



Church Women United of Southern California/Southern Nevada

... "The God of Heaven Will Give Us Success"

Nehemiah 2:20

January/February 2015

Volume 76 Issue 1

Well ladies we are into the First quarter of 2015!



The Executive Board is in a last thrust to fully embrace the plan recently employed to attract women to the mission of Church Women United detailed here for review and action; each unit President: 1) Contact no less than 10 churches in your Area within no less than 5 denominations. 2) Search out the pastor and the key woman. 3) Collaborate with your Area Chair if possible and invite her assistance in making contact with the pastor and key woman. 4) Email the names of the 10 churches inclusive of contact information for the pastor and the key woman, with email addresses for both. Email this information to rev.randall@cwusouthbay.org. The goal is to highlight the key woman at a date and time that we will discuss.

At our Annual Meeting in November we rolled out our state website. Email items you would like to see included for your unit to rev.randall@cwusouthbay.org. We are on a trial with the website to see how it will benefit our communication and information sharing. <http://www.cwuscasnv.org> is the website address. Right now it is just a basic site. With your input it will grow to make us all proud. Thank you to webmaster Yvonne Allen.

We need to say congratulations to Celeste Dula. She was a faithful member in the South Bay Unit prior to moving back east. She is now the elected National Treasurer Church Women United. You go girl!

At our Local Officers Training and Leadership Council Meeting, January 31, come with creative ideas that are on your heart. Bring friends to the Training and let them experience firsthand Church Women United. As we travel to Claremont this year on May 2nd, for the State Assembly and San Diego on Sept 26th, for the Spiritual Life Retreat we pray to think outside of the box to be used for a higher calling. Women need to be undergirded and empowered. Church Women United has a rich and beneficial history of support and advocacy. We are challenged to chart our course and blaze new trails. We choose to honor the legacy of the road we travel while laying new ground and developing future legacies. As an Executive Board we are determined to build upon the foundation laid by the diligent and dedicated women who have served in prior years.

Invite others to the Leaders Council and Training and let's get this party started.

We have work to do.

Shalom~

Rev. Joyce L. Randall

President of CWU So. California/So. Nevada

State News
Southern California
Southern Nevada

I WILL HONOR CHRISTMAS IN MY HEART, AND TRY TO KEEP IT ALL THE YEAR....

Last month brought me full circle to a small event that has changed my life. Last year on the Monday before Christmas my two children and I went to help at the church pantry. Now being a servant leader at the Lord's Pantry is like night and day to sending food or money. Granted you feel good about giving, but it is nothing like the following blessings:

You get to ask their name.

You get to look into their eyes and acknowledge your commonality as children of God.

You get to hear their gratitude for this small response to their needs.

You get to know them.

You get to receive their assistance as you prepare to open.

You get to surprise them with little things like Tamales in lieu of turkeys or hams.

You get to joke with them that "When you look at this tamale, I want you to picture a turkey" and you get to hear them laugh.

You get to meet their kids on vacations, and surprise them with a box of Jell-O, Pop Tart or small toy just for them.

You get to pray with them during a crisis.

You get to rejoice with them when they get a job and place to live.

You get to experience humility at their happiness when they have prayed for socks and get a pair.

You get to receive their prayers for yourself and your family.

You get too open your eyes, to the many small but significant things you can do for them. Like boiling eggs for the homeless, having some ethic items for your small United Nations guests, or meeting a small request for them the next week like a small jar of mayo.

You get to observe the generosity of angels in your and neighboring congregations, friends, family and associate organizations.

You get to work alongside committed servant leaders.

You get to receive their smiles after free dental work resources you were advised about through community pastors.....how do you put tears online?

Okay, so what's with all the You Gets you may be wondering? Well, whenever you say yes, You Gets. When you say no, You Don't Gets. *So if you want to get, you have to say yes to the opportunities God presents you.*

Even in challenging me God has reminded me when seeking resources, I cannot do it alone. He is here to support them when I ask. He may choose to do that by sending a group with donations, Vietnamese youth making sandwiches, or just letting there be fewer guests some weeks. It is his will not mine.

*For each of us food is the source of sustenance.
The basis of life and when we offer this gift to one
another, we are not only nourishing each other's
bodies, we are feeding one another's spirits. So
receive-and give-the food of your life as the powerful gift it is.
- Daphne Rose Kingma from A Grateful Heart*

Please email me your thoughts Gail@phoenixfinancial.biz

Gail Remis

Spiritual Life Chairperson



Advocacy for the Hungry

The 2014 Bread For The World (BFW) offering of letters dealt with Reforming US. Food Aid. We wanted to reform US foreign aid in such a way, that more food would be purchased closer to where the need is. Although Congress has not been productive, it has still been fruitful year for BFW.

Good For Peace Reform Act of 2014 (S.2421) was debated in the Senate in the hope to free much needed food aid resources to feed millions more people in need. The Farm Bill did authorize \$80 million to purchase food close to the need.

The House and Senate worked on Feed the Future Global Food Reform Act of 2014 (H.R. 5656, S.2909). This would permanently authorize Feed the Future which exists since 2010. Nineteen participating countries focus on small-holder farmers' betterment. Even though Congress stalls, God hears the cry of the poor: "They forced the poor to cry out to God, and he heard their calls for help." (Job 34.28).

In 2015, the Offering of Letters will focus on Child Nutrition Authorization, including EITC, CTC Snap. We will ask US Government to make hunger and poverty a priority by 2017 to end hunger by 2030. Also, the Millennium Development Goals will change into Sustainable Development Goals with ending hunger and poverty by 2030, and working for gender equality.

Happy New Year, and may the Star appear to us all.

Greetings in Christ,
Ilse Peetz
Ecumenical Action Chairperson

Rev. Lindsay Andreolli-Comstock, Executive Director of National Farm Worker Ministry is inviting us to the Farm Worker Day on Jan. 30 in Florida.

There will be a tour of Immokalee, a CIW presentation and a chance to meet with Fair Food Program Participating Grower. Lunch will be \$10. If interested, please email Susan Alan at salan@nfw.org by January 21st.

The purpose of this newsletter is to establish communication within CWU in S. Nevada / S. California. To subscribe to State News, (6 Issues/year), mail a check for \$10.00 along with your name and address to:

Marie Durflinger, Treasurer
11237 Pantheon Street
Norwalk, CA 90650

Make your check payable to: Church Women United

To subscribe for **Free** by Email:
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Dear Sisters, who diligently offer up your Least Coin,
Christmas Greetings!

I want to thank you all for your support of the FLC.

We got a big Christmas gift from them. The ICFLC grants \$5,000 to Njombe Community Development Foundation for a sustainable development project, emphasizing creation and orphan care. Oh what great joy! Amazing, how our pennies add to the international fund that gave this wonderful grant!

Praise be to God, and to you a very blessed Christmas!

Your sister in Christ,

Ilse



2014 was an extremely busy year for the UFW.

We are proud of all we accomplished on a slim budget. We negotiated contracts for thousands of workers in the citrus, berry, wine grape, vegetable, flower and almond industries. **We were able to improve each and every one of the UFW contracts we renegotiated.**

Besides this, we are working intensely to bring the benefits of a UFW contract to the more than 5,000 workers at Gerawan Farming -- who sell their fruit under the Prima label. It's a hard battle as Gerawan believes they are above the law. For the last three months our attorneys have been in court presenting testimony that Gerawan committed a litany of violations against its workers who are fighting hard for their contract. **Already, more than 60 workers have testified in this hearing, many attesting to intimidation and unlawful company interference in efforts to get rid of the UFW.** The hearings are expected to last through January and a decision isn't expected until at least next summer.

We are on the front lines of government doing all we can to enact meaningful legislation that will make a difference in the lives of farm workers. In California in 2014 we were key players in bills such as SB1087 that protects farm workers from sexual harassment; SB1360 that ensures that workers get paid for heat recovery periods; and AB1897 that holds companies accountable for wages and benefits paid to workers even when they are supplied by a labor contractor. Statewide and nationally we have also been working hard to keep farm workers and consumers safe from irresponsible pesticide use.

An accomplishment we're very proud of is our work as part of a coalition that will take at least 250,000 farm workers out of the shadows through President Obama's executive order granting them temporary legal status.

The nationwide release of Diego Luna's Cesar Chavez movie gave us the opportunity to share Cesar's rich legacy with the world. But nothing pleased us more than having a special premiere showing of the movie before an audience of more than 1,100 farm workers who traveled on buses from across California to the UFW's 40 Acres birthplace and seeing their faces light up at seeing their struggle captured on the big screen.

CWU of So. California/So. Nevada's Unit Leadership Training and Council Meeting

Our new officers will be installed.

All unit officers should attend.

Everyone is invited!

When:

January 31, 2015
9:30am to 3:00pm

Where:

First AME, Los Angeles
2270 S. Harvard Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90018

Directions:

Get to Rte. 10 between Rte. 110 and Rte. 405
Normandie Ave. exit #11
South on Normandie (Right if from West,
Left if from the East)
25th St., turn right in .3 miles
Curve onto Harvard Blvd.
Destination on the right in about 4 miles

Unit Leadership Training and Council Meeting Registration Form includes lunch
\$15 before January 20th, \$20 after

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Local Unit Affiliation _____ Position _____

Church/Denomination _____ Are you a Key Woman? _____

Names of People Attending _____

Make check payable to: **Church Women United** Amount Enclosed _____

Mail check to: Marie Durlinger, Treasurer 11237 Pantheon Street Norwalk, CA 90650

CWU of So. California/So. Nevada's
State Assembly

State of the Nation by Marilyn Lariviere,
Church Women United National President

State of the State by Rev. Joyce Randall,
Church Women United State President

Tour the "Whole Earth Building"

Speakers: Nancy Mintie, Executive Director of Uncommon Good
Chris Williams, on Pachamama Alliance a global community
Human Trafficking

Other Activities: State Awards
Acknowledgment of Past Presidents

Displays: Ecumenical Action Concerns
Ecumenical Celebrations

When:

Saturday, May 2nd

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where:

Claremont United Methodist Church

211 West Foothill Blvd., Claremont, CA 91711

Cost to be determined

Excerpt from : Las Vegas unit newsletter

A Few Words *from: Ronda W. Hill, Co-Presidents*

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015!

With the close of 2014, the Greater Las Vegas Area Unit had many challenges throughout the year, but I believe that one of our greatest accomplishments was working together to host the biannual Denominations and Communion Tea. The experience was truly an effort in coming together for the good of all and presenting a united front.

Now as we journey in to the new year, we as a unit must determine how we will forge ahead. As we are often reminded, January is the month of NEW BEGINNINGS, as Sandy stated in the Planning Newsletter last year. Not only do many of us make personal resolutions at the beginning of each year, groups and businesses often set new goals and challenges. Each of the members of the Greater Las Vegas Area Unit will need to look deep within ourselves to decide how each as an individual can increase our unit, how each as an individual can bring about renewed vitality in our group, how each as an individual can work within our own church to spread the good news about Church Women United; and then, we need to come and bring new faces to unit meetings and celebrations in order to strengthen the Greater Las Vegas Area Unit of the Church Women United Southern Nevada/Southern California State Unit.

With our commitment to the CWU mission, our local unit can achieve all that we set forward to do. Without prayer it is impossible to meet our challenges. There are several prayers that talk about all things that are possible, the one that I most identify with is one that we can each recite in our daily lives as well as this time of change in our local unit is:

I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me, Phillipians 4:13.

Bread for the World:

"In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:4-5

As we celebrate this joyous season of Christ's coming, I can't help but think of the Bread for the World community and how your tireless advocacy is a light against the destructive forces of hunger and poverty.

Thank you for sharing your light. May Christ who is our Light and Life be with you this Christmas.

Joy and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Beckmann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Beckmann

President, Bread for the World

Mark your Calendars—New Dates!

2015 CWU Southern California/Southern Nevada Calendar

Unless otherwise stated all meetings start gathering at 9:00 am and finish at 2:30 pm.

Board meetings—bring your own lunch.

Date	What	Where
January 31	Executive Board Meeting Local Unit Officer Training & Leaders Council	First AME, Los Angeles 2270 S Harvard Blvd Los Angeles 90018
March 6-7	World Day of Prayer USA	Local Unit Sponsored
March 21	Executive Board Meeting	Trinity United Methodist of Pomona 676 No. Gibbs Ave., Pomona 91766
April 25	ICSF Celebration Luncheon 12pm-2pm 60th anniversary	Claremont United Methodist 211 W Foothill Blvd Claremont 91711
May 1-2	May Friendship Day	Local Unit Sponsored
May 2	State Assembly 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Claremont United Methodist 211 W Foothill Blvd Claremont 91711
June 27	Executive Board Meeting	Salem Lutheran church 1211 N. Brand Blvd, Glendale, 91202
Sept. 26	Spiritual Life Retreat and Officer Election	San Diego
Nov. 6 or 7	World Community Day	Local Unit Sponsored
November 14	Annual Meeting	First AME Church Los Angeles 2270 S. Harvard, LA 90018



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED