



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

C.W.U. Newsletter March, 2016 No. 8

Friday, April 1, 2016

Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice

Dace A. Zeps

9:00 am Gathering and Coffee

9:30 am Welcome and Announcements

10:00 Program

**Oakwood Village University Woods
Oaks Community Room
6209 Mineral Point Road, Madison 53705**

April Forum

Our February Forum will meet in the Oaks Community Room of Oakwood Village University Woods, 6225 Mineral Point Road. Our topic is Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, and our speaker is Dace A. Zeps, who is a staff member. This organization is one that we support with a gift annually. It will be exciting to learn of their work and projects, and the difference they are making in our city and state.

Oakwood Village is on the south side of Mineral Point Road between Rosa Road and S. Yellowstone. (East of West Town Mall) Turn South off Mineral Point Road at Island Drive into the Oakwood Village complex. Take the first right- heading east to the Oaks building which is the last bldg. You may park in the parking places along that road and around the circle. Walk up the ramp into The Oaks and someone will let you in.

A project of Madison Urban Ministry will provide the refreshments for our morning treats. Just Bakery is a MUM venture that provides training and jobs in food services for people who have been in prison.

World Day of Prayer Celebration

Some 48 people attended our World Day of Prayer Celebration at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. The women of Mt. Zion welcomed us with a bountiful feast to begin our meeting. In recognition that the service was written by the women of Cuba, they offered a Cuban Chicken with Rice dish, including bowls, well supported by a breakfast casserole, three different quiches, sweet breads, and lots of fruit. We thank them for their generous hospitality.

The Rev. Dr. Leonard Thompson, Sr., called us to worship. Renee Robinson read Maya Angelou's poem, *Why the Caged Bird Sings*, as a fitting lead-in to presenting Emily Auerbach the CWU Human Rights Award celebrating community Service. Ann Sowaske gave a thumbnail sketch of Emily's background and presented the framed certificate to her. A BA from UW, a PhD from Washington University, she has been teaching English at UW since 1994. She is the author of *Searching for Jane Austen*. She is director and cofounder with Jean Ferraca of The UW Odyssey Project, which aims to help in overcoming adversity and achieving dreams through higher education. It has empowered more than 350 low-income adults to find their voices and get a jumpstart at earning college degrees they never thought possible. Rather than giving a speech, Emily took questions about the Odyssey Project, covering the inspiration of her parents, the goal of the program, and the growth in ways to achieve academic success for those who had no idea they could have the opportunities that education could give them.

On Wednesday evenings, some 90 people gather for dinner and classes. Both staff and volunteers work with them on academics. Children and grandchildren of participants at first had childcare, but they have now have expanded to Odyssey Junior, which works with the kids on three levels. Both programs publish a newsletter featuring students' homework, poems. Some funding comes from UW,

but donations and grants are important to giving programs, providing meals, rental assistance, other living expenses. Go to the Odyssey website, www.0dyssey.wisc.edu, for more information and to view a 24 minute film on the program. It is an honor to recognize the wonderful work of this awesome program.

As it turned out, the theme of World Day of Prayer fit perfectly with this award, as you can see from this excerpt of the prayer of confession.

Lord, we confess that we are not receiving you when we do not respect children's rights, nor when we deny children the opportunity to participate in our churches, families and society. Help us to learn from the children who receive each other openly and do not discriminate, that we may seek reconciliation in our communities.

We recognize that we do not always reflect the joy of children; nor do we celebrate God's plenitude as seen in the diversity of his creation.

Spirit of Life, transform us and give us hope, strength and love.

Forgive us when we do not created a genuine space for dialogue among different generations, when we instead promote mistrust and power struggles that damage our relationships.

Only a taste of our meditation, but this fit beautifully with giving people their voices, whether adults or children.

The choir provided special music that fit with the theme of children. Goodnight, God, based on children's responses, and the Prayer from Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel.

CWU Business

Faith Bauman announced that we will receive the Fellowship of the Least Coin offering at our May Friendship Day celebration. Marleen Lippert reminded us that we are in a new year for Fair Share Contributions. The form is a regular part of our newsletter. Check with your church, women's group, or organization about contributing.

Ruth Hein welcomed women who were attending CWU for the first time. We had at least 3 new attendees.

Ecumenical Choir

Noon to 1:30 pm at Bethany Methodist Church, 3900 Mineral Point Road, Madison , 53705, in the 3rd floor Choir Room. Practice schedule: March 11; April 8, 22.

Board Meeting

Friday morning, March 18, 9:30am, at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison 53705.

Flutes Old and New

April 10, 2016 2:30 pm

First Baptist Church

518 N. Franklin Ave., Madison, WI

The 10th annual concert to support the Chinese Orphans Project of First Baptist Church.

Come hear the sounds of flutes – from the ancient Native America flute to the newest member of the flute family, the contrabass flute. The Madison Flute Choir and its elite Chamber Group will perform along with viola, cello and a vocalist.

You will be treated to the lilting and haunting sounds of the Native American flute, performed by our guest flutist, James Pellerite, who is one the foremost enthusiasts and best-known performers on this ancient instrument. Mr. Pellerite has commissioned numerous pieces for the Native American flute with the purpose of bringing this old instrument into the modern age. This concert will feature the world premier of a new piece, Echoes for Forgotten Dreams, composed by Randall Snyder and dedicated to Mr. Pellerite and the Madison Flute Choir.

The newest member of the flute family, the contrabass flute, with its low melodious sounds will be featured in a charming solo, The Old Grumbler, accompanied by other flutes, including alto and bass flutes. Its distinctive low flutes sounds will also be heard in the Madison Flute Choir and in other flute ensembles.

There is no charge for admission, but a free will offering will be taken to enable poor rural Chinese orphans to attend school. Without our help, orphaned children in rural China may drop out before finishing middle school because they lack money for school fees, books and clothing.