



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter January , 2013 No. 6

**February Forum
Friday, February 1, 2013**

Immigration and Health Policy

**Barbara Nichols, President
Dane County United Nations Association**

9:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Welcome and Announcements

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Oakwood Village University Woods
6165 Mineral Point Road, Madison, WI
Come to the Heritage Oaks Entrance**

February Forum

Our February forum on Immigration and Health Policy will take place at Oakwood Village University Woods (Oakwood West), 6165 Mineral Point Road. Our presenter, Barbara Nichols, is serving her second year as President of the Dane County United Nations Association.

Directions: turn into Oakwood from Mineral Point Road. Go left to the Heritage Oaks Entrance. Park in any visitors space outside or turn into the Heritage Oaks parking garage and park in any visitors spot. Take the elevator to the first floor. The #67 bus stops on Mineral Point Road at Oakwood. Forum will be in the Nakoma/Westmorland rooms near the front entrance.

Barbara Nichols is President and Chief Executive Officer of Barbara Nichols Consulting. She is the former Chief Executive Officer of the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools

(CGFNS) International, retiring in June 2011. Ms. Nichols international work and consultation has involved working with ministries of health and education in Africa, Australia, Europe, China, India, the Middle East and the Caribbean. It has also included consultation work with The World Trade Organization (WTO), The International Labor Organization (ILO), The Institute on Migration (IOM), The International Council of Nurses (ICN), The World Health Organization (WHO) and The World Bank on topics regarding health workforce education, policy and the development of professional practice standards.

Ms. Nichols is a former president of the American Nurses Association (ANA) and has authored over 500 publications on nursing and health care delivery. She has received numerous awards for her contributions to the nursing profession, including the American Academy of Nursing Living Legend Award for sustained national and international contributions to the nursing profession. She is the recipient of 5 honorary doctoral degrees for her scholarly work.

Human Rights Celebration

We gathered at Trinity United Methodist Church for CWU's Human Rights Celebration and to honor Yolanda Salazar for her work with the North East Side Senior Coalition as a Cultural Diversity Specialist. Pastor Marianne Cotter welcomed us to Trinity, which has been on Vilas Avenue for 100 years. The Boy Scout Troop that has met there for over 50 years raises funds by renting out parking spaces in Trinity's

lot on Badger game days. A Jewish synagogue, while not worshipping there, rents office space from Trinity during the week. Trinity lives up to its calling "to extend God's hospitality by welcoming and loving all people."

Our theme this year, *Breaking Down the Doors of Injustice*, began with this introduction. "The Church Women United Human Rights Celebration was started in 2006 in the hopes of bringing to light those who have and are working towards equality for all. Awards have honored amazing women and men whose work has made an impact on their community or on the world at large. We take this time to remember that 'all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms . . . without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.' (excerpt taken from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, written by the UN in 1948). These words should be in the forefront of our minds as we support, work towards and fight for the rights of all humans. This is the same message that Jesus gave while on earth. When he said, 'love one another as I have loved you' he did not mean for us to love just some people, he truly meant for us to love everyone. This has been the message of Church Women United since our beginnings in 1941, and will continue to be one of the pillars that supports and drives our movement."

We had a good turnout for a delicious breakfast provided by the CWU Board and Key Women. Many members of Yolanda's family, friends and coworkers came to honor her. At the celebration, daughter Patricia shared her mother's story with Yolanda by her side. Her children were determined to tell her story, despite their mother's modesty.

Biography of Yolanda Salazar-Torres

Born and raised in Mexico from a very humble family, Yolanda had to start working at the age of eight to be able to help sustain her family and has not stopped working ever since. She initially was just able to complete secretarial school (a bit less than high school) and got married at the age of 16. She then had three children.

While still working and raising her three children, Yolanda decided to go back to school. She completed high school and decided to continue on to law school at the National University of Mexico (UNAM). She graduated in 1988 at the age of 43, which was the same day that her first grandchild was born in the United States.

In 1993 Yolanda's middle child Teresa, who had already been in this country for several years (as well as her son Guillermo) asked Yolanda to move here permanently to assist her in taking care of her first child. Yolanda, with her high sense of family commitment didn't hesitate for a minute in moving to the United States, leaving behind everything in her native Mexico including her very hard to attain academic achievements as she knew she would never be able to practice law in the US.

Leaving everything behind and starting over in this country, Yolanda was faced with new challenges: a new culture and more importantly a new language. With her usual positive attitude toward life Yolanda faced these challenges with optimism. She decided to go to school to learn English and she started finding work opportunities to be able to fulfill her financial needs.

She worked for 11 years with individuals with disabilities through REM Wisconsin where she received several awards commending her for her exceptional commitment to her clients.

Meanwhile, while still attending school for ESL and working, she started getting very involved in the Latino community.

She has been a very active member of two of the main grassroots Latino Community organizations, Latino Support Network (La Sup) and the Latino health Council for over 12 years now. Through her contributions with these organizations very important programming has been created to improve the lives of Latinos in Dane County.

In 1995 she started working with the North East Side Senior Coalition as a Cultural Diversity Specialist. Her duties include outreach to Latino seniors to assist them in connecting with social/medical services, creation of educational and entertainment activities, and general support services.

Yolanda started with a case load of 10 seniors. She currently has a case load of over 200 and has 70 seniors who participate actively in all of the activities. Besides her paid work hours, she devotes almost as many volunteer hours with her seniors. Yolanda explained that more than a job it feels like this is God's calling in life. Through her job she has been able to touch the lives of her clients in a transforming way, giving them independence and quality of life that would never have been possible without Yolanda's commitment. To her they are more than clients. They are family.

She has received numerous awards, and just to mention a few:

- Madison Community Services Award Committee "Certificate of Recognition" (for faithfully building our community foundation) - 2004
- "Women of Achievement Award" 2001. Wisconsin Women of Color Network, INC
- Employment & Training Association. 2001 El Contacto Latino
- "Certificate of Appreciation" 2004 City of Madison/Equal Opportunities Commission

- Hilda Contreras Thomas, Community Leadership Award. In recognition of outstanding leadership in ensuring that Latinos have a strong voice in Dane County through tireless advocacy and leadership. 2012 Centro Hispano of Dane County.

Besides her academic work and community achievements Yolanda is a very active member of her church congregation at Bethel Lutheran Church where she plays a central role in outreach to the Latino Community at large, consulting to improve services provided to her congregation, and also contributing with leadership activities with the church's congregation at large.

Besides all of the above mentioned awards she is most proud of her family, where she is the matriarch, now comprised of her 3 children, their partners, and 7 grandchildren.

Ecumenical Choir Rehearsal

All singing women welcome. 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 are January 25, February 8 and 22, March 8 and 22, and April 12 and 26, 2013.

Yahara House MerCantile

Announcement

The MerC, as it's known, 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. We are always in need of more clothes, especially men's clothes, so please consider donating to The MerC.

Call #280-4721 and we can meet you in the YH parking lot to help you unload.

Thanks, Yahara House

Yahara House is located at 802 East Gorham Street, Madison 53703

ARC Houses Book Project

Audrey and her committee spent 2 or 3 days at University Book Store, with side trips to Barnes and Noble, satisfying ARC house residents' requests for books for themselves and their children. Thanks to the generous donations of CWU members and friends, they were able to spend \$1,153,08 for these gifts. And thanks to University Bookstore for some nice discounts.