



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter December , 2012 No. 5

**Celebration:
Human Rights Day
Saturday, January 12, 2013**

Breaking Down the Doors of Injustice

9:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Welcome and Announcements

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Trinity United Methodist Church
1123 Vilas Avenue, Madison, WI**

January Celebration

We will come together on Saturday, January 12, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1123 Vilas Avenue, to celebrate Human Rights Day with breakfast provided by the CWU Board followed by the worship service, Breaking Down the Doors of Injustice. We will also honor a community member, Yolanda Salazar, with the Church Women United Human Rights award. She is recognized for her many years of service to the Hispanic community in Madison. She is a community specialist at the Northeast Madison Senior Coalition.

December Forum

Bethany United Methodist Church welcomed CWU with a delicious array of treats to accompany coffee and conversation to begin the month of

December in appropriate style. Bethany has been at their location for 70 years and are very happy with their latest renovations, which include a large kitchen.

The program, presented by the Youth Chorale of the Wisconsin Children's Choir, was an absolute delight. They performed selections from 15 numbers that will be on their Christmas concert December 9 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. Numbers ranged from Adam Lay Ybounden to Sleigh Ride, from I Sing of a Maiden to I'll be Home for Christmas, from Oscar Escalada to John Rutter. What a perfect beginning to the Christmas season. Our thanks to Director Margaret Hadley and all the young ladies of the Chorale.

Important announcements at the meeting include:

- Fair Share Contributions. Marleen Lippert will close the books on December 31. So far 15 of 19 member churches have sent in Fair Share Contributions. These contributions pay our expenses of rent for the office, phone, insurance, and publication costs. There is no set amount, and contributions are welcome from women's circles and church groups as well as from the church itself. Please use the form included in the newsletter so that we can credit you properly.
- Book Project. The book project for ARC House residents presents books to children and women, carefully chosen to meet their requests and needs. We have spent \$1100 in the past, and so far we have raised

\$800. Audrey Hinger and her committee do an outstanding job of finding books and filling specific requests, and the mothers are pleased with their gifts. You may send contributions to Marleen Lippert, marked book project, at the address on the Fair Share form.

- Ecumenical Action. Gloria Carter noted that Economic Justice is one of the quadrennial emphases of CWU. She announced the coming publication of *JUST DINING; A Guide to Restaurant Employment Standards in Downtown Madison*. The Workers' Rights Center (WRC) and The Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice (ICWJ) are producing a guide to downtown restaurants that will inform customers and workers about the employment standards for people who cook, prepare and serve food. The guide will be released on December 4. One to five copies are \$5 each, with the price going down from larger orders. You can call 608-255-0376 for more information. You may order copies by sending order and payment to ICWJ, 2300 S. Park Street, Suite 115, Madison, WI 53713.

Gloria also reported on fair trade activities in Madison, such as the Fair Trade Holiday Festival at Monona Terrace on Saturday and a new store with fair trade women's clothing and accessories from around the world. Its name is Change, and is located at 1252 Williamson Street.

And see the action alert later in this newsletter on Malala Yousafzai.

- Fellowship of the Least Coin. Faith Bauman reminded us of the importance of contributing our pennies with a prayer for this international women's work in the world. Susan Becker showed us the front page of the current CWU newsletter, which is all about this strong supported of women all over the globe.

DAIS Domestic Abuse Intervention Services

Victims of domestic violence know a great deal about fear. They know what it feels like to be threatened and abused and what they need is a safe place to heal and rebuild. A place of hope. The interfaith community has an opportunity to contribute to the DAIS (Domestic Abuse Intervention Services) Capital Campaign to provide victims of domestic violence and their children that safe place in the new shelter that will open in 2014.

The goal of A Light in the Window is to raise \$150,000 from faith-based organizations throughout Dane County. In recognition of the effort, a bedroom will be named in honor of those who participated. In just one decade, thousands of clients will pass through that bedroom with a wide range of backgrounds. Each will have a different story—from the very young to the very old, some traveling as families, others traveling along. What they will share is their need for safety and their dream for a better life.

"The faith-based community has a long history of supporting DAIS and our clients," said Shannon Barry, DAIS Executive Director. "A Light in the Window is an opportunity to build on the relationships we already have and create new ones that will last long into the future. Our hope is that Church Women United members will reach out to their places of worship to help support this effort."

Since one in four women will be affected by domestic violence in her lifetime, they may be your friends, your neighbors, colleagues, relatives, or the person sitting in the pew next to you.

Pastor Phil Haslinger has been a constant source of support for DAIS clients and joined A Light in the Window at the very beginning to provide his first-hand knowledge about seeing those affected by domestic violence in his congregation.

"I often encounter both the anguish of those who are victims of domestic violence and the determination of those who are helping them find a path to a more secure life," Pastor Haslinger said. "As a community of faith, my congregation strives to stand with those who are in trouble and to provide hope to those teetering at the edge of despair. Through A Light in the Window, we can work together with many faith communities to offer hope in very tangible ways, to let those escaping domestic violence know that they are not alone in this world."

If you are interested in learning more visit abuseintervention.org or contact Jamie Quam at 608-338-1045 or jamieq@abuseintervention.org. Together we will provide shelter, services and a chance to break the cycle of domestic violence in our community.

Valiant Woman Award

Recipient: Kay Newton

Kay Newton is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and was the youngest woman to graduate at that time. She earned a teaching degree, and taught in elementary schools. She met her husband, Baxter, at the University.

Kay started coming to Church Women United after her six children were all in school. In those days all the Forums were held at Christ Presbyterian Church. She remembers being very impressed with the knowledgeable presenters who spoke on pertinent local issues.

Kay's activities with Church Women United include coordinating several World Day of Prayer services, with the connected and well-attended Bible studies; serving as Vice-President; and helping with hospitality. She was Bylaws Chair for several years, and helped produce our local brochure. Kay has regularly attended our Madison meetings and state Assemblies.

Kay and Baxter got involved with Madison Friends of International Students in 1955 and have continued for 54 years. Through this organization she brought women from other countries to our unit's Celebrations and Inter-faith Days, adding a great deal more to these events.

She was a loyal volunteer at the Global Express store our unit ran for 15 years in a real train car, a project which brought Fair Trade to Madison. Still Kay is quick to volunteer for any job that needs to be done. She is a long-time valuable member of our unit who richly deserves to be called a "Valiant Woman".

[Please keep Kay in your prayers. She fell and broke her arm, so she will spend more time at home at Oakwood West while she is recuperating.]

Yahara House

Yahara House held their yearly celebration in September on the theme of Liberty, Freedom and Justice. Keynote speaker was Her Honor Shirley S. Abrahamson, Chief Justice of the Wisconsin State Supreme Court, followed by members telling their stories of recovery. Mental health issues play an important part in community life, including the criminal justice system, and many efforts are ongoing to get programs and policies in place to handle mental health issues just as happens for physical health issues. Yahara House is one of the success stories in this ongoing area.

We have a chance to help out in this important service. The Yahara House MerCantile, the MerC, accepts new or lightly used clothing donations. These donations enable our members to have easy access to low-cost, affordable clothes for work and school. Prices range from 25 cents to 1 dollar. They are always in need of more clothes, especially men's clothes, so please consider donating to the MerC. Call 280-4721 and they can meet you in the Yahara House parking lot at 802 East Gorham Street to help you unload.

Church Women United

Action Alert

November 16, 2012

[Click here](#) to sign Church Women United's petition asking the Secretary of State and Congressional leaders to nominate Malala Yousafzai for the Nobel Peace Prize. Or you may contact Gloria Carter at carter53597@tds.net and she will email this action alert to you. You can go to www.change.org and then put church women united in the search box and then find the petition.

Sisters,

Malala Yousafzai, the 14-year-old Pakistani girl who was shot and critically wounded by extremists because she spoke out for the education of girls in her country, demonstrates the value of one voice to inspire the world to work for peace and justice. She has touched the hearts, stirred the souls and motivated action not just of the women of CWU, but of people of all religions, faiths and creeds around the world.

Because Malala personifies our Quadrennial Priority calling for the promotion of shalom/salaam through understanding, education, confession, forgiveness, reconciliation and non-violence, CWU has launched a petition urging the Secretary of State and Congressional leadership to nominate her for the Nobel Peace Prize.

By nominating Malala for the Nobel Peace Prize, U.S. government leaders, on behalf of the American people, will not only honor a young woman whose life, actions, and spirit represent the very essence of the award's purpose, we will send a strong message throughout the world about our nation's commitment to equality, education, humanity, peace and justice. Please [click here](#) to sign the Church Women United petition asking the Secretary of State and Congressional Leaders to nominate Malala for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Thanks for your support in this effort.

Blessings,

Stephanie Jones
Advocacy Coordinator
Washington Office