



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter March, 2011 No. 7

Friday, April 1, 2011
April Forum

Yahara House:
*A Place for people with
mental illness to begin
again, belong, and heal*

**Peter Lunde
and the people of Yahara House**

6:00 p.m. Potluck Supper
provided by the board
and cord builders
7:00 p.m. Program

Community of Hope &
Advent Lutheran
7118 Old Sauk Road (05)

April Forum

Our April Forum will combine fellowship and information with an evening potluck dinner followed by the program on Yahara House, a place for people with mental illness to begin again, belong, and heal. Peter Lunde and Yahara House members will share their real life stories. They will present an overview about Yahara House and focus more on their employment and education efforts.

Yahara House is a publicly supported clubhouse on

East Gorham Street that gives people with mental illness the vocational training and emotional support they need to get their lives back on track. The recovery movement gained traction during the deinstitutionalization of the '70's and '80's as patients discharged from state mental hospitals landed in communities where to this day services and resources are woefully underfunded.

The fellowship will begin at 6 p.m. with a potluck dinner prepared by board members and core builders.

March Celebration

Forty some people attended the Sunday celebration of World Day of Prayer at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. The women of Chile developed a wonderful service on the theme *How Many Loaves Have You?* In the first reading, Deuteronomy 8:7-10, the women find a good land that resembles Chile in many ways--flowing streams, rich mineral deposits, abundant plant life. At the same time, they see that some profit from Chile's riches while others don't have enough to eat. The second reading, 1 Kings 17:8-16, tells of a woman asked to share food and water with the prophet Elijah, on his way to exile during a time of extreme drought,. She and her son share their bit of water and bread and survive. The women of Chile invite us to ponder the context of Chile and the real situations of our lives and communities. They ask, What are your gifts? What can you share? They ask us to reflect on the meaning of the them, *How many loaves have you?*

The message received a powerful presentation from the program presenters. Participants included women from other countries, spreading the ecumenical arms of our members. Music ran through the whole service, emphasizing and enriching the message. Our thanks to Audrey Hinger for organizing the program, to Jenny Armstrong and the Ecumeni-

cal Choir for supplementing the music on the CD, and especial thanks to Linda Mintener, flutist, who supplied music from China, Brazil, and around the world on both C flute and alto flute. The CD music that came with the program was of particularly good quality, and allowed us to experience the music as sung by our Chilean sisters and brothers--especially the numbers sung in Spanish.

And special thanks to those who provided refreshments after the service. The world's best brownies, both with nuts and without, baked by the gentleman from St. Joseph; King Cake to fit the season of Mardi Gras; fruits and veggies for healthy refreshment.

Audrey reports that we have both slides with narrative and a CD with pictures and narration about Chile. Any group is welcome to borrow these from the MEC office for showing at meetings, Sunday School classes. Call the MEC office, 608-663-8450, to make arrangements for them. The Madison Ecumenical Center is housed at Glenwood Moravian Church, 725 Gilmore Street, Madison 53711.

Action for Clean Government

The **Wisconsin Democracy Campaign**, which is a watchdog group for clean government in Wisconsin, has organized vigils at the State Capitol while the Legislature is in session. Those at the vigil will stand quietly, watching what is going on outside the legislative houses. If you would like to join the effort, contact Susan Becker at sbecker4@tds.net or call 608-231-1817. Shifts are for 2-3 hours. The more people who can stand and be vigilant, the better!

Madison CWU is a member of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

March 22, 2011 is Diabetes Alert Day

The American Diabetes Association Diabetes Alert Day is a one-day "wake-up" call to inform the American public about the seriousness of diabetes. The American Diabetes Association encourages people to join the movement to Stop Diabetes by taking the Diabetes Risk Test and find out if they, or their loved ones, are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes.

For 70 years CWU has always been ahead of the curve. Through prayer and action we have lit the way for others in issues that affect the lives of wom-

en and our families. Our new Diabetes Program is another example of that foresight and leadership. It's not too late to plan a Diabetes Worship Service to commemorate National Diabetes Alert Day. This year the day is celebrated on March 22, 2011, but really any day during March is fine.

Church Women United has a brand new worship service called *Jesus, The Healer*. Contact CWU at (212) 870-2347 for information and materials.

*To look at the above materials, contact Susan Becker at HYPERLINK <mailto:sbecker4@tds.net> sbecker4@tds.net or call 608-231-1817.

Faiths United To Prevent Gun Violence

Monday, January 31, 2011 there will be a meeting of several faith groups who have joined together to prevent gun violence. In light of recent events in Arizona this is very timely.

Efforts are being made to reach the key Representatives and Senators to cosponsor the legislation by Rep. McCarthy (HR 308) and Sen. Lautenberg (S 32) to ban high capacity gun magazines. To learn if your Representative or Senator needs to be notified please contact the CWU office after 2 p.m. EST (212) 870-2347.

If you want to find out more about Faith United Against Gun Violence here is the link to a show called "Religion & Ethics Newsweekly" that was taped last Friday (1/21/11):

HYPERLINK "<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?ChurchWomenUnited/e5cc047c89/a1753863b2/c83006c919>"<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/January-21-2011/gun-control/7950/>

"ABERNETHY: This past week there was the announcement of a coalition of something like 24 religious groups to support some kind of gun control *

HELMKE: Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence was announced this last week on Martin Luther King Day. The next day they were part of the news conference supporting Carolyn McCarthy's bill. And I think this is important. This is part of what's going to change the dynamic. We need leadership from the top, from the president speaking on this. But more importantly we need our people in the communities telling their elected officials do something about gun violence, and the faith community plays such an im-

portant role in raising the moral issue, raising that issue with their congregations, and getting people to speak up."

Did you know?

CWU has taken a position to oppose the death penalty. We have a resolution and two statements in the CWU Social Policy Book, pg. 147: Opposition to the Death Penalty (1979), Abolition of Capital Punishment (1981) and Against the Death Penalty (1985). Copies of the CWU Social Policy Book are available at the national office for \$18.00. please call (212) 870-2347.

*To look at the CWU Social Policies book, contact Susan Becker at [HYPERLINK mailto:sbecker4@tds.net](mailto:HYPERLINKmailto:sbecker4@tds.net) sbecker4@tds.net or call 608-231-1817

Thank You From the ARC Houses

At Christmas, we gave a book to each woman at the three ARC houses, selected according to their specified interests. In the infant home, we also gave books to the infants and an infant record-keeping book to each mother in addition to her requested book for personal reading. We received this thank-you letter from Robin Ryan, their Director of Correctional Services

"Thank you very much for coordinating the purchase and selection of books as holiday gifts for residents of the ARC Community Services Residential Facilities. Thanks to your effort all the women at the ARC-Paterson Substance Treatment Facility, the ARC Maternal & Infant Program, and the ARC-Dayton facility received books. This is my first year working at ARC, and it is truly heartening to witness the generosity of you and your fellow volunteers in supporting the women who are residents at ARC facilities and making their holidays more cheerful. I particularly appreciate the effort you make to individualize the books to the interests of the women. Thank you again. Sincerely, Robin"

We also received cards from each of the houses with short messages of thanks from the mothers. For example, from the Dayton house, these messages on the card signed by the residents.

- ARC appreciates your help. May you all be blessed!
- ARC enjoys your time and giving of your gifts.

- Thank you for having us in your hearts.
- Thank you for all your gifts. You are a blessing to us.
- Thank you and God bless.
- Bless your hearts. We appreciated everything.
- Thanks. Thanks.

Announcements

March 15 WI Council of Churches Advocacy Day to focus on social justice issues that will affect everyone in Wisconsin as the state budget is developed. *People of Faith United for Justice* 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Bethel Lutheran Church,, 312 Wisconsin Avenue. Keynote speaker; Bishop Bruce Burnside, South Central Synod of Wisconsin, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The day will include visits to legislators at the State Capitol.

Registration fee is \$35. Contact the WI Council of Churches at 837-3018 for details.

Flute Concert to Benefit Chinese Children Orphaned by AIDS
ENJOY AN EVENING OF CHARMING MUSIC AND SUPPORT A GOOD CAUSE **March 18, 2011 at 7 PM, First Baptist Church, 518 North Franklin Ave., Madison, WI**

On March 18, 2011, at 7PM, First Baptist Church will present its 5th annual flute and friends concert for the benefit Chinese AIDS orphans. You will hear music of Bach, Haydn, Delibes, Faure, and more, as well as charming Chinese and Asian pieces, all performed by Madison's best flute players, along with piano, organ, and cello. There will be solos, duets, larger ensembles, and even the full Madison Flute Choir of 25 flutists with its full array of flutes including alto and bass flutes. Come enjoy the music and contribute as you can. Admission is free. The concert benefits rural Chinese children whose parents died of AIDS contracted from donating blood. The funds provide the sponsored children with school fees, school books and supplies, adequate summer and winter clothing, and a healthy diet, all things that were previously beyond their reach. First Baptist Church is currently supporting 56 of these beautiful orphaned children with funds generated by the annual flute concerts and donated by the members and friends who sponsor individual children.

5th Annual MALC Quilt Auction/Pie Sale

**Saturday, April 9, 2011, at Christ Lutheran
Church, 220 S. Main Street, DeForest, WI**

The Pie and Apron Sale will begin at noon with the Quilt Auction to follow at 1 p.m. The proceeds support a chaplaincy program at the Dane County Jail, which MALC has sponsored for nearly 40 years.

This ministry has a vital impact on the lives of those held at the jail and with the law enforcement personnel who supervise them. "Our chaplains bring the 'presence' of Christ in so many vital ways--they console, comfort, confront and are the human touch in an environment that is often without any other sources of the Word, Sacrament, and Faith."

Ecumenical Choir

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. Spring practice dates: February 11, 25; March 11, 25; April 8, 15.

Petition on the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Enclosed is a petition on the convention on the rights of the child. You can collect signatures at your church and send them to the CWU National Office.