And our indifference to future generations.
Help us to amend our lives
To refuse more plastic if we can't reuse it
To lift our voice for lasting change
And to live well and gently on the earth
To the glory of your Son, the Living Word
Through whom you made this fragile world.
Amen.

Rt Revd. Steven Croft
Bishop of Oxford



OUR JUNE FORUM WHITEBIRD CLINIC

Jose Soto-Gates gave us an extensive look at Whitebird Clinic, and the wide range of programs and services that keep growing,

Programs like Chrysalis have been offering services for mental health care and substance abuse for a long time. And for over 50 years, they have offered free crisis intervention service. Their dental clinic and medical clinics have also offered a lot of care for the poor and homeless.

One of the newer programs is "Front Rooms." It operates daily as a resource for COVID-19 assessments, providing vaccination stations, fresh clothing, hand washing stations, food, etc. Another newer program is NEST. It helps adults experiencing homelessness navigate available resources-from medication and case management to drug and alcohol treatment, and mental health counseling to transportation to their appointments. Whitebird Clinic has expanded to 9 programs. WOW!

Arlo-Silver expanded our knowledge of CAHOOTS. (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) CAHOOTS was launched in 1989 as a community policing initiative. There has been significant visibility and discussion, even nationwide, of the CAHOOTS program in recent months, highlighting the important role this program has in our community as our nation struggles to reimagine public safety. The program mobilizes two-person teams consisting of a medic (a nurse, paramedic, or EMT) and a crisis worker who has substantial training and experience in the mental health field. The CAHOOTS teams deal with a wide range of mental health-related crises, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, suicide threats, and more, relying on trauma-informed de-escalation and harm reduction techniques.

CAHOOTS staff are not law enforcement officers and do not carry weapons; their training and experience are the tools they use to ensure a non-violent resolution of crisis situations. They also handle non-emergent medical issues, avoiding costly ambulance transport and emergency room treatment. Yes, sometimes the police need to be called, but, last year, out of a total of roughly 24,000 CAHOOTS calls, police backup was requested only 150 times. That gave our city a big saving.

UPDATES FOR EUGENE, OREGON AND BEYOND

Charlotte Maloney



DIVEST OREGON

The Divest Oregon Coalition has been busy this summer in addition to holding monthly informational meetings. Seven members testified about divestiture at the July meeting of the Oregon Investment Commission. Minimal accommodations for speakers indicated a lack of interest in public input or attendance. The coalition's legal volunteers finally received a copy of the annually required "Climate Risk Assessment" report, which was completed last year by independent contractor. It is unclear whether the commission members have seen the report! It was heavily redacted; the team is requesting some of the information that was redacted and prepared to file law suit in order to receive it.

Coalition teams are very busy pursuing plans for working with legislators to move the divest campaign in 2023 session, studying legislation and divestiture plans in other states, and developing language to use in the campaign to convey how volatile fossil fuel investments are. Next meeting of the Oregon Investment Commission is September 7 and coalition members will be making their presence known.

PLASTICS RECYCLING

Both Sanipac and Apex haulers now accept #1 and #2 plastics in co-mingling containers.

Details of Apex at: <https://www.apexdisposalservices.com/resources/recycling-guide>

Sanipac now also accepts "Tetra-pak" (broth, juices, and other beverages), as well as Aseptic beverage containers (milk products and juices)

Details at: <http://files.sanipac.com/commingle-recycling-presentation-july-2008.pdf>

INITIATIVE 17

IN NOW BALLOT MEASURE 114

The gun safety measure will appear on the ballot! Thank you to all who helped collect signatures. Details in October Vine.

MEASURE 111

There will be a universal health care measure on 2022 ballot. If passed, it will add a statement that health care is a human right to the Oregon constitution. Details in the October Vine.

INSIGHTFUL SURJ WEBINAR "BEYOND ZERO SUM"

National Standing Up for Racial Justice recently provided a webinar "Beyond Zero Sum" about white people's shared interest in working for racial justice based upon the book "The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together" by Heather McGhee. The book describes the many racist chapters in the history of the US. The author and SURJ National Director, Erin Heaney conducted the interesting 1 hour program.

We encourage you to read the book (available in hard copy, paperback, and Kindle) and watch the program at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RDasZs00QQgasn21fRPWeDR-WTapwN-k/view?emci=4b0e774e-db16281878b83d8a&emdi=656653c3-3f17-ed11-bd6e-281878b83d8a&ceid=687333>

RENTER PROTECTION

The Rental Protection Alliance awaits the next City Council agenda that will include the next phase of the Renter Protection Ordinance as recommended by the Housing Advisory Committee. No date is currently set.

**JOIN THE CHURCH WOMEN UNITED PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN
NATIONAL PRESIDENT MIRA WASHINGTON LEADS THE WAY**

Nancy Vrijmoet

Is it sufficient to react to gun violence, or can we instead prevent gun violence, nationwide?

When polled last month, seven out of ten Americans advocated prevention. In a poll conducted by the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, 71% said gun laws should be more strict. Looking closer at the numbers, a majority of those polled who live in gun-owning households want to ramp up gun safety laws. We're at a tipping point. This is no longer an "us against them" issue. It's time to take action.



On August 11, Mira Washington acted as president of Church Women United nationwide when she proclaimed it is time to put our shoulders to the wheel.

We must demand legislation to PREVENT gun violence.

Mira launched the Church Women United Prevent Gun Violence Campaign. Alongside Mira, we will apply pressure to our elected representatives. Our message: Initiate sensible gun safety legislation without delay. As Mira puts it,

"Now is the time to not only pray but to do something about gun violence in our communities."

Mira urges you to join your CWU sisters across the nation in this campaign. All letters received by October 31 will be forwarded to the appropriate legislators. Mail letters to Church Women United, Inc., 3605 Campbellton Road SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30331. Include the words "Prevent Gun Violence." This tag line will make sure each letter is included in the Prevent Gun Violence Campaign.

Here in Lane County, on June 26 local activists and faith leaders called for an end to gun violence and domestic terrorism, joining in the March Against Fear. Diane Peterson, chapter lead of Eugene/Springfield Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America partnered with Miles Pendleton, president of the Eugene Springfield NAACP, launching an event where community members honored those lost to gun violence, acknowledged survivors, and planned future actions aimed at increasing community safety. Marching against fear means rising above political disagreements, thinking outside the box, and showing a commitment to change. Diane, Miles, and partners from Community Alliance of Lane County challenged us to join the movement, The richness of lived experience demonstrated by those from diverse backgrounds is a source of strength in this movement. We must refuse to take "no" for an answer. Change, though incremental, will come if we work together.

In July we rejoiced to learn that the Lift Every Voice Oregon campaign was successful, collecting twenty thousand more signatures than needed to qualify Initiative Petition 17 for the ballot. You'll see it as Ballot Measure 114 when you receive your mail-in ballot for November's election. Under that measure a gun purchaser must apply for a permit, which requires completion of a course in gun safety and a background check. It limits the capacity of ammunition purchased to ten rounds. Common sense tells us these are good ideas. Oregon is ready to lead the way come November. Remember to vote!

President Mira Washington speaks for all of us when she says we cannot delay. Spread your desire for a safer world far and wide. And remember, you are not alone in this endeavor. There is strength in numbers. Be part of the change, and do it today!



JOYCE GARRETT OBITUARY

Joyce Kathleen Garrett of Eugene, Oregon passed away July 6, 2022. She was born January 27, 1930 in Taylor County Iowa to Stuart and Mildred (Lock) Jamison. She was raised on family farms in Taylor, Montgomery, and Page Counties with her younger sisters Elynor and Claris, and younger brother Bruce. After graduating from high school in Clarinda, Iowa in 1948, she attended NW Missouri State Teachers College at Maryville, Missouri and later Simpson College where she earned a Standard Elementary Certificate. She began her teaching career at a rural one-room school near Clarinda before moving to Atlantic, Iowa to teach third grade at Jackson Elementary School in 1951. While attending Simpson College, she reconnected with high school friend Max Garrett and they were married on July 27, 1952 in Clarinda, Iowa, three weeks after his discharge from the U.S. Air Force. They made their first home in Atlantic, Iowa where their son, Kirby, was born. In 1957, they moved to Villisca, Iowa where she continued to teach school and sons Brian and Troy were born. In 1962, the family moved to Eugene, Oregon for Max to attend graduate school at the University of Oregon. Joyce also attended the University of Oregon where she completed her Bachelor's Degree and Oregon Elementary Teaching Certificate in 1965 and resumed her 30 year teaching career at Malabon Elementary School in the Bethel School District. She earned her Master of Science in Education from the University of Oregon in 1971. In addition to her elementary teaching career, she spent two years at the University of Oregon supervising student teachers in the Bethel and Springfield school districts.

Family was very important to Joyce, loving and supporting her sons in all their activities and endeavors. Regular summer car trips to Iowa as the kids grew up provided both education and exploration of the world around them and maintained a close relationship with grandparents and extended family living there. Joyce's greatest sadness was the sudden loss of son Kirby at age 37.

Joyce was a very active member of Asbury United Methodist Church, serving in a variety of leadership roles. She was also an active member of Alpha Delta Kappa, an International Sorority for women in education, holding several offices in the local chapter.

In retirement, Joyce especially enjoyed being a member of Pioneer Quilters and completing many beautiful quilts that family and friends continue to enjoy. She also enjoyed the many Road Scholar travels she and Max experienced with Max's twin sister Jean and husband Fred.

Survivors include sister Elynor, son Brian (Janet), son Troy (Laura), daughter-in-law Cynthia (Kirby), grandchildren Angela and Anthony, and also Shelby and Dani and little Riley and Colbi. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and friends. She will be greatly missed.

A memorial service and celebration of her life was held August 13, 2022 at Asbury United Methodist Church at 2:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be given to Asbury United Methodist Church.

Arrangements entrusted to Musgrove Family Mortuary.

CIVILITY CORNER BOOK REVIEW

I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times. By Mónica Guzmán. 2022.

By Chris Cunningham

In the opening chapter of her book, *I Never Thought of It That Way*, Mónica Guzmán tells us that her liberal political leanings and her immigrant parents' unabashed loyalty to former president Trump gave the family plenty of fodder for dinner table discussion. While the Guzmán family is close-knit, they engaged in heated conversations about politics. That was especially so on Election Day 2020, when the family gathered around the TV and switched between Fox News and CNN to hear the election results. The conversation morphed into an ugly shouting match, she says.

Now the director of digital and storytelling at Braver Angels, a national nonprofit aiming to depolarize the U.S., Guzmán has done extensive research on opinion formation and whether it is possible for people to have conversations—albeit uncomfortable—when they stand on opposite sides of the political spectrum.

As a journalist, Guzmán has had ample experience examining both sides of an issue. She was a 2019 fellow at the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, where she studied social and political division, and a 2016 fellow at the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University, where she explored how journalists can better meet the needs of a participatory public.

Leaning on the findings of psychologists, sociologists, and political scientists to support her assumptions, Guzmán says that people spend precious little time with those who think differently. Associating with people who think like we do allows us to remain in our comfort zones. This phenomenon, referred to as “sorting,” helps us to initiate and maintain relationships. Her theoretical material may be a review for many readers. Yet her belief that “othering” may dehumanize, and even demonize, those who have different points of view elevates her work to an aspirational level of thinking, in my opinion.

Civility moderators and bridge builders like Guzmán concur that being rational in civic conversations can seem daunting, especially in a partisan atmosphere that has become downright nasty. De-sorting flies in the face of our human tendency to hold tight to long-nourished values and beliefs, a phenomenon known as “belief perseverance,” according to research cited in *Psychology Today*.

She urges us to step outside our comfort zone and “bridge the divide” by learning what experiences shape another person's values and what makes them tick. Advice such as stepping outside our sorted circle might sound more theoretical than practical, but Guzmán offers concrete examples of how to begin potentially contentious conversations, like learning the other party's personal history and listening without interrupting.

Guzmán embraces Braver Angels' central premise that we should never try to “win” an argument but listen to understand. Instead of preparing to win a debate, Guzmán writes, ask clarifying questions. Starting with questions such as, “I've been wondering ...” or asking, “What do you think about ...” are more likely to set the groundwork for an exchange between people who hold diametrically opposed opinions.

I do wish she had offered more examples about working with people on either side of the political divide, such as the one about Guzmán and her colleague escorting 15 liberal, white-collar Seattleites who mostly voted for Hillary Clinton, to engage in conversations with 16 conservative ranchers in Sherman County Oregon, who mainly voted for Trump.

The reticence between the two groups dissolved over the course of the day in the Sherman County Extension Office. Participants formed urban-rural dyads and asked each other about their personal histories and values held dear. Using questions such as, “What do you hope to see in our country in the next four years?” and “What concerns do you have about our country in the next four years?” pulled them closer to their purpose of getting to know people who didn't think or live like they do.

At the end of their day together, Guzmán says, the urbanites and the ranchers didn't want to leave. Participants on both ends agreed that they left with entirely different points of view about the “other side.” When formal discussion ended, everyone continued to chat and trade contact information. They even sat for a group photo.

After reading Guzmán's book, I'll admit I am more likely to say, “I never thought of it that way,” over a cup of coffee with a stranger, and to be be ready to listen to the other side.



**BASIC RIGHTS OREGON.
COMING UP!**

Chris Cunningham

A Zoom program on October 7, 2022. Beginning at 9:45 a.m. Basic Rights Oregon is a statewide Portland-based advocacy group for people in Oregon who are LGBTQ. Basic Rights seeks to ensure that people who are LGBTQ can live with dignity by removing discrimination in housing, employment, healthcare, and more. <https://www.basicrights.org/>

**RULES GOVERNING POLICE CONDUCT
DISAPPOINTING**

Cindy Kokis

A thirteen-member committee has drafted statewide standards for holding law enforcement officers accountable for egregious or criminal acts. Only two on the committee were African American; more than half the group were affiliated with law enforcement. NAACP leader Benny Williams regrets the lack of standards regarding officers belonging to hate groups. Use of unjustified or excessive force may not be severe enough to cause termination. Nor sexual assault. Eugene Public hearings will occur from 1:00-2:00 pm August 30, September 1st, 7th and 14th. Registration required.

PLANNING FOR 2023:

Anne O'Brien

Around 10 of us met on August 5th to begin our planning of programs for 2023. Thank you, Cindy Kokis for coming up with the idea of spending hours during the summer to have a robust set of programs for our next year. Planning ahead does help with finding appropriate speakers and themes that are of interest to our membership. Please contact any board member or me aob-dob@pacinfo.com or 541-554-2646 if you have an idea for a speaker or a theme.

We will be meeting on August 25 to do further and more specific planning.



From Pearl Buck Center

SUMMER FUN FUND PROJECT

Phyllis Hockley

What good is summer without summer fun, especially if you're a kid experiencing homelessness and lots of family trauma. But these kids did have fun this summer, thanks to all of you who contributed to our Summer Fun Fund Project. You made it possible to give \$700 each to the 8 organizations working with homeless and at-risk kids, enabling them to provide some creative summer fun.

The gratitude is flowing!

MENSTRUAL DIGNITY

Julie Lambert

Have you ever wondered how poor women manage their menses, especially with supplies being so costly?

The Oregon menstrual dignity act created the requirement for school districts to provide free hygiene products for menstruating students in public schools in Oregon from elementary to high school, regardless of gender, age, ability, socioeconomic status have the opportunity for safe, dignified self-care. This meets an unmet need identified by students, school leaders and medical and public health professionals over many years. The program helps students participate actively in classes in school activities by alleviating some of the economic strain and experiences of shame that are often barriers for men starting students accessing their education. This is even more difficult for the hundreds of students in our own locality who are also unhoused and facing this challenge. Research shows that already 1 in 4 may miss a class due to lack of menstrual products and this is compounded when disproportionately impacting students of color, students experiencing disabilities and students experiencing poverty.

This is also true of our low income or unhoused neighbors. Those experiencing homelessness or poverty may resort to using unsanitary items such as T-shirts socks baby wipes toilet paper and whatever is available. Finding soap and water in Eugene if you don't have your own home is already very difficult and is compounded when menstruating. For people with health insurance, the Cares Act considered feminine products qualified medical expenses. Oregon is one of only six states that does not tax menstrual products which consider them luxury or non-essential items, as well as not covered by SNAP or TANF funds.

Studies during the pandemic showed that women did not always have access to supplies which means they could have to resort to unhygienic means to deal with their periods, leading to potential reproductive or urinary tract infection. These conditions have already existed for our low or no income people but the pandemic just made it worse.

Poverty implies somehow that it's a woman's fault that she can't properly care for herself because she can't get the supplies she needs. In addition to our own Department of Education, Los Angeles County has initiated countywide buildings to have freely available products for their restrooms. We hope to follow the county's example and take this to the Community Health Council on September 16 to ask that government and public buildings also provide access for all. If only men had a uterus, I would not be writing this.

SPREAD GOOD WORK FAR AND WIDE THROUGH YOUR ANNUAL GIFT TO CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Nancy Vrijmoet

Many have sent their 2022 contribution to Church Women United of Lane County to keep the ball rolling. Fabulous events and important community support are the results of your generosity. Consider our national Priorities:

- social justice
- climate stewardship
- health and wellness
- hunger and poverty

Church Women United of Lane County puts into action your commitment to these priorities. Chip in what you can today. You're welcome to send your check to Treasurer Nancy Vrijmoet at 42091 McKenzie Highway, Springfield, Oregon 97478. Your gift spreads our mission far and wide. It connects our work to that of thousands of CWU sisters throughout the nation. When you arrive at our first in-person event in more than two years, pick up your prepaid copy of the new *CWU of Lane County yearbook*, made possible by your annual gift. Stay connected to local friends, faith communities, community partners doing challenging work, and our movement's leaders throughout Oregon. Help us continue and GROW these crucial priorities. See you at St. Jude on September 9!