



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter April, 2011 No. 8

Celebrate May Friendship Day *Living Our Friendship, Passing on the Key* Friday, May 6, 2011

Lunch 11 a.m.

Celebration to Follow

Bethany United Methodist Church,
3910 Mineral Point Road

Reservations Needed!

Call Marleen Lippert, 838-3563

Send \$7 (CWU Madison) to Marleen at
6329 Scandia Lane, McFarland, WI 53558

Childcare needed?

Call Bethany United Methodist Church
238-6381

May Friendship Days

"Living Our Friendship, Passing on the Key"

Seventy eight years ago, a May Day luncheon was held at the George Washington Hotel in New York City as a way to turn the despondent mood of the times into a "festive party to prove that life was still to be lived!" That luncheon turned into a tradition that Church Women United calls May Friendship Day!

As this year's Celebration states: "It's a time to come together to honor women of all ages, to renew old friendships and cultivate new ones, and to pray and celebrate together."

Help keep this tradition of active friendship and sisterhood going... We hope you will join us, and invite a friend to join you!

We will be serving a delicious lunch, recognizing our Board members, honoring our dedicated Valiant Woman, Shirley Robbins, as well as our Cord Builders/ Key Women whom our churches come to depend on to "pass along the key to CWU."

Our Worship Celebration will conclude the festivities with music from our choir, sharing in the Fellowship of the Least Coin, and a special May Friendship Skit which will take us back to the days of Miriam. She will share her story of faith and courage, which will, in turn, help to encourage us to take our own stories and share them with others about the goodness of God in our lives!

Don't miss this last Celebration before summer! Mail your \$7.00 check (CWU-Madison) to Marleen Lippert, 6320 Scandia Lane, McFarland, WI 53558. Questions? Call her at 838-3563.

We'll see YOU at Bethany United Methodist Church on Friday, May 6th at 11:00 a.m.

COME, and PASS IT ON!!

March Forum--Yahara House

Yahara House was only a name to many of the women attending our Forum on Friday evening, April 1, at Community of Hope/Advent Lutheran Church. After an abundant supper provided by the CWU Board, Cord Builders, and several other good cooks of CWU, we assembled in the sanctuary to find out about Yahara House.

Cori Olson, Employment Specialist on the House staff, and April Scheel, a member of Yahara House, made this an exciting reality for the group. This is a large house on Gorham Street where persons with mental illnesses can find a "family". The staff offers health services, recreation, and employment training and connections to real jobs. As their vision statement says:

"Yahara House assists persons with mental illnesses to reshape their destinies by regaining the self-esteem, confidence, and skills to transcend despair, stigma, injustice, and isolation and to reclaim their rightful places in society as family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers."

An unusual aspect of Yahara House is that staff and members make all decisions together. April noted that this can take a very long time, but it is empowering. Another interesting thing is that members are called just that, not "clients or patients". And as members of the Yahara House family, they can leave because of moving or other circumstances and come back any time for as long as they wish.

We found April's account of her life journey very moving, and her testimony about what Yahara House means to the mentally ill inspiring. She has taken part in the four activity divisions of the house: communications, where they write their own newsletters, publicity, make cards for people, etc; the Catfish Cafe, which makes and serves lunches 5 days a week; the Biz, which handles the business of the house; and wellness room. Thanks to the job program, she now has graduated to a permanent position. And her confidence and joy at sharing the story of Yahara House lighted the whole sanctuary.

Cori Olson showed us what being staff at Yahara House looks like, what it means, and how satisfying this cooperative clubhouse approach is to both staff and members. The materials she brought, produced by Yahara House, provided solid information about this exciting facility in Madison.

Yahara House began in 1976 as an aftercare program designed to help persons who had lived in psychiatric institutions move back into the community. In the mid 1980s, it became the first clubhouse model in Wisconsin. It is not a residential facility, but a place where members and staff work together at everything. It is open five days a week and every holiday, with regular lunches and holiday meals in the Catfish Cafe, where members prepare most of them. Yahara House is dedicated to advancing cultural competence, community reintegration, and consumer recovery. Yahara House is part of a private, non-profit organization, the Mental Health Center of Dane County, Inc.

Yahara House welcomes people for who they are, celebrates their diversity, recognizes their potential, and has expectations for putting their talents to work. At Yahara House members and staff mentor, teach, and support each other so that people can restore themselves in their own way, at their own pace as they forge their own recovery.

Yahara House offers

- a work-ordered day, Monday through Friday, where members and staff run departments that specialize in preparing daily meals, reception work, public relations, program statistics, newsletters, etc.
- a Transitional Employment Program (TEP) for local businesses to employ members part-time in entry level positions at a competitive wage. TEP gives members who have little or no paid work experience a chance to build a reliable work history and job references. TEP is often a stepping stone to other jobs for members.
- a Supported Employment Program gives members additional opportunities to secure independent employment.
- benefits counseling and housing assistance.
- comprehensive case management and crisis intervention services.
- comprehensive psychiatric medication services and wellness programs.
- evening, weekend and holiday social and recreational events.
- support from the Friends volunteer group.

The clubhouse model as lived at Yahara House provides outcomes that meet members' needs for kindness, justice, and economic opportunities. They also need to belong, to be heard and to contribute. By helping to meet these needs, members have an increased sense of worth, purpose, and hope.

Yahara House assisted members with major mental illnesses and high needs, it helped members enjoy more positive mental health related outcomes, it assisted members to live as independently as possible, and it assisted members to be gainfully employed and to return to school. It guarantees a place to belong, meaningful relationships, meaningful work, and a place to return.

Statement of Appreciation

CWU Human Rights Award

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation to Church Women United in Madison for the role which you played in my selection to receive the prestigious Church Women United, Incorporated, Human Rights Award. On January 15, 2011, when I was presented the 2011 CWU, Inc., Human Rights Award, I was both humbled and proud to have my modest efforts to support and advocate for the cause of Human Rights recognized in such a prominent manner.

I shall continue to engage in actions based upon my belief in the dignity of all regardless of race, gender, ability, or economic status. It is good to be associated with a movement whose values are congruent with those which have guided my life.

I wish you God-speed as you continue your excellent work.

---Jackie Wright

Announcements

Annual David P. Lyons Lecture

Register now for the 8th Annual David P. Lyons Lecture, Saturday, April 30, at First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison, WI (608-256-9061) www.fumc.org

The Rev. Dr. Emilie M. Townes, Associate Dean and Mellon Professor of African American Religion and Theology at Yale Divinity School, will be giving two presentations, the first on Doubt and Hope at 10 a.m. and the second on Faithful Citizenship at

1 p.m. Doors to the church open at 9 a.m. A boxed lunch will be offered between the lectures. For more information visit the www.func.org Events page, where you can register online or print out a registration form to mail in to the church office.

With the ongoing political turmoil in our state, literally at the doorstep of FUMC, the 2011 Lyons Lecturer may be just the right person for us at this historic time. Dr. Townes has remarked, "Jesus was a guy who know how to get angry, understood the full meaning of righteous indignation, and when he saw less than what was acceptable . . . he got upset and acted out about it. . . you can't be politically correct about it . . . you can't be pastoral about it, you have to call a sin a sin and be willing to take the consequences."

Among her many publications are *Breaking the Fine Rain of Death: African American Health and a Womanist Ethic of Care*; *Womanist Justice, Womanist Hope*; *In a Blaze of Glory: Womanist Spirituality as Social Witness*. Being womanist means emphasizing the particularity of the African American experience and how it can inform relationships, spirituality, theology, and our understandings of liberation and social justice.

Immigration and Workers

On February 24 the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice (ICWJ) had its annual Faith Labor Breakfast. Quite a group of clergy, laity and union members gathered to share breakfast and listen to Rev. Trina Zelle, the founder and Executive Director of the Arizona Interfaith Alliance. She discussed Arizona's anti-immigration bill, SB 1070, saying that its goal is to make things so miserable for immigrants that they will leave. Arizona had several immigration bills in the past, After September 11, 2001, the movement to crack don on immigrants began in earnest. Arizona's bill includes racial profiling, many limitations normal living, fear and the list goes on. Rev. Zelle is committed to justice for the immigrants who are the backbone of so many parts of our society. And the faith community has a strong commitment throughout our scriptures to that as well.

In Wisconsin, Representative "Dave Pridemore of Hartford is collecting signatures so he can introduce a bill into the State Assembly that would be modeled after 'Arizona's SB1070. Why are Arizona's anti-immigration policies bad for Wisconsin?

- Immigrants are an important part of Wisconsin. They are important for the social and cultural atmosphere of our state. Studies show that undocumented migrants make up 40% of the workers in the dairy industry. They also provide crucial work in industries such as other forms of agriculture, tourism landscaping and construction. Wisconsin has always been a state that welcomes immigrants.
- Racial profiling makes us all less safe. A widely documented fact is that people of color are much more likely to be pulled over or questioned by police than white people. The Pridemore bill will only exacerbate this problem. The bill would encourage law enforcement officials to focus on appearance rather than behavior and other risk factors. In addition, anti-immigration policies cause fear among communities of color. This deters people in those communities from reporting crimes to police unwittingly creating an atmosphere where crime flourishes.
- Immigration should remain a federal issue. While the federal government has not dealt with comprehensive immigration reform, it doesn't make sense for states, counties and cities to pass their own policies. If every level of government had its own policies, it would create an unmanageable system, causing confusion among citizens and immigrants alike.

Governor Scott Walker's budget bill has proposed the deletion of the in-state tuition exemption for higher education for children of immigrants that has been in effect for some time. The budget bill would also disqualify even legal immigrants from participating in Badger Care and in Food Share (food stamps) programs.

We can be advocates for our immigrant brothers and sisters. Keep your ears tuned to developments. You can contact the Worker Rights Center and Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice (255-0378 or go to www.workerjustice.org) for updates on the legislative developments. And you can also call your legislators and send them letters.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

On Good Friday, April 22, at 7 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 326 S. Segoe Road, the combined choirs of the Presbyterian Churches USA in Madison will present the Requiem by Gabriel Faure

with orchestra and soloists. The worship service will include scripture, prayer and lessening of light. All are welcome to attend this service remembering Jesus' death.

UN Report

The UN points to urgent concerns on population growth which is on the brink of reaching 7 billion people. That's up a billion in little more than a decade.

UN reports on authoritarian repression in the Middle East. Written by intellectual Arabs, reports renewal that the region is abysmally low in research in science and technology, persistent in repression of women. Above all, there was no positive movement of development in politics. Rulers hold power for life. People just don't know how to overthrow, how to reform, how to change. There is a severe environmental strain, with expanding deserts, and severe water problems.

This is a critical time to support the UN. The UN is a platform for international cooperation to address the world's greatest challenges. But new members in Congress fail to see that US funding serves our national security and foreign policy goals and ensures stability around the world.

Donna Turner

Ecumenical Choir

All singing women welcome. We will sing at May Friendship Day. We practice at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the third floor choir room. Practice dates: April 8, 15.

Church Women United in Madison Planning Meeting

Mark your calendars for the annual planning meeting of CWU in Madison. We will meet at 10 a.m. on May 27 at Bethany Undited Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road. Bring your ideas for programs, possibilities for churches available for meetings, and all information you wish to share. Bring a bag lunch so that we will be sure to have enough time to cover everything.