Women Unit

## Human Rights Day: April 18th CWU to Honor Margo Cowan, Immigration Attorney

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

In a world troubled by war, injustice, slavery and bigotry, the journey toward peace is difficult and uncertain for many of God's children. Since 1941, Church Women United has worked toward being an advocate and guide for those who have been deprived of their human rights. Through study, activism and outreach, CWU units have become more knowledgeable of the persecution and fear that humans suffer around the world and at home. This knowledge has made CWU members more sensitive to the needs of

March 2015

the oppressed.

Although we may seem powerless as individuals, the path to achieving human rights for everyone usually starts with the work of a single person. The Tucson Unit has recognized a person in our community who has gone the extra mile in defending the rights and freedoms of individuals. On Saturday, April 18, 2015, we will celebrate *Margo Cowan* who has dedicated her time and legal skills to assisting in the arena of immigration. The presentation will be from 9:30-11:30 AM at St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church, 4625 E. River Rd (River and Swan).

Margo graduated from the Antioch School of Law, Washington, D.C. in 1985. Was admitted to the State Bar of Pennsylvania in 1986 and admitted to the State Bar of Arizona in 1995. Margo has focused much of her attention to general immigration law since 1986. Margo has also served as General Counsel for the Tohono O'odham Nation 1993-2003; served as Counsel for Congressman Raul Grijalva in 2004, has done extensive pro bono work, mainly in the areas of border/immigration

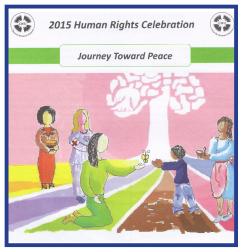


In Tucson

www.cwutucson.org

Margo Cowen

policy development and representation of undocumented persons and refugees; has served as Defense Attorney in the Law Offices of the Pima County Public Defender since 2004. Margo has been recognized for her work by other organizations both locally and nationally. Please join us in celebrating this peacemaker in our community.



Women United is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive ecumenical Christian women's movement, celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice".

"Church



### From My Cluttered Desk... A Message from your President

It's hard to believe that it is already March 2015. We had an inspiring Annual Meeting which was most graciously hosted by St. Marks Presbyterian Church women. Our Annual State Assembly was hosted by the Tucson Unit and was held at the River Park Inn. It was inspiring, educational and the fellowship with our sisters from other parts of the state was a blessing.

As we continue on our journey together, may we renew friendships, begin new ones and work towards a peaceful community, a community of mutual respect of our fellow human kind and respect for the earth that has been entrusted to us.

God has richly blessed us and as I embark on this new journey as your President, I am ever grateful and thankful for our Immediate Past President, Vera Lander, and the Board for their patience and guidance over the past 2 years as I served as President Elect. I have learned so much about CWU and about this amazing sisterhood of faithful women.

Your Board has planned an exciting year of fellowship and we look forward to seeing you at Celebrations and/or Forums as we are "Companions on the Journey". Just around the corner, April 18th, please join us as we honor our 2015 Human Rights Recipient – Immigration Attorney **Margo Cowan**, who is on that "Journey toward Peace". Check the enclosed calendar for dates and details of future events.

We continue to grow and evolve, trying to come into the 21st century. For starters, we welcome our new Web Manager, **Renée Purdie**, who is reviewing and will be renovating our website...keep an eye on it and watch the changes evolve. Renee is a long time member of Gideon Missionary Baptist Church. We are so grateful to **Gene Tobey** who started our website approximately 10 years ago and has maintained it to the present. Thank-you Gene. We also have a Newsletter editor that, with this issue, we have actually given her work to do. Thank-you **Gwyneth Roske** for being patient with us over the past year, while we were getting our act together. Gwyn is a long time member of St. Marks Presbyterian Church. God has blessed us with two extremely capable ladies and they are providing us with the tools to communicate with all of you in a more complete way. Thank-you Renee and Gwyn for the sharing of your talent with us.

During this Lenten season, we take time to prepare our hearts and spirits for the crucifixion and joyous resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our Jewish sisters and brothers will be celebrating Passover from April 4 thru April 11th, celebrating God's deliverance from slavery in Egypt. We all have so much to be thankful for. Let us pray for each other as we celebrate the freedom God's love has bestowed on us all. LET US JOURNEY TOGETHER IN LOVE!

Peace, **Teena Cross** 

## DATES TO REMEMBER

April 18, 2015 April 25, 2015 May 2, 2015 June 6, 2015 August 8, 2015 November 14, 2015 Human Rights Celebration Leadership Forum May Friendship Day Forum: Mental Health Concerns in Church Forum: Liturgical Praise Dance World Community Day

## National Presidential Award-Martha De Warf

At the May Friendship Day Celebration in 1989, *Martha DeWarf* was presented the CWU in Tucson Valiant Woman Award and the local unit had this to say:

"Your co-workers in the Tucson Unit of Church Women Unit are pleased and proud of your recent selection as President-Elect of Church Women United in Arizona. Many of us remember your work in the Migrant Ministry back in the sixties when you were involved in both local migrant workers' camps and the Arizona Migrant Ministry. Having a baby during this time didn't slow you down, you just took little Rhonda with you.

You were a part of the transition of the migrant work as it evolved into the Farm Labor and Indian Ministry – FLIM – and you continue the work on a task force



*Martha DeWarf* that seeks to find ways to continue this work. We thank you for generously sharing your many talents, not only with us but with our state unit. You have served us all in many capacities over the years promoting and supporting CWU with zeal and effectiveness. You took on the task of chairing the Tucson Unit's Fund For the Fifth Decade which succeeded in producing funds for several local outreach causes as well as the National program. You have been and continue to be faithful to your conviction that CWU can be a moving force for good in today's unsettled world. We salute you as truly a Valiant Woman and present to you this Certificate given at our request by the National President, Clara Randale."

In 2014, Martha continued to share her talents with the Tucson Unit, serving as Representative to the Armory Park Foundation Board, Resource Coordinator, Treasurer and historian for those of us that are learning about CWU.

We proudly honored her with the second National Presidential Award issued by our current National President, *Marilyn Lariviere*.



### 2014 Christmas Cookie Ministry Pima County Jail Report

Thank you First Christian women, children and sojourners, and all the communities of faith comprising Church Women United all across Tucson who baked and purchased cookies over the weekend filling boxes with different homemade and like homemade cookies.

On Monday the individual churches representing Church Women United began dropping off cookies at 740 E. Speedway and, while awaiting the deadline *Debbie Munhall* and I baked more cookies. On Tuesday Claudia Ellquist filled up her pickup truck and away we went eventually arriving at the proper location of the "new" new (actually old and familiar) location of the building east of the jail. I recognized some familiar faces but there were far too few laborers in the "field" that morning when Sharon Sorensen and I began filling baggies with cookies for the inmates. Please mark your calendars for next year (second week in December is a good guess). Leaving to attend a concert at FCC by Janet Tolman and guests, more

cookies had been dropped off. Claudia made three trips to the Jail on Tuesday.

Wednesday, December 10, 2014 caroling and distribution at the Jail. I cannot begin to tell you about experiencing meeting inmates, singing carols and sharing the Good News of Jesus to eager souls. You will need to experience this joy for yourself next Christmas Season 2015.

Merry Christmas and blessings for the New Year!

by Susan Harris



"Building Bridges" the theme for the Southwest Regional Event, did just that for me. This was my first Regional Event. Not knowing what to expect, I initially had my "critique hat" on, evaluating each aspect of the program as it presented itself. In spite of where my head was, initially, as I met women from around the Region, I felt the bond of sisterhood; the caring and love that was shown from each and every person that we met. It was also good to be in the company of Vera and Judy who already knew some of the people of the Region, so I didn't feel so much like a fish out of water.

Friday evening highlights were soloist Marilyn Reynolds - magnificent voice and speaker Rev. Tracy Freeman of the American Baptist Seminary of the West. Rev. Freeman is a young woman with much energy and passion. I was impressed with the fact that during dessert, she went around the room and greeted all of the ladies at each of their tables before she was to speak. Rev Freeman spoke of our society that is broken and lonely and that there's a lot of separation. We are called to selflessness and to build bridges to help ourselves and others with the pain of life. The only bridge that needed to be built has already been built, God the spirit. God has provided the substance to fill all the voids and hurts. Travel across the bridge that has already been built. The Present is the only reality that we have, right here, right now!

Saturday morning our Bible study was led by our own Sybil Ep*pinger*. She followed the theme of 'bridges'. Sybil brought to our attention that the word "bridge" is not found in the scriptures. Isaiah 58:12 refers to "repairer of the breech or restorer of streets". She described different types of bridges historically and brought us to understand that a bridge invites transition in ones life. Change is the only constant that we can be sure will occur. Transitions were expanded upon and described in 3 stages: 1st stage- "letting go", or the Bridge of Faith, Biblical example was Rebecca in Genesis 24; 2nd stage - "Neutral Zone", or the Bridge of Love. It takes love to "hang in there", Biblical example was Ruth 1:16; and finally 3rd stage - taking hold of the new or the Bridge of Hope. Willingness to take a risk, Biblical example was Esther. So we are exhorted to encourage and build up each other on our bridge journey.

Also a part of the morning program was the opportunity to meet and hear presentations by *Marilyn Lariviere*-National President, *Margit Hauge*-National Vice President and *Djamillah Samad*-National Executive. These ladies gave us a brief CWU 101 course, providing us with general information about CWU, how the National Office functions and National expectations of the local units. We were informed that the 2015 theme is "*Companions on a Journey*" and the National Convention will be in Teena Cross, President Elect/Secretary CWU in Tucson (Arizona)

Louisville, KY, October 14 - 16, 2016, and CWU will be celebrating 75 years. Additionally, I had the opportunity to have breakfast with Djamillah and then Vera, Sybil and I had the pleasure of meeting with Marilyn to share concerns and also some programming suggestions.

Saturday afternoon involved multiple workshops: Bridges to Mercy Ministries, Bridges to Peace, Bridges to Advocacy and Justice, Bridges to Spiritual Growth, Bridges to Wholeness and Bridges to Each other-communications. I attended the workshop on Advocacy and Justice. Our workshop leader was *Monika Grasley* whose passion has been to look beyond the barriers people and communities face and look for the potential of people. She is the director of LifeLine CDC, a nonprofit organization in Merced CA, whose passion it is to "Empower Impoverished Neighborhoods to Thrive". They look for the image of God in people and neighborhoods and work together to bring the Shalom of God into people's lives and neighborhoods. Mrs. Grasley provided us with some recommended steps for building bridges to justice and advocacy: 1-Evaluate your ministries and the way you see people; 2- Learn more about Justice Ministries and 3-be a voice for the voiceless. Become an advocate. She emphasized the ability to identify the 'Mercy/Relief Ministry' which addresses a crisis situation and is short term vs 'Development/Justice and Advocacy'

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which addresses a chronic situation and is long term.

Saturday evening we were blessed with another dynamic vocalist – *Marlynn Smith* and our speaker for the evening was *Bronwyn Galloway* who is Executive Secretary & Chair of Women's Committee, San Francisco Chapter of the UN Association of the USA. Ms. Galloway shared the current declarations of the UN in regards to women and children's issues.

Our evening worship was led by the CWU Colorado unit and the focus was on "courageous women". The scripture was taken from a book most of us are not familiar with. The reading was from Judith. One Bible version where it can be found is the Jerusalem Bible in The Historical Books. The message was how Judith, against all odds, was able to save her people of Bethulia from Holofernes who was the 'General' of the Assyrian army. One of the Bible's great women of courage! Sunday morning was a Hallelujah Sunday. Beautiful morning in San Francisco and worship was led by **Rev. Virginia R. Greelev** who is ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Rev. Greeley is the president of Southeast of the So California/So Nevada State Unit. So dynamic! Her sermon title was "Answer the Call" and as she proceeded with her message she included the "bridge" references that were made by the other speakers throughout the weekend. Wrapped it up beautifully. Communion followed and concluded with all of us sisters holding hands and forming a circle around the room. Spirit filled worship! Hallelujah and Amen! Thank-you for this great opportunity to meet, greet, share with and

nity to meet, greet, share with and get to know CWU sisters in the Southwest Region.

The next Southwest Regional Event will be in 2018 and will be hosted by the So California/So Nevada State Unit. I pray that we will have a large contingency planning to attend.

> Reprinted from the Church Woman News – October 2014 Issue



Seated: Sybil Eppinger and Judy Bodnaruk; Standing: Vera Lander and Teena Cross

## **Prayer in Tucson**

Prayer is an essential part of who Church Women United are. We know that Prayer has the power to change things. I invite you to join, as you can, on the 3rd Monday for prayer. Please see the schedule of locations below. If you are having a special or regular prayer time in your church or faith community, please let me know so that it can be added to the schedule. The more we pray and the more we pray together, transformations occur.

Every Monday at noon – Join Church Women United wherever you are to offer your own prayer, in your own way, in this Sacred Space – pray for the concerns of the day.

#### 4/20/15 – 6pm 3rd Monday Community Prayer @ Living Waters Ministries 4343 E. 22nd Street

#### 5/7/15 – Noon National Day of Prayer @ Grace Temple Missionary Baptist 1019 E 31st St.

5/18/15 – 6pm 3rd Monday Community Prayer @ Vineyard Christian Community 625 N 2nd Ave.

6/15/15 – 6pm 3rd Monday Community Prayer @ Agape Christian Church Int'l 7100 S. 12th Ave.

7/20/15 – 6pm 3rd Monday Community Prayer @ Grace Temple Missionary Baptist 1019 E 31st St.

8/17/15 – 6pm 3rd Monday Community Prayer @ Living Waters Ministries 4343 E. 22nd St.

9/21/15 – 6pm 3rd Monday Community Prayer @ Grace Temple Missionary Baptist 1019 E 31st St.

10/19/15 – 6pm 3rd Monday Community Prayer @ Gideon Baptist Church 3085 S. Campbell Ave.

11/16/15 – 6pm 3rd Monday Community Prayer @ Agape Christian Church Int'l 7100 S 12th Ave.

12/21/15 – 6pm 3rd Monday Community Prayer @ Greater Faith Church 431 N Plumer Ave.

# **Church Women United Support Ecumenical Women**

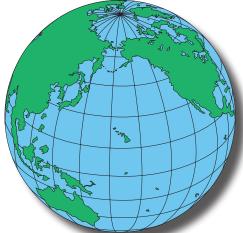
The following excerpts highlight what Church Women United, through Ecumenical Women, has presented to the United Nations' CSW59/Beijing +20 on your behalf.

The following members of Ecumenical Women have submitted this statement to the 59th Commission on the Status of Women: Anglican Consultative Council, Association of Presbyterian Women of Aoteaora (New Zealand), Church Women United. Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA, Lutheran World Federation, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), The Salvation Army, Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church – Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries, Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women and the World Young Women's Christian Association, with support from the Global Action on Ageing, the National Council of Churches of Christ (USA) and Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Ecumenical Women, a coalition of Christian denominations and organizations, welcome the review of the Beijing Platform for Action at the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. We affirm the promotion of gender equality, development and peace as fundamental to realizing women's human rights, as declared in the Beijing Platform for Action, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Security Council Resolution 1325 and other international agreements.

We condemn oppression, violence and women's exclusion from political and social processes using religious beliefs to legitimize such practices in conjunction with political interests.

The state has the primary responsibility to prevent violence and discrimination and to promote and protect the economic and social human rights of women and their families. As churches and faith-based organizations, we also play a role through advocacy and education.



Progress has been made since the first world conference on women in 1975 and there have been important steps towards gender equality. More women now have access to education and health care. Rape and violence against women is now globally understood as a crime. Despite the twenty years of national and international agreements to advance women's rights, many of the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action remain unfulfilled. Gender biased institutional structures create inequalities and discrimination, and still exist in public and private sectors, academia, and religious structures. We are concerned with the lack of full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the efforts to roll back gains. In this year of assessment 20 years after the Beijing Platform for Action, Ecumenical Women highlights the following themes that require action by all states to advance women's human rights:

- Violence and discrimination against women
- Poverty, inequalities and climate change necessary to reduce climate changerelated disruptions.
- Education and training of women and girls
- Women and health full access to reproductive health and informed decision-making

We ask Member States to: • Affirm the right of women and men, especially young people, to have access to comprehensive sexual reproductive health education and services;

• Reverse trends to privatize public health systems and fully fund women's health infrastructure, including reproductive health services;

• Emphasize and respond to the growing feminization of HIV/

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AIDS and provide full access to health services and medicine;

• Promote closer partnerships with civil society, faith-based organizations and the United Nations in order to increase the capacity for care and support;

• Provide full access to health care for all women and girls.

• We affirm that God's world was meant to be one of abundance for all people, with fundamental rights and dignity for all women and men. For healthy sustainable societies, women must be integral to the decision-making processes in law, policies and development programs. Women are needed at the center of post 2015 development agendas.

For the full text, go to: https://ecumenicalwomen.files.wordpress. com/2015/02/ecumenical-women-jointwritten-statement-uncsw-59.pdf

## **Christmas in September 2014**



John Heid of Casa Paloma accepting Christmas In September 2014 donation. Shown, left to right: Vera Lander, John Heid, Teena Cross, and Rachel Stoll.



Desiree Cook of IAMYOU 360 accepting Christmas In September check, with Teena Cross, left and Vera Lander, right.

# May Friendship Day: May 2<sup>nd</sup>



When: Saturday, May 2
Where: Streams in the Desert
Lutheran Church, 5360 E. Pima St.
Time: Check-in: 9:30, Program:
10:00-11:30, Followed by a
potluck lunch
Speaker: Courtney Bennett,
Program Manager, Community
Outreach Education, Office of the
Attorney General
Program Title: "As You Age, How
Safe is Your World?"

Child care will be available: RSVP to: Bobbie Norris, 349-5089 or email: <u>ladycrystalrose@gmail.com</u>

We will be honoring Doris Russell who is the Key Woman from Christ Church United Methodist Church for all of her work in the church and the community.

Come and enjoy the fellowship and friendship with your CWU sisters. Wear your favorite hat and don't forget to bring your Fellowship of the Least Coin offering. See you there!!!!

## CWU State Assembly 2015 Meeting: January 23-24 "Bridging The Gap - Keeping Families Together"

What a marvelous weekend at the RiverPark Inn, Tucson! Tucson Church Women United planned an inspirational, informative, enriching 2015 State Assembly with outstanding musical offerings. *MarJean Shute, Linda Stepenoff, Sybil Eppinger, Sue QuareQuio* and Sharon Davids represented the Phoenix unit and were eager to share their excitement.

Friday evening's worship/ communion service was led by the **Rev. Alison Harrington** of Southside Presbyterian Church. The service also included the Sacred Jazz Ensemble, also from Southside Presbyterian Church. Other music was provided by *Jose Serrano* and *Estella Garcia* from Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church adding to our spiritual growth.

Saturday Morning included election and installation of state officers. *Alice Brown* begins as Arizona Church Women United President. Immediate past president *Flinn Lund* fills Vicepresidency, *Bobbie Norris* will fulfill the role of Treasurer and manage the Resources and *Kathie Mittlestead* continues as our most capable Secretary. *Sharon Davids* will be heading Communications. *Sybil Eppinger & Vera Lander* will be responsible for Ecumenical Development. *Teena Cross & Judy Bodnaruk* will lead the Nominating Committee

Following the business meeting, the morning's panel consisted of the Rev. John Fife who spoke of his involvement in the Sanctuary movement in the 1980s. He emphasized that this is not a new idea, citing examples from biblical times. At this time, 230 congregations provide Sanctuary in the United States. Margo Cowan informed us of the legal matters/guidelines when providing Sanctuary. Sanctuary will: 1. provide a safe place for an individual to stay with 24 hour volunteer presence; 2. stop deportation of an individual and 3. prevent an individual from being separated from their family as well as gives support to that family.

Saturday afternoon, a panel of three gave informative dialogue related to their organization's involvement in Bridging the Gap to help Keep Families together. Rev. Harrington



Left to right: Teena Cross, Vera Lander, Alice Brown, Sybil Eppinger, Bobbie Norris, Kathy Mittelsteadt, Sharon Davids, Judy Bodnaruk, Jane Rowher.

informed us of Sanctuary at Southside Presbyterian Church; *Sarah Roberts* spoke about No More Deaths and *Marjorie King* spoke about her prison ministry with detainees in Eloy.

(used with permission of Suzanne Hartley Phoenix Unit Newsletter editor)





Presenter Attorney Margo Cowen.



*Rev. Harrington serves communion to worshippers.* 

# ECUMENICAI ACTION DIGEST March 15, 2015

Sanctuary 2014-2015 is growing stronger. The News Event on Ash Wednesday kicked off the "We Stand With Rosa" (political) campaign. Teena Cross and Vera Lander attended. Ten thousand signs are being planted all over the city and we invite you to join with us in the campaign. Signs can be picked up at Southside Presbyterian Church, 10th Ave and 23rd St (at a Vigil, Worship or other event) and at the office of Margo Cowan between 11:00am and 4:00pm at 730 S. Osborne. Contact us if you would like to put a sign in your site for a photo op. Go to Rosa Robles **Loreto-Sanctuary Facebook Page** to see the nationwide support.

**Nightly Vigils continue.** Teena leads on Friday nights and fills in at other times. We attended A Community Conversation between Angela and Rosa, Daniel, and Francisco on Wednesday 2/25/15; a Potluck, Workshop and Conversation about The New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia on Thursday; and took the Campaign to the Postal Workers Union "Jobs with Justice Meeting" and took photos with signs and flyers.

#### The Arizona Faith Network,

formerly the Arizona Ecumenical Council, has a new Executive Director. *Reverend Erin Tamayo* is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a member of the Grand Canyon Presbytery. CWU AZ President and two other AZ Board Members hold three voting seats (on the past Council).

#### **Interfaith Community Services**

**(ICS)** Empty Bowl Fundraiser is March 28, 2015 from 11:00 to 1:30 pm at the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center at 1288 W. River Road. Tickets of \$20 per person are being sold in advance only and available online at www.icstucson.org or by calling 520-297-6049 ext. 209.

#### ARIZONA GIVES DAY is

April 7, 2015. Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona is asking you to consider giving to the Tucson Community Food Bank (although you may support nonprofits all over Arizona). Take a look at Arizona Gives Day profile or contact **hschaffer@ communityfoodbank.org.** 

Save the Date: Sunday November 1, 2015 – **Tucson Hunger Crop Walk.** More information next newsletter.

#### SB 1282, the "Dental Omnibus

Bill" is currently in the Legislature, with a bipartisan group of eleven co-sponsors, to provide oral health care to children who have no access to dental care. Vera Landry, Teena Cross, Joe Bartell and Corrine Bartell have participated in the Stakeholder Group during the past two years. You can see the bill at: www.azleg.gov/legtext/52leg/1r/ bills/sb1282p.pdf

AZ Republican *Senators John McCain* and *Jeff Flake* attached a Rider to the **Defense Authorization Bill** that secretly swapped sacred land of the Apache Nation at Oak Flat with an Australian Company with plans for an open pit Copper mine, with exploratory drilling underway already on private land and public right-of-ways, during the seven year period allotted for securing necessary permits.

Forty-seven (47) Republican US Senators signed and sent a **letter to the President of Iran** pledging that they could dismantle any agreement made with President Obama when he is no longer in office. This action has been labeled "Treason" in some media sources. *by Vera Lander* 



### **Under Construction**

Keep an eye on our website - www.cwutucson.org. Renée Purdie will be giving it a makeover during the next few months.