MAY 2021
ANNUAL MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY CELEBRATION
All are invited to join the May Friendship Day Celebration on Zoom, May 1. Our meeting will begin at 9:30, with the Zoom link beginning at 9:15 for fellowship. We will all miss the luncheon this year and look forward to the day we can celebrate with luncheon again. The theme is “Becoming ONE in 2021” by “Making Room at the Table.”

We will again enjoy the music and singing of Nancy Anderson. We will attempt to share a musical video more successfully than Mary Sharon’s excellent video in our March Celebration!

Our speaker will be Sue Sierralupe, who founded and directed Occupy Medical for many years, working with our marginalized neighbors. We look forward to listening to her thoughts on “Making Room at the Table.”

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LOOKING FORWARD TO JUNE
Friday, June 4, General Meeting: Our guest speaker will be Jen Anonia, director of the Youth Farm in Springfield. Come hear about the amazing multifaceted community resource, that grows food, nurtures youth, organizes volunteers, and provides healthy produce for Food for Lane County. Watch for Zoom invitation and tune in
I love the readings of Sr. Joan D. Chittister, O.S.B. She is an American Benedictine nun, theologian, author, and speaker. She has passionately advocated, for 50 years, on behalf of peace, human rights, women’s issues, and church renewal. This is from her weekly newsletter, “Vision and Viewpoint” sent to our St. Jude women’s Bible study group by Vickie McGillivray, St. Jude parishioner. Here is what Sr. Joan said about the hope of Easter.

**Hope is the foundation of happiness.**
It makes tomorrow a destination rather than simply grounds for the dread of disaster.

**Hope is the gift of God to us.**
The work it takes to make hope real is the gift we give back to God.

**Hope is the instinct in us**
that something greater than what now is, can become real. It is as much a call to respond as it is a sign of what is lacking.

**Hope is the cutting edge of vision.**
It tells us that, indeed, another world is possible but just over the horizon.

**Hope is not a free gift.**
It does not come without a cost. It requires us to earn it.

**Hope never solves anything.**
It simply opens a necessary door in the human enterprise and invites us, begs us, to walk through it—for our sake, of course, but for the sake of the world, as well.

**Hope is a quiet, whispered, wonderment saying over and over again in the heart of each of us, “Possibility, possibility, possibility.”**

I believe that it is our faith that gives us hope.

**A LOOK AT OUR APRIL FORUM**

Mycena Bell, Head Start of Lane County Enrollment Manager, was our speaker. Her talk, “Success of 2 Generations of Early Childhood Education” was highly informative. The program is 50 years old. Fifty years of changing lives.

Head Start is not just a school for little kids. Head Start serves the whole family. Often even the grandparents are involved. There are home visits weekly, for 90 minutes. Parent skills are taught as well as behavior strategies. They work to improve the mood of parents. They help them deal with depression as well as other disorders. All this helps them be much better parents.

No, Head Start doesn’t just happen in a classroom. In fact, they meet with mothers when they are pregnant. They see the first 3 years of a child’s life especially important in setting the stage for the rest of their lives.

But a lot happens in a classroom as well. And the focus is on the whole child. Head Start aims to provide coordination between the child’s doctor and dentist and the family. Yes, the dentist too. If you have a toothache, you cannot give your attention to the teacher. And nutrition is important. They are given meals and snacks with veggies and whole grains. There are now 52 classrooms and 27 sites.

In total there are 1056 kids in Head Start of Lane County. 918 are 3-5 years old. 138 are from birth to 3 years. The Early Head Start and full day programs run year-round, giving the care that meets many different needs. Oh, and there even is a baby playground. A special need.

New to Head Start this year is a program called Mom Net. A collaboration between Head Start and University of Oregon. Its goal is to support new moms and improve the parent’s outlook and alleviate stresses through collaborating with supportive others. Especially important in pandemic times.

Individualized behavior programs for each child are their specialty, agencies such as Direction Services are among the partners of Head Start. They also see the importance of bilingual education: for example, the Guatemalan language Mam, which is one of the 22 Mayan languages spoken here.

Head Start is not a public charge program. Families have to provide proof of income to qualify. Families paid primarily in cash submit a document listing that income, according to the family’s record keeping.

Undocumented families can be served. And Head Start identifies families with most risk factors when filling slots from those on the waiting list. Example: child who has been in foster care.

Well, we learned so much at this forum and are grateful for all those working in Head Start, giving kids a great head start!
The CWU Homeless Advocacy Committee met on April 7, 2021. We were pleased to hear that the surveillance lights at the 13th and Chambers homeless camp were turned off one day after community response to stop this unnecessary harassment. The Right to Rest bill HB 2367 will be heard in Salem on April 13. Stay tuned for results.

Lane County will be receiving a $6 Million grant from the state for homeless covid relief. Watch for developments. We are on the lookout for some kind of community-wide listing of ways to assist our homeless neighbors. Any known volunteer opportunities can be sent to Sarita at saritalief@comcast.net, and we will try to post them.

Majeska will be our voter for the Oregon Housing Alliance. The next meeting will be May 5, 2021 at 2:30PM.
GAS MUST GO!
Debbie McGee
Been thinking about the people and the low cost of gas
That’s just because NW “quote” Natural is getting a “pass”

They dump their garbage into our atmosphere for free
You know that’s not right
The rest of us pay a fee

I can’t dump my garbage just anywhere
I can’t dump my toxins into your air
But that’s what gas does

Leaks and flares at the fracking site
Gas Leaks
formaldehyde and methane into children’s bedrooms at night

Higher rates of asmaltha with gas in the home
Don’t believe me? Think it’s overblown?
Look for yourself and you will see
Gas is bad for things
that need to breathe

They say they're gonna give us “renewable gas”
If you believe that you really are (PAUSE)
Asking to hear more
of their lies and disguises
They know its not true
just a “deflection”
it what they do.

Did you know? did you hear?
60% increase in just the last 30 years

I’m Not talking about something helpful or dear
its greenhouse gas emissions
filling the atmosphere
60% increase in just the last 30 years

Climate crisis threatens like a cancer
Are we just gonna
“wait and see”? The tumors are growing like crazy
Action Now is what we need.

And just in case you might have forgot
The one thing – the biggest thing
that overarches all our issues
Friends, It is the Parts per million heating up our tissues

We’re all Air breathers
So lets work together
That’s the only way
We’re going to make the future better.....
We all know the truth
We KNOW that gas must go away

we are fighting for a stable climate!!
AND We are here to stay
and please, our unhoused neighbors
need places to stay too
if we are a loving community
we need to let that love shine through.
No More Sweeps!

FOOD FOR LANE COUNTY YOUTH FARM
SUMMER PLANT SALE

Online ordering at
https://plantsale.foodforlanecounty.org/
Pickup days: 5/7, 5/8, 5/15, 5/15
at the FFLC Youth Farm, 705 Flamingo Ave in Springfield.
Plants were seeded at the Youth Farm (except for berries) using certified organic potting soils.
We choose varieties that are most suited to our area, and everything is hardened-off and ready for planting!
PLANT PRICING
3.5” pot—$2.50
6 pack—$3.25
1 gallon blueberries—$9.00

ALSO:
The Youth Farm CSA (weekly veggie boxes) is open to new members. Go to <foodforlanecounty.org/csa>.
Welcome to May Friendship Day Week-Long Celebration, hosted by Lane County CWU and Eastmont CWU, Oregon. “Becoming One in 2021”. “Making Room at the Table”. You will need Anne’s zoom link for Friday May 1st, and you will need April’s zoom link for May 3, 4, 6, & 7th.

**#1 Saturday May 1st @ 9:15 am PDT**
Lane County CWU, invites us to “May Friendship Day” 9:15 meet & greet, 9:30 – 11:30 am Celebration program by Joe Ann Hoffman and Darlene Pierce

Join Anne O’Brien Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88239545095

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**#2 Monday May 3rd @ 10:00 am PDT**
“Come to the Common Table”. Coffee-tea, practice breathing.
**ZOOM link above ^**

**#3 Tuesday May 4th @ 2:00 pm PDT**
“Come to the Work Table”.
- make NO-SEW tote-bag from used T-shirt.
- bring T-shirt, scissors, and a table to work on; **ZOOM link above.**

**#4 Thursday May 6th @ 6:00 pm PDT**
“Come to the Altar.”
- in fellowship of the least coin,
- honoring Dr. Shanti Solomon
**ZOOM link above ^**

**#5 Friday May 7th @ 9:45 am PDT**
Eastmont CWU and Friends invites you to “May Friendship Day” Celebration program: Joe Ann Hoffman & Darlene Pierce
A call to action for women of faith to gather for a powerful hour to discuss social issues and concerns to help redress the global and national problems that impact elderly, youth and families and marginalized communities including: Mental and Physical Health, Education, Housing, Environment and more.

**National Church Women United Win Wednesdays**

*Please feel free to forward this email to whomever you would like to join us.*

Join women from around the country every Wednesday in April-May. On Wednesday, April 28 someone from the International Human Trafficking Institute will be the guest speaker. The hour Zoom gathering begins at 10:00 AM PDT. See the May poster for details of topics being shared that month.

Join Zoom Meeting
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