

Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

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C.W.U. Newsletter November 2018 No.4

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www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

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**December Forum
and Christmas Silent Auction**

December 7, 2018

**My Life as a
Missionary in India**

Faith Bauman

9:00 am Refreshment & Fellowship

9:30 am Welcome and Announcements

10:00 am Program

**Bethany United Methodist
3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison**

December Forum and Silent Auction

On December 7 at 9 am, we will gather at Bethany United Methodist, 3910 Mineral Point Road for our December Forum. After a time of fellowship and browsing, Faith Bauman will tell us about *My Life as a Missionary in India*, an exciting and intimate look at life on the mission field shared by this long-time CWU member. The browsing part is to select items and bid on those that will help your Christmas shopping.

Silent Auction added to Our December Forum

In the November newsletter we gave you a heads up that we had added the Silent Auction to our December Forum. The CWU Board recommended we do this as a fundraiser for Madison Ecumenical Center (MEC) to help financially support the next Madison Religious and Human Resources Directory publication. The next one is due out in 2020.

This silent auction can be a great opportunity to do some Christmas shopping. We need your donations which you can bring that morning (December 7th) by 9 am to Bethany Methodist. We do ask that you bring items that you would give as a gift, not a “white elephant” you have and may not want. Something hand-made or a special food (i.e. Christmas cookies, breads, muffins, jams) you make are very appropriate gifts.

It would be very helpful, if you could e-mail Ruth Hein a description of the item/items you are bringing so some of the Auction Sheets could be made up ahead of time rather than doing them all that morning.

Ruth Hein rich4parse@charter.net

Questions Phone Ruth cell 608-347-4724

World Community Day

On Friday, Nov. 2, Grace Episcopal Church women joined Mt. Zion Baptist to host an annual event sponsored by Church Women United of Madison (CWU) and celebrated worldwide. They partnered with Mount Zion Baptist Church to present a wonderful, inspiring service. Speakers included Grace Episcopal's Revs. Margaret Irwin and Carol Smith, Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman (of Madison's Shaarei Shamayim congregation), and the community leadership award was presented by Jane Henning to Dr. Michelle Robinson, co-author of the

2013 Race to Equity Report. Music included the CWU-Madison choir as well as two soloists from Grace and Mt Zion.

This CWU service has an international focus on achieving world peace through social justice and social inclusion, by women working together across race and religion. At this rather intense time of concern about peace within our city, our state, our country and our world, it was particularly enriching to hear the words of Rabbi Zimmerman and Dr. Robinson. And we had a good turnout. Mt. Zion's Rev. Marcus Allen welcomed the 50 people attending.

Rabbi Zimmerman had her presentation set, and then Pittsburg happened. She changed her talk. The attack on Jews was not only for who they are, but also what they did. They offered help for refugees, helped resettlement. The lesson: we must ally, solidify support for members of other groups, speak up, stand with others, be willing to act with and for others. We need to learn about other people, challenge our own prejudices, create action, show up. An interfaith vigil stood by them. Ally is not what we call ourselves, it is what others call you. People want condolences. Many no longer feel safe in our country. Violent words lead to violent actions. This is the logical outcome to Trump's words. Majority of Americans condemn this massacre, but the president doesn't stand up. We must be much more proactive. What we need to do. Call African friends. Call Moslem friends. Call refugee friends. Call Title nine friends. We need to foster real friendships and connections.

We don't always recognize that what we say may be offensive when race or ethnicity involved. Why American Jews? Jews are integrated as white people, but there is a religious tradition of Jews persecuted over the centuries. The early church stance was that Jews killed Jesus. In the middle ages, blood flowed, riots. Aryans were superior, Jews inferior. Stereotypes continued. The Holocaust. Next year it will be 80 years since Crystal Nacht. By 1945, 6 million Jews were killed. This is what Jews carry. There's been much since then. We must meet Jews in their own place, and build solidarity based on respect. Our job—Build relationships.

After this powerful challenge for us, Dr. Michelle Robinson spoke about the road map to equity. As background, she is from Houston, and came to the UW Madison to study and to work in the area of racial inequity. Grace Episcopal's Community Leadership award recognized her efforts to work for social justice, reduce racism in Madison. There are divisions between the university and the community, between black

and white. She stressed that institutional history and memory are important.

Racial equity has been advocated for some years. A southerner, Michelle arrived in Madison in 2012. She appreciates her own personal privilege. She grew up in Houston in a segregated community that was deeply connected, deeply rich, in Mt. Zion church where faith and politics combined. The road is so heavy right now. But this is our moment.

On September 12, 2017, a man emptied a gun into a homeless black man. A second time, it was her Dad's cousin. An aunt integrated a school in Alabama.

What's happening, and why? People are nice. Fixing race equality involves all kinds of explanations. Notions of coloring, outsiders. How is racism constructed in the community? Ideology of nation building. Places for white people. Codified whiteness excludes Italians, Jewish people, Irish. Institutions of citizenship. The north is a peculiar place that includes racial segregation. What tools do we have? Racial disparity requires that we reconstruct our social contract, our institutions. True equality needs deep work.

Award to Rita Honnold

CWU Madison gave an Award for Outstanding Service to Rita Honnold for her many years serving as pianist for our ecumenical choir. Alice Schacht started it in 1985. And Rita was there with her. Rita was also there for MEC (Madison Ecumenical Counsel). Rita has played for the choir and our services for 33 years. Jenny Armstrong took over from Alice and has continued the choir. Rita has continued as our superb accompanist. She is an excellent pianist and a lovely woman. Thank you, Rita, for your service.

Altar Decorations

Welcomes from around the world greeted us. Articles from Haiti, a cloth from India, a Native American blanket draping the altar. Flowers from Grace Episcopal, a platter of bananas representing Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka has 47 types of bananas), and a bowl of oranges representing Iran. A fitting touch for World Community Day. Forty-eight to fifty people attended this service. Music from choir and congregation included *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*, *Song of Peace*, *A Song of Peace and Harmony*, and a chore poem, *Talking Drums*.

Thank you from Rita Honnold

I want to thank the members of the Ecumenical Choir and Church Women United for their tribute and generous gifts to me. I did enjoy playing for the choir and the celebrations and getting to know so many of you over the years. I admire the helping work you all do and feel like you are good friends. Arthritis in my hands has made it impossible to continue playing, but I want to sing in the choir now if my caregiving for my husband lets me.

Much was said about the wonderful work Alice Schacht did for Church Women United, starting the Madison Ecumenical Center and the choir, but I want to give special recognition to Jenny Armstrong who took over the choir and helped it become more organized with its own music and notebooks, always leading in a cheerful and encouraging way, even when the choir dwindled in size. (We can always use new members!) I want to mention that Liz Gill has been a stalwart member of the choir since its beginning too, helping in so many ways. For that matter, the choir has quite a few loyal long standing members.

Thanks again to all of you for memorable years. Rita Honnold

Announcements

- Gloria Carter invited us to attend the state Wisconsin Council of Churches meeting December 4 in Sun Prairie. The keynote speaker will address issues of mass incarceration. Meeting will include conversations with student group. The National Council of Churches reminds us to Vote Tuesday.
- Bethany United Methodist will have a craft sale on November 10. Faith Bauman is donating stuffed animals. Bethany will have a bake sale at the same time to promote mission purposes.
- Liz Gill called our attention to First Methodist's Arts at First Church. These concerts are once a month. The next one is November 11 at 2pm. Jonathan Little and the Kat Trio featured. This concert features the rebuilt Steinway piano plus a second piano that Farley's loaned them for this program.
- December 12, at 7:30 pm, Isthmus Brass is having a benefit for Porchlight.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS & DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS FORM
FOR CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF MADISON

Please Note: These contributions will be used for the general operating expenses of CWU of Madison, as well as for the Celebration materials, choir music, annual donations to selected community social services, and annual contribution to Church Women United of Wisconsin. GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES include, in part, the office rent, insurance, and the cost of producing and mailing the CWU newsletter, and miscellaneous supplies need throughout the year.

Please send in contributions by November 30 of each year. Our financial year ends on December 31 of each year.

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Please make your check(s) payable to: Church Women of Madison and send to:

Marleen S. Lippert, Treasurer, CWU of Madison
6329 Scandia Lane
McFarland, WI 53558

Thank you for your financial assistance in carrying out the various projects of CWU. Your contributions are sincerely appreciated.