

THE SUNDIAL

Volume XIX No. 7

April 2009

May Friendship Day/EIA Insight

“Building on our Stories/Seeing the Possibility of Change”

Friday, May 1, 2009 5:30 pm Dinner Meeting

Speakers:

Sally Dodgson - CWU History

Patricia Everett - Odyssey of the Mind

The United Church of Pittsford

123 S. Main St

Handicap Accessible

[map on back of flyer]

Our theme for May Friendship Day this year, ‘Building on Our Stories,’ is an invitation to a journey through memories. The book held between two hands is symbolic of the remarkable experiences of Church Women United past and present. The hands are those of a young woman representing our future. Behind the book and hands is earth itself, that large stone heaped with reminders of what we have been called to do, and what God has done in the past through the works of Church Women United.

Please bring: Two canned goods for the Pittsford Food Cupboard. Dinner reservations are required. The cost is \$8.00 per person. Please use tear-off on page 6 or call the CWU office at 342-2790 by Thursday, April 23, 2009, to make your reservations.

From the President

Two years ago, Church Women United celebrated 85 years of service in the Rochester community. Many programs were started and many are still being utilized today. However, our Rochester unit is becoming smaller, but we remain optimistic, and we have not lost hope.

The return of the spring season inspires us to focus our attention on new life, renewed hope, and faith in God. Therefore, as we continue our programs and celebrations, we do so with renewed hope and expectations, envisioning more and more women joining forces with us in continuing a legacy of peace, hope and love.

As you read the Sundial articles, it is our prayer and hope that you will share them with friends and join us for our monthly celebrations, enabling CWU to continue a long-standing tradition in Rochester and Vicinity.

For more information, please visit call the CWU office at 342-2790 or our website at www.cwurochester.org.

Peace and Blessings, *Audrey J. Davidson*

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED ACTION ALERT #1

‘We, the undersigned faith-based leaders and organizations, join together to call upon President Bush and our elected officials in Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform legislation that establishes a safe and humane immigration system consistent with our values. Our diverse faith traditions teach us to welcome our brothers and sisters with love and compassion.’ Statement of Concern on Immigration Reform in the U.S. adopted by CWU Board of Directors (2006)

**PROTEST THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S FIRST IMMIGRATION RAID
DEMAND AN END TO INDISCRIMINATE RAIDS TODAY!**

Action needed: Call (202-456-1414), email or fax the White House and tell President Barack Obama to end indiscriminate immigration raids. Take Action Now!

Background

On Tuesday, February 24, 28 employees of an engine manufacturing plant were arrested and chained by force in Bellingham, Washington. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) claimed the raid was part of their normal operations regardless of the trauma it brought to families, businesses, and communities. Indiscriminate ICE raids that target people solely for being undocumented were drastically increased by the Bush administration. ICE has forcibly entered places of employment and people=s homes at all hours of the day and night, often separating families and leaving vulnerable children without protection.

Many people expected such inhumane raids to cease upon the election of President Obama. However, this raid, the first and, it is hoped, the last under the Obama administration, highlights the need for the faith community and other allies of immigrants to make their voices heard and ensure an end to indiscriminate immigration raids.

Call the White House TODAY: 202-456-1414 or fax: 202 456 1111

SAMPLE LETTERCFAX your letter (fax number is: 202 456 1111) and personalize it as much as possible. A copy of the sample letter is available at the Rochester CWU office. Please call 342-2790 to obtain a copy.

(This action alert comes from a “Speak Out Email Alert” from Church World Service).

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED ACTION ALERT #2

‘It was voted that the Board of Managers of CWU register its opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the laws of God and humankind.’ Opposition to the Death Penalty (1979) CWU Social Policy Book 1941-2004, page 147

HELP END THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

As reported by the Associated Press, Bill Richardson (governor of New Mexico) is considering repealing the death penalty (though he has been a long time supporter of capital punishment). He is being encouraged by former President Jimmy Carter to do this since a bill repealing the death penalty has passed the New Mexico House legislature and is almost through the New Mexico Senate.

Our National Action/Global Concerns Chair, Claudia Ellquist, is requesting that you send handwritten letters to: Governor Bill Richardson, Office of the Governor, 490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 400, Santa Fe, NM 87501

In your letter, urge him to heed President Jimmy Carter’s letter about abolishing the death penalty and sign the death penalty repeal bill HB285 when it reaches his desk.

The CWU Arizona State Board has sent a letter to the governor. Similar letters from across the country would surely encourage him. State, local units and individuals can write letters which will surely be effective in this important time.

Patricia Burkhardt-Church Women United-Legislative Office-100 Maryland Ave NE RM 100
Washington DC 20002-202 544 8747, fax 202 544 9133

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED ACTION ALERT #3

“PEACE: Promote the Ways that Make for Peace” CWU Quad Priority 2008-2012

SIGN THE PETITION FOR PEACEFUL DIPLOMACY RATHER THAN MILITARY ESCALATION IN AFGHANISTAN (from Jim Wallis of Sojourners)

Today (March 19, 2009) is the sixth anniversary of the Iraq war. Six years of violence, hundreds of thousands of deaths, countless billions of wasted funds, and endless sacrifice on the part of our military families. We commemorate this day with prayer and heavy hearts, but also with thankfulness that the end of this war appears to be in sight.

Afghanistan is a different story. The war there has dragged on for more than seven years and, by all accounts, is getting worse. We believe only a surge in funding for diplomacy and development -- not more military escalation -- will bring long-term peace to the troubled region.

Please link to:

http://go.sojo.net/campaign/afghanistan2009_obama/8u6d5n4pjtdb6m7?source=act_0903_afghanob

Call on President Obama to continue supporting more economic development, not more military escalation, in Afghanistan.

I (Jim Wallis) will personally take this petition to the White House, expressing our opposition to further military escalation, and our support for diplomacy and non-military assistance. Simply sending additional troops will not provide security and stability for the Afghan people.

Civilian deaths caused by American air strikes and ground assaults are rapidly turning Afghan public opinion against our troops. Last month, the head of the U.S. military's Joint Special Operations Command halted some raids in Afghanistan, implicitly acknowledging this fact.

A recent report published by The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace concluded, “The mere presence of foreign soldiers fighting a war in Afghanistan is probably the single most important factor in the resurgence of the Taliban.” And David Cortright, president of the Fourth Freedom Forum, wrote in Sojourners, “Few things are certain about the complex insurgencies raging in Afghanistan and Pakistan, but one thing seems clear: A military surge and escalation of the war will make matters worse, not better.” Tell the president you believe that escalation of the war in Afghanistan will not bring peace and stability.

Now is the right time to support solutions that could lead to a lasting peace. Some economic development activity is already taking place in Afghanistan, and we applaud the president's budget request to Congress to increase non-military assistance, providing additional funding for governance, reconstruction, and other development activities that will help counter extremists.

However, instead of increasing our military profile, the U.S. should shift funding from military offensives to providing security and protection for civilian efforts to erect schools for young women, strengthen civil society institutions, promote traditional justice mechanisms that encourage the rule of law, help to remove old weapons and land mines, foster local agricultural projects, and make similar efforts. Providing a better life for the people will provide greater stability than sending additional military forces.

Take action with me today to voice your support for full funding of development assistance to Afghanistan, and oppose continued offensive military strikes.

I encourage you to keep the people of Afghanistan and our troops in your prayers.

- Blessings, Jim Wallis

For more information concerning resources on this subject, contact Patricia Burkhardt
CWU Legislative Office, 100 Maryland Ave NE Rm 100, Washington DC 20002

Kids' Korner News

No More Cuts Rally to Children Rally - April 14 at 5:00 pm

At the Monroe County Legislator's Office, 39 West Main Street, Rochester

931 children missing out on day care because of funding cuts; day care funding cuts are hurting Monroe County families who are working hard to support their children. Those families who were once eligible for day care assistance no longer are, and they are now struggling to make ends meet and find safe, licensed day cares to watch their children while they work. Come support Monroe County Families!

If you are unable to attend the event but would like to help out, write a letter to your legislators letting them know your situation and that you support funding day care assistance! 931 children are missing out on day care because of the most recent funding cuts!

For more information about the event or letter-writing campaign, please contact Kerrilyn Frisbee or Cassie Kesselring at (585) 730-2975 or (585) 410-4280 or email at kfri1203@brockport.edu or ckess1@brockport.edu

Sponsored by: College at Brockport's Social Work Department, Women's Center, and Student Social Work Organization; Greater Rochester Chapter of the National Organization of Women, Catholic Family Center's Social Policy Department, Greater Rochester Community of Churches, Let Justice Roll, Social Welfare Action Alliance

2009 World Day of Prayer Summary

Theme for 2009: "In Christ There Are Many Members, Yet One Body"

The 2009 World Day of Prayer Celebration, co-sponsored by CWU in Rochester took place on Friday, March 7, 2008 at Bethany Presbyterian Church. After a heart-felt warm welcome from Lura Masters, CWU Vice President, the women gathered for Bible Study.

This year, we offered three Bible Study Sessions. Program participant had a choice to attend two of three sessions. One session was led by Rev. Patrina D. Freeman, Executive Director of CWU, who facilitated a study of Acts 4:32-47. Another session was led by Rev. Sue Forsyth, Pastor of South Livonia UCC and CWU Board member, who taught a lesson on Exodus 1:15-21 and 2:1-10. Finally, Jane Lyth, Assistant to the Pastor, Bethany Presbyterian Church conducted a study of Romans 12:3-21.

After a brown-bag lunch with beverages and desserts provided by the women of Bethany Presbyterian Church, we gathered in the church sanctuary for the Worship Service. This year's service was prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Papua New Guinea. The Church Women United choir led the singing of several hymns. Many thanks to our readers for their service: Esther Hammer, Ellen Kimbrough, Eleanor Pope, Mary Ann Henry, Mira Washington, Kay Wroblewski, Jane Lyth and Edna Hamilton.

The speaker this year was the Reverend Imani Dodley. Currently, Rev. Dodley serves as Pastor of Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ELCA). She spoke of the concerns and struggles of women in Papua New Guinea and around the world. Rev. Dodley encouraged us to prayer for the women of this county and for the increase of Humanitarian Aid to struggling nations. Over 65 women attended the day's activities.

- Mary Discher, Chair, World Day of Prayer

CWU Short Subjects

Thank You

Gloria Klink, Mary Ann Henry and Lifetime Assistance Volunteers Lynn Marie Grace, Corrine McDaniel, Gerry Shultz and Carolyn Neatour for assembling the March 2009 SUNDIAL.

The CWU office will be closed on Easter Monday, April 13.

Church World Service Drop-off site for CWU Kits in 2009

ROCHESTER: April 1-May 1, 9:00-12:00 PM Downtown Presbyterian Church, 121 N Fitzhugh St, Rochester, NY 14614--Contact: Jim Moe 585-325-4000 Ext 12 M

CANANDAIGUA: April 20-24, 9 - 1:00 PM United Church (Presbyterian-Baptist) - N Main & Gibson, Canandaigua, NY 14424 - Contact: Mary Lou Havens 585-396-2037

Church World Service News - by Amy L. Bobbett, Comm. Outreach Coordinator, CWS

In February 2009, Donna Derr, Director of the Church World Service Emergency Response Program, reported that, ACWS continues to receive frequent large requests for CWS kits from partners overseas and in the US -- particularly hygiene kits for overseas use and clean-up buckets for US use.

Because it is a constant challenge to have our supply of kits keep up with demand, we are currently in the position of having several pending shipments that need to wait until we can secure an adequate number of kits to meet the requests. Our pending shipments include ones to Ghana, Syria and Zimbabwe. Also, we continue to supply clean-up buckets and hygiene kits to flood affected areas in the US - - most recently to areas of the mid-west which experienced ice storms and flooding following ice melt.

What have we shipped recently?

- 300 CWS Emergency Blankets & 300 CWS Hygiene Kits to Wayside Christian Mission in Louisville, KY.
- 240 CWS Hygiene Kits to Horseshoe Bend Catholic Church in Horseshoe Bend, Ark
- 240 CWS Hygiene Kits to the Searcy County Shelter in Marshal, Ark.
- 92 CWS Hygiene Kits to ice storm survivors at the Maynard Fire Department in Maynard, Ark.
- 500 CWS Hygiene Kits to ice storm survivors at the Washington County Office of Emergency Management in Fayetteville, Ark.
- 60 CWS School Kits to students in Aniak, Alaska Kuspuk School District whose school was destroyed by fire.
- 1,250 CWS Blankets, 150 CWS Baby Kits, 3,000 CWS School Kits and 6,000 CWS Hygiene Kits to Concerned Christian Community Ghana in Accra
- 109 CWS Hygiene Kits to tornado survivors in Ardmore, Okla.
- 100 CWS Blankets, 120 CWS School Kits, 120 CWS Hygiene Kits and 200 CWS Emergency Clean-up Buckets to Pay it Forward Ministries, for flood survivors in Monmouth, Ill

Amy L. Bobbette, Community Outreach Coordinator-Church World Service-Upstate New York Regional Office-200 C Gateway Park Dr-North Syracuse, NY 13212-315-458-8535-Toll-free 1-888-297-2767Fax: 315-458-8542

Community News

Fighting Poverty in the Age of Obama

Rochester Social Welfare Action Alliance Presents Fighting Poverty in the Age of Obama:

A COMMUNITY DIALOGUE with ETHEL LONG-SCOTT

Wednesday April 22, 2009 - at 7:00pm, St. Mary's Church - 15 St. Mary=s Place Rochester, NY

Ethel Long-Scott, Executive Director of The Women's Economic Agenda Project based out of Oakland California, is known nationally and internationally for devoting her life to the education and leadership of people at the losing end of society, especially women of color. Seating is limited to 150
REGISTRATION REQUIRED - free!

Refreshments provided - Register by phone or e-mail: SWAAevents@swaarochester.org or (585) 395-5158
Please contact us for more information.

Co-Sponsored by: The Downtown Community Forum, The Greater Rochester Collaborative MSW Program of Nazareth College and the College at Brockport, The House of Mercy, the Rochester Chapter of National Organization for Women, Rochester Poor Peoples Coalition, Women's Center at the College at Brockport, and the Social Work Department at the College at Brockport

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross in the City

Please join Bishops Clark, Singh, and Jerge, and other religious leaders for an ecumenical Stations of the Cross in the City on Good Friday, April 10. This is one of 3 large city walks and the cross we carry that day will be part of the other 2 walks as a show of solidarity and commitment to overcome violence. People who cannot walk are encouraged to take part either at the beginning-- to send the cross out from Church of the Ascension, or at the end... to receive the cross at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

To get a copy of the stations route and stops, email GRCC at grcc1@frontiernet.net or call 254-2570.

The Stations begin at 9:15 a.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension on Lake Avenue and Riverside Street and will conclude at Sacred Heart Cathedral. It is a 2 mile walk which will include stopping at "stations" of violence and stations of hope.

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When a meal reservation is required, please do your best to respond by the deadline. We must let the people who are preparing the meal know the count, so they can buy supplies. If we over-order, we must pay for the meals that are not used.

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MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY Dinner Reservation Form Friday, May 1, 2009

Name.....Phone.....

Address.....

Reservations at \$8.00 each

Reservation & payment deadline: April 23.

Amount of check

Sorry, no refunds after April 23.

**Make check payable to: Church Women United
644 Titus Ave.**

**Please include names of all
people on reservation form.**

Phone: 342-2790 Rochester, NY 14617-3939

[Use back of form if necessary.]

Greater Rochester Community of Churches
Celebrating 90 Years of Ecumenical Work

Events profiling GRCC's role in history including introduction from GRCC President, Marvin Mich, with emphasis on how ecumenical work has ministered to each issue over the years. Keep up to date at www.grcc.org. All program times are 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

April 15 - Judicial Process & Jail Ministries: Coming Back to the Community-Re-Entry Services & Prison Ministries, at Peace Baptist Church, 8 Oregon Street (Between Central Ave. and North St. - Street Parking) No Charge - Free Will Offering

May 12 - Strengthening Our Community's Fabric Through Educational Partnerships at the Jewish Community Federation, 441 East Avenue. A conversation with Superintendent Jean Claude Brizard on educational programs of the City School district. Also highlighting The Coalition for Literacy with Isobel Goldman. Early history of tutoring, long-term interfaith relations.

June 2 - Faith in Action at RIT Inn and Conference Center, 5:30 to 8:30 pm. RSVP

Questions or to RSVP, please call 254-2570.

Socially Responsible Investing Commission on Christian Muslim Relation (CCMR) Presents

Socially and Religiously Responsible Investing: Christian and Muslim Historical Perspectives

Session One - Early Period - Tuesday May 5, 2009 - 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Christian Speaker: George Heyman, Ph.D. Muslim Speaker: Muhammad Shafiq, Ph.D.

Session Two - Medieval Period - Tuesday May 12, 2009 - 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Christian Speaker: Scott Brenon Caton, Ph.D. Muslim Speaker: Omar Afzal, Ph.D.

Session Three - Contemporary Period - Tuesday May 19, 2009 - 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Christian Speaker: Christopher Evans, Ph.D. Muslim Speaker: Omar Afzal, Ph.D.

All sessions are held at the Islamic Center of Rochester, 727 Westfall Road, Rochester, New York 14620 Please call (585) 442-0117 for more information. **Co-sponsored:** Muslim Catholic Alliance (MCA)

Save the Dates

Friday, June 5, 2009 CWU Picnic-EIA Action

CWU Family Fun Night at the Red Wings

Friday, August 7, 2009 at 7:00 pm
 \$6.50/ticket Details in the May Sundial

Church Women United in Rochester and Vicinity, Inc.

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Friday, May 1, 2009 5:30 Dinner Meeting

Speakers

Sally Dodgson
CWU History

and

Patricia Everett
Odyssey of the Mind

The United Church of Pittsford
123 S. Main St
[map on back of flyer]

Cost: \$8.00 per person
Reservations required by April 23.
Please use tear-off on page 6.



Please bring: Two canned goods for the Pittsford Food Cupboard

Schedule for the Evening

5:30 pm Registration
6:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Celebration

Dinner Menu

Salad Bar Chicken
Ham Italian Bread
Brownies & Ice Cream

For more information, please call the CWU office at 342-2790