



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter January, 2010 No. 6

Human Rights Celebration

CWU-Madison held its fifth annual Human Rights Celebration at Bethany United Methodist on Saturday morning, January 16. The program highlighted the stumbling blocks of our physically challenged fellow beings, and how we can help. The highlight of the morning was to honor retired judge Moria Krueger with the Human Rights award. She was very modest about her work with juveniles in the court system, her most memorable feat. She helped get Briar Patch started, for these youths. The state was putting them in a mental facility.

I was pleased with the turnout of women and men. There were quite a number of people who had never attended a CWU event, which was great.

Thank you to the women of Bethany, the board and cord builders who served a lovely breakfast.

-- Ann Sowaske

Ann Sowaske opened the meeting with a few words about CWU, since we had a number of people unfamiliar with our movement. She stressed that CWU is a movement, not just an organization. Both Ann and Susan Becker presented the quadrennial priority of 2008-2012--Building a World Fit for All God's Children. Building blocks of that priority include Health: Promote the health and well-being of all peoples; Environmental Care: Promote personal, communal and governmental decisions that express care for all God's creation; Peace: Promote the ways that make for peace; and Economic Justice: Promote the dignity, safety and economic opportunities of all peoples.

Taking part in the program were members of LOV-Dane, also a movement that seeks to support those who are physically challenged, embrace them, and integrate them into communities and groups where they can exercise their gifts and make their own contributions.

Amanda Bell, Organizer for LOV-Dane, and Dee Lawrence Hoff spoke of clearing the path to allow this to happen.

We also learned from Julie Bran about the Wisconsin Well Woman Program that provides health checkups for women with little or no access to regular health care. The message on the flyers states: Limited Insurance? None at All? Your health is too important to let a lack of coverage keep you from vital health checkups. Especially when it comes to early detection. Choose from more than 25 area clinics for your next breast exam, mammogram or Pap test. It's all free. Because every woman deserves health care. Qualifying is easy. Phone: 608-242-6392 Web: www.wellwomandaneconomy.org

We presented the 2010 Human Rights Award to Judge Moria Krueger. The wording of the award sums up her contributions to women's and children's rights during her long legal career:

For your leadership service as a mentor and social activist in human rights and human development, an advocate for peace and justice with no boundaries of political system, country, cultural background or religion.

In 1977, she became the first female Circuit Judge in Dane County and battled both gender discrimination and for juvenile justice. She was a founder of Briar Patch, helped rewrite Wisconsin's juvenile code, was a founder of National Association of Women Judges, pushed for racial equality on juries. Her summation of what she has done is an inspiration that can spur us all. "I am a common person. I found many opportunities to help. I took some of them." Included in this newsletter is the program used for the celebration. Presenters gave important information. The program provided a beautiful framework of worship.

February Forum

Our February forum date is February 5, 2010, a Friday, at our regular meeting time of 9 a.m., with program scheduled to start at 9:30 a.m. We will meet at Dale Heights Presbyterian Church, 5501 University Avenue. The Rev. Dr. Carmen Porco, Chief Executive Officer of Housing Ministries of American Baptists in Wisconsin, will present a program entitled Ambassador for Christ: Utilizing Education to Reduce Poverty.

Learning about exciting programs happening in Madison is both uplifting and inspiring to others to reach out themselves as individuals and organizations to make a difference in line with our priority: Building a World Fit for All God's Children. Don't miss this exciting forum, no matter what weather February throws our way.

Go Red for Women

CWU has health as one of the building blocks for fulfilling its Quadrennial Priority, "Building a World Fit for All God's Children."

Tackling Type II diabetes is one of the foci for 2010. Next month's newsletter will have information about this focus.

Since February is Heart Month, the GO RED FOR WOMEN campaign of the American Heart Association's being highlighted in this issue. This effort is to alert women to the hazards of heart disease and to encourage them to live healthy lifestyles to prevent heart disease.

Heart disease is the number 1 cause of death in women, killing one in three American women. All heart disease cannot be prevented but there is a lot that we can do.

"Make it your goal to know your cholesterol and triglyceride numbers as well as you know your 401 (K) balance and shoe size. Instead of counting wrinkles (not that you have any!) keep an eye on your calorie count - and eat from each of the six food groups as recommended by the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) and the American Heart Association.

Above all, remember: Your body and current state of health are as unique as you are. That's why it's so

important for women to find realistic heart health goals with the help of their doctors, and to be aware of the lifestyle choices that can decrease the risk of heart disease." (Go Red for Women website)

The GO RED FOR WOMEN campaign is designed to attract women of all ages, especially younger women. Starting early in life is the key to preventing heart disease! But making changes at any age can help.

The GO RED FOR WOMEN campaign has much information to help women take control of their health. In February the American Heart Association is encouraging women to wear red on Friday, February 5, as a sign of their commitment to fight heart disease. At the February CWU Forum will be literature to pick up to share with your friends, families and church community. Perhaps you would like to wear RED that day-- Friday, February 5! Additional information is available at www.goredforwomen.org or from the American Heart Association, 2850 Dairy Drive, Suite 300, Madison, WI 53718; phone:(608) 221-8866; fax:(608) 221-9233

Remember to wear RED to the February Forum!
Let's all GO RED FOR WOMEN!

Church Women United Action Alert!

"CWU is a movement that brings together women of diverse races, cultures and traditions in closer Christian fellowship, prayer, advocacy, and action for peace with justice in the world."

Pray Without Ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17)

The Church Women United National Board calls for us all to *PRAY WITHOUT CEASING* for our Sisters and Brothers in Haiti who are suffering terribly from the earthquake which hit last night.

Check your local radio and newspapers for other agencies you may desire to support.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED ACTION ALERT

Take Action For Healthcare And Join Prayer Vigil Across the Nation!

Romans 12:12... Persevere in Prayer

Church Women United, the following alert comes to us from Faithful Reform in Healthcare—a broad coalition of faith groups which have worked long and hard for affordable healthcare for all. Let us join in this essential effort. If you are unable to access the links below to sign up, send an email to: pburkhardt@churchwomen.org and the information will be relayed on.

Interfaith Virtual Vigil

24/7 from now until health reform is passed! Join people of faith in prayer, hope, and action for health care reform!

At this historic moment in a century-long effort to make comprehensive and compassionate health care reform a reality, members of the Faithful Reform in Health Care coalition are called to pray for our nation and our elected leaders. We will offer these prayers recognizing that the arc of the moral universe does not bend toward justice on its own. It bends only through the transformation of our hearts and minds as we commit ourselves to working for the common good... to building a sense of community that offers blessings for all... and to acting upon our concern for those who are most vulnerable.

As people of faith, we understand how important prayer is to such transformation. So... from now until a bill is signed, we will offer prayer and hope, and take action to help push us over the finish line.

Organizations and congregations are asked to "sponsor" a day on which they will ask their own members to pray, to send prayers to Congress and the President, and to share their perspectives on reform with their elected leaders.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED—you may send quotes from our CWU Social Policy Book on Healthcare: "From the Universal Access to Health Care resolution of 1991, ... 'Church Women United has long stressed the right of each individual to adequate and affordable health care'"

"Therefore be it resolved that Church Women United will advocate for a plan that is administered in a more efficient and less costly manner, with the participation of consumers, health professionals, and government. The national health care plan should draw its financial support from the broadest possible resource base. Financial support should be progressive and based on one's ability to pay."

Individuals throughout our network are urged to sign up for the hourly blocks of time each day to pray and to take some kind of action in support of health care reform. Please note that it's not necessary to use the whole hour. We just need to know that something is happening during that time. Sign up now!

January 12 - 16

January 17 - 23

January 24 - 31

We will start listing names once we start getting many of the time blocks covered.

African American History Month

G. Bernice Richardson,
Mid-Atlantic Region Coordinator

Carter G. Woodson, a historian keenly interested in education founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, September 9, 1915. This organization began pressing for a "Negro History Week" as a mechanism for bringing national attention to the contributions of Black people throughout American history. This dream became a reality in 1926. Woodson chose the second week in February because two persons, whom he felt dramatically affected the lives of Black America, were born during that month, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. It would be many years later, in 1976, when the renamed Association for the Study of Afro-America Life and History (ASALH) would succeed in promoting the week into "Black History Month". The Black History Month theme for 2009 is "Blacks and Technology."

The earliest African American scientists and inventors are largely unknown, their contributions to America buried in anonymity. While historians increasingly recognize that Blacks had a significant impact in the design and construction of plantations and public buildings, the individuals who spear-

headed these accomplishments remain unknown. For this article, we honor African American inventor, Granville T. Woods, the “Black Edison”. Born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1856, Woods attended school until he was ten. He was first employed in a machine shop, and he continued to improve his mechanical aptitude by working on a railroad in 1872, in a rolling mill in 1874, and later by studying mechanical engineering at college.

His first patent was for a steam boiler furnace in 1884. He patented a telephone transmitter in 1885 which was bought by Bell Telephone. His most important invention was the induction telegraph system in 1887, a method of informing an engineer of trains immediately in front of and behind him, thus ensuring safer rail travel.

Some of his better-known contributions were in developing the “third rail” concept in mass transit subway systems and developing the “trolley” system for trolley cars.

One cannot help but think about how many powerful minds were lost, possibly preventing real advances in technology, due to racism. A change, however, has come to America. Nearly 150 years after the Emancipation Proclamation gave Blacks freedom, and 43 years after the Voting Rights Act gave Blacks a voice, with his use of technology, Barack Obama was elected as the first African American President of the United States. of America. Technology drove the campaign by generating unprecedented public donations and by getting people talking. Yes a change has come, and this change is a change we can live with in the years ahead as we promote peace around the world.

One Day

One day, youngsters will learn words
They will not understand.

Children from India will ask:
What is hunger?

Children from Alabama will ask:
What is racial segregation?

Children from Hiroshima will ask:
What is the atomic bomb?

Children at school will ask:
What is war?
You will answer them.

You will tell them:

Those words are not used anymore
Like stage coaches, galleys or slavery-
Words no longer meaningful.
That is why they have dictionaries.

--Martin L. King, Jr.