

## Inside...

Oregonian leads  
NCCC, p. 2



Hate crimes  
consultation draws  
participants from  
across Oregon, p. 3



Hopewell House  
Hospice Center offers  
caregiving classes, p. 4



Sister Helen Prejean  
speaks at death  
penalty consultation,  
p. 6



Ecumenical worship  
service slated for  
January 23, p. 7

## Patton Home exemplifies sustainability

EMO's Patton Home provides a nurturing, affordable living community for elderly and disabled people with low-incomes. As part of its commitment to health and sustainability, a recent renovation of the home helped ensure that the facility has a light environmental impact inside and out.

Most recently, EMO purchased renewable energy for the facility from Pacific Power through the utility's Blue Sky program. Clean, renewable Blue Sky wind energy brings greater amounts of renewable wind generation into the western power grid. The benefits are many: wind energy generates no air pollution or carbon dioxide emissions that cause global warming. Each 100 kilowatt-hour block of Blue Sky purchased each month for a year has the same environmental benefits as planting one-third acre of trees or not driving a car for 1,800 miles.

"EMO's support of Blue Sky is related to our mission of enhancing human health and wellness and environmental stewardship," says Gary Logsdon, EMO director of administration and finance, who headed the recent renovation of the Patton Home. "It's an easy, convenient way for customers to help bring additional, clean power resources on line."

By purchasing 1,600 kilowatt hours of renewable wind power each month (about 10 percent of the facility's energy use), Patton Home meets the criteria for the Renewable Northwest Project's Clean

Energy Challenge, and it is a "Champion Level" supporter of Blue Sky.

Sustainability at Patton Home was integrated in the building's remodel. Much of the building refuse from the renovation was recycled by a prison work crew and provided to the Rebuilding Center, a nonprofit organization that recycles building materials. Energy efficiency for lighting and heating were high priorities. The interior of the soon-to-be completed top floor will include environmentally-friendly materials.

Outside, EMO has created a community garden to provide an outdoor community center for residents and the wider community. It includes areas of native plants to cut down on water use and provide habitat for wildlife.

Started in August 2000 in partnership with Portland Community Gardens and the Friends of Community Gardens, the garden will provide important physical and social activity for residents. It will also provide the opportunity for neighbors from different cultural and economic backgrounds to work

*Continued on page 3*



Kirsten Gellela

Patton Home residents take advantage of a sunny day to plant in the herb garden.

## Community celebration to be held Feb. 28

On Thursday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m., EMO will host its annual community celebration and dinner at the Portland Marriott Downtown Ballroom, 1401 SW Naito Parkway in Portland. Tickets are \$50 each, and sponsors may host a table for 10 for \$500.

The annual community celebration will honor the work of EMO as well to celebrate members of the community who have made a difference in Oregon. The awards dinner will honor individuals, congregations and community groups in several categories. The following awards will be given: the Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award, presented in recognition of outstanding humanitarian responsibility; Ecumenical Service Awards,

presented in recognition of special achievements in supporting ecumenical community ministries; the Two Pauls Award, presented in recognition of outstanding promotion of ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, service and relations; and Ecumenist of the Year, presented in recognition of outstanding efforts to promote ecumenism.

"Community gatherings are important," shared David Leslie, EMO executive director. "We saw this following the tragedy on Sept. 11, when numerous interfaith worship services and community events were held to bring people together for worship and comfort. EMO will providing another opportunity for community worship on Jan. 23 in conjunction with the

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity." (See related item, p. 7.)

The celebration will also honor outgoing board members and welcome incoming board members. The Rev. Wes Taylor, pastor of Tualatin United Methodist Church, will be installed as incoming president of the board of directors.

"The EMO annual celebration and awards dinner is an important opportunity to celebrate the work and commitments of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, as well as the religious leadership throughout the state of Oregon," shared Ginny Robertson, president, EMO board of directors.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call EMO at (503) 221-1054.

## People of hope can make a difference

Writing this column on the eve of Christmas and the beginning of the new year, I am reminded of the interconnectedness of hope, dreams and life. For you see, without hope, it is impossible to dream; without dreams, it is impossible to live; without life, it is impossible to change and make the world a more life-affirming place.

This past year was complete with moments of both despair and hope. Wars raged in the Middle East and Afghanistan. Bombs fell on Iraq. Refugees lived in squalor throughout the African continent. Unemployment rates began a rapid climb, putting friends and family out of work. Terrorists' attacks on this country killed innocent people and shook the foundations of this nation. Greed drove some people in power to think only of themselves and short-term profits and personal portfolios, shattering the retirement dreams of working men and women.

In contrast, there was the presence and actions of people of hope who would not allow dreams and life to slip into obscurity. There were the scores of people who responded to the drastic need for emergency food through EMO's Northeast Emergency Food Program. There were also thousands of people who advocated during the legislative session as part of the Campaign for Fairness who fought for the needs and hopes for Oregon's people in need. And, in response to September 11, people of faith—from a wide diversity of religious traditions—

strengthened interfaith relations throughout the state of Oregon.

As we move into the new year, we need this passion and commitment more than ever. Oregon is facing monumental challenges. At the time of this writing, Oregon's 7.4% unemployment rate is the highest in the country, and the hope of an economic resurgence in the near future is fleeting at



David Leslie

best. Many school districts in Oregon are currently operating on margins, deferring maintenance, increasing class sizes and cutting programs. The State of Oregon is facing a budget deficit of at least \$720 million and future state revenue projections are not encouraging.

So, while we may not be able to solve all of these problems, there is much we can do at home to improve the quality of our life and help keep hope and dreams possible. Toward this end, we can volunteer in schools, feed the hungry and open our church buildings for the homeless. We can actively participate in interfaith and inter-community dialogues.

But we must not stop there. It is important that we advocate boldly for public policies that support life, especially for those in greatest need. It is important that we solve our current budget crisis in ways that do not increase harm to people at risk. We

need the resolve to consider tax increases, as well as budget cuts. It is the time to consider a sales tax and other revenue options that will give decision makers the resources and flexibility needed to ensure that public schools are in the best position possible to educate our children. We must also work to ensure that safety net services for our most vulnerable citizens are available for the most number of people. It is time to wean ourselves from our addiction to state-sponsored gambling and oppose an expanded lottery—the ultimate purveyor of false hope and empty dreams.

The choices before us are difficult but important. What we do as a state today may well determine the type of dreams people may have in the future.

*What we do as a state today may well determine the type of dreams people may have in the future.*

Will they be nightmares, or will they be those full of hope and possibilities? The beginning of the new year provides a wonderful opportunity for us to begin anew, and rethink old problems and implement new solutions. Let us seize this moment and do all we can to make the world a more life-affirming reality.

You can reach David Leslie at (503) 221-1054 or by e-mail at [dleslie@emoregon.org](mailto:dleslie@emoregon.org).

## Native Oregonian installed as new NCCC president

Elenie K. Huszagh of Neahkahnie, Ore., an attorney and a prominent lay member of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, was installed Nov. 15, 2001 as the 21st president of the National Council of Churches in Christ (NCCC).



Elenie K. Huszagh

She is the first Orthodox woman and the first Orthodox layperson to hold that office. The installation took place at a special service of vespers (evening prayer) at Oakland's Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension, with some 600 in attendance.

"Elenie brings a unique perspective to the NCCC as an orthodox layperson," shared Catherine Lingas, who serves on the EMO board of directors as the Greek Orthodox Church representative, as well as serving as a member of the Archdiocesan Council for the Greek Orthodox Church. "She has amazing skills in negotiations and in deciphering what is the heart of an issue. These skills have been recognized and utilized for many years in the Greek Orthodox Diocese in North America, and now the broader church will benefit from her service."

The president of the NCCC serves a two year term. Elenie precedes Ambassador Andrew Young in this role. To contact the National Council of Churches, call (212) 870-2227 or visit the Web site at [www.ncccusa.org](http://www.ncccusa.org).



## voice

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Publisher:  
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon  
David A. Leslie  
*executive director*

Stephanie Howell, *editor*  
Elise Gautier, *graphic designer*

Interchurch Center, Suite B  
0245 SW Bancroft Street  
Portland, Oregon 97201

(503) 221-1054  
[www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org)

### EMO MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

- African Methodist Episcopal Church
- African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- American Baptist Churches
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
- Church of the Brethren • Community of Christ
- Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon • Episcopal Diocese of Oregon
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Greek Orthodox Church • Presbyterian Church USA
- Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland
- United Church of Christ • United Methodist Church
- Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

Visit our Web site at  
[www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org)!

## EMO celebrates recent grant awards

The board of directors and staff extend their appreciation to the many supporters who have given their time and talents in support of the program ministries of EMO. The following foundations have recently supported EMO.

Program	Award	Donor
EMO	\$2,000	Robert & Barre Stoll Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
EMO Public Policy	\$2,500	Tides Foundation
Hopewell House Hospice Center	\$5,000	Poznanski Foundation
Hopewell House Hospice Center	\$1,500	Joseph E. Weston Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
Northeast Emergency Food Program	\$1,000	Clark Foundation
Parent Mentor Program	\$4,000	PacifiCorp Foundation Customer Energy Challenge Team
Portland International Community School	\$5,000	The Autzen Foundation

## EMO convenes consultation on religion and hate movements

In response to the ever-present issue of hate crimes, EMO convened a consultation on hate movements in the Northwest at Triangle Lake Conference Center, November 2 and 3, 2001. Twenty-five people participated, representing a broad denominational and geographical spectrum including Ashland, Beaverton, Corvallis, The Dalles, Eugene/Springfield, Grants Pass, Hood River, Klamath Falls, Lake Oswego, Medford, Portland, Roseburg, Salem, Stayton, and Woodburn.

Dr. James Aho, professor of sociology, Idaho State University, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Aho is an expert on the Christian Identity Movement and other religious extremist movements. His address entitled "Popular Christianity and Right Wing Extremism" made real the organized presence of hate movements and the people involved. He reinforced the need for diligent and ongoing community response to such movements.

"In American folklore, racism and bigotry are associated with states of the old Confederacy, but the greatest concentration of right-wing groups are found in the Rock Mountain and Pacific Coast states, not in the deep South. One of the reasons the west is becoming a haven to American right-wingers is the relatively low rates of conventional church membership rendering the population more susceptible to appeals by cult movements," said Dr. Aho.

The Rev. Dr. John Temple Bristow, senior pastor, Murray Hills Christian Church lead a Bible study entitled "The Misuse of Scriptures by Religious Hate Groups." His message was that religious texts are easily misappropriated and used to further hate movements. Rev. Bristow said that religious leaders have an obligation to counter this reality through teaching, preaching and public witness.

Through participant's stories, it was clear that hate and bias crimes happen in rural and urban commu-

nities throughout the state. Participants reported that hate movements are serious and often religiously based, targeting immigrants, gays and lesbians, as well as Native Americans. While it was often heard, "We have no problem in our community," racial slurs, personal injury, and even loss of life are realities in Oregon.

The consultation concluded with the development of an action plan to prevent and address the impact of hate movements in Oregon. Funding for this initial event came from the Greenville Foundation who also funded similar events through state conferences of churches in nine western states. Future plans include convening additional events and convening an expanded, ecumenical statewide gathering. For more information on future consultations, please contact ShaRee Rhone at (503) 221-1054, or e-mail [srhone@emoregon.org](mailto:srhone@emoregon.org).



Rick Stoller

Hate crime consultation participant Robi Ingram-Rich discusses the religious community's response to hate crimes, as Dr. James Aho listens.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon congratulates the following groups for becoming Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL) congregations or facilities this fall. These groups have pledged to conserve energy in their facilities and to educate their members about global warming, energy conservation and renewable power. For more information, please call (503) 736-0845.

**Ainsworth United Church of Christ, Portland**  
**St. Clare Catholic Church, Portland**  
**Unity Church of Portland**  
**First Congregational Church, Eugene**  
**Congregation Havurah Shalom, Portland**

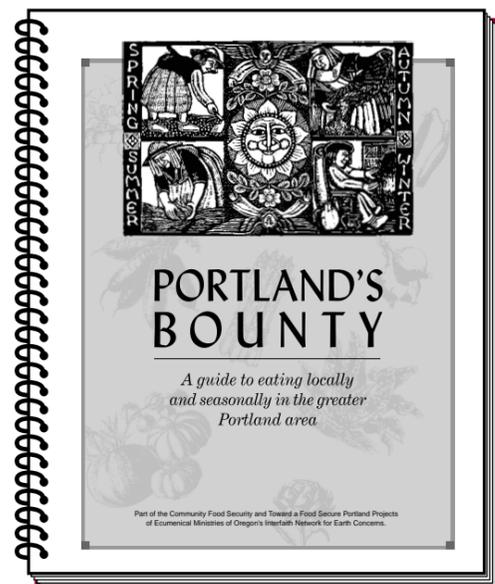
## Group health insurance offered to member denominations Open enrollment ends Jan. 31

As health care costs continue to rise, churches may find it more and more difficult to provide health care coverage for their employees. Because EMO believes that adequate health coverage is an essential part of a just and equitable society, EMO offers a group medical plan that is available for employees of faith-based organizations.

For many years, EMO has been offering group medical and dental insurance at competitive rates for ministers and other church professionals. To be eligible for participation, the employee must work

more than 20 hours per week for a church or religious organization or be affiliated with one of more of EMO's member denominations.

EMO offers two medical plans—Providence Health Plan and Kaiser Permanente. In addition, EMO offers Ameritas dental insurance. Open enrollment for anyone interested in either the medical or dental plan is during January. Please contact Mindy Becker, human resource manager, at (503) 221-1054 ext. 214 or by e-mail at [mbecker@emoregon.org](mailto:mbecker@emoregon.org) for more information.



## Portland's Bounty, Second Edition

The second edition of *Portland's Bounty: A Guide to Eating Locally and Seasonally in the Greater Portland Area* will be available this fall. The guide is an excellent resource for individuals, congregations and other organizations that are interested in participating in a local, sustainable, community-based food system.

The second edition features new recipes for eating locally and seasonally, articles addressing issues of sustainability, and resources for growing, preserving and sharing foods.

*Portland's Bounty*, Second Edition, produced by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns, will be available for \$8.50 plus shipping (\$3 for the first book and 50¢ for each additional book). To purchase, contact EMO at (503) 221-1054 or look for the guide in local bookstores.

## Patton Home

*Continued from page 1*

toward a common goal. In addition, it will contribute to food security and public health in the Humboldt Neighborhood by providing fresh vegetables.

Thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Bureau of Housing and Community Development to Friends of Community Gardens, capital improvements such as a picket fence and raised beds were added this year. Donations of plants from local nurseries and a grant from SOLV enabled the development of native plant habitats in different areas of the grounds. In early 2001, community members joined Friends of Trees to plant street trees on the site.

Development of the gardens and garden programming is assisted by the presence of Jesuit Volunteer D'Anna Saul, who serves with EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns and the EMO HIV Day Center. D'Anna works with other volunteers, building the foundation for a horticultural therapy program at Patton Home. This fall, she collaborated with botanist/educator Kirsten Gellella and residents to develop an herb garden. The two also reached out to the community to raise awareness of the garden and the Patton Home.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of activities in the garden areas and the community garden. To volunteer for the Patton Home community garden, call (503) 823-1612. To volunteer for horticultural therapy activities, call D'Anna or Jenny at (503) 221-1054.

The opening celebration of the garden will be held on Saturday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Patton Home, 4619 N. Michigan Ave. in Portland. It will feature refreshments and an overview of the plans for the Patton Home garden.

## Caregiving classes offered

**C**aring for the Terminally Ill, a series of six classes offering practical information, caregiving techniques, and resources for caregivers, family members and volunteers, will begin on Jan. 29, 2002, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Hopewell House, the inpatient hospice program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Legacy Visiting Nurse Association. The classes will continue through March 5.

The series offers a balance of the practical (how to change a bed while someone is in it) with the philosophical (the importance of ritual in mourning) and everything in between. Experienced caregivers specializing in healthcare, ministry and social work will teach each class. Classes may be taken individually or as a series; the cost is \$10 per class, or \$40 for all six classes. For those needing financial assistance, some scholarships are available.

Those wishing to volunteer in the patient care area at Hopewell House must complete all six classes in the series. In addition, prospective volunteers must attend two orientation sessions, scheduled for Tuesday, March 12 and Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Hopewell.

The *Caring for the Terminally Ill* classes will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Hopewell House Hospice Center, 6171 SW Capitol Hwy., in Portland. Session topics include:

### Understanding Hospice

Tuesday, Jan. 29. Introduction to hospice philosophy, hospice team, historical and cultural perspectives.

### A Nursing Perspective for the Caregiver

Tuesday, Feb. 5. Physiology of terminal illness, pain and symptom management, practical comfort care.

### Getting through the Day: Practical Skills

Tuesday, Feb. 12. Safely moving a bed-bound person, bed baths and personal care, bed changing, infection control.

### Living with Dying

Tuesday, Feb. 19. Understanding and coping with psychological and emotional experiences of illness, grief, loss.

### When Communication Gets Tough

Tuesday, Feb. 26. Understanding the special communication needs of the dying person.

### Finding Meaning and Sustenance

Tuesday, March 5. Spiritual care perspectives, finding meaning in life and death, self care for caregivers.



To register for the classes, or for more information about volunteering, call Janet Snedecor at Hopewell House, (503) 244-7890, ext. 205.



## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

### The Northeast Emergency Food House

needs your support to continue to meet the urgent food needs of over 1,700 Portland neighbors each month!

**\$100** Provide a 3-5 day supply of nutritious groceries and cover all associated costs for 20 people in need.

**\$500** Cover the cost of our rent at the food house for one month.

**\$1,000** Buy one can of chili for each person served for one month.

**\$8,500** One month sponsorship includes food and all operating expenses for one month of your choice.

For more information contact the Food House directly at (503) 284-5470 or e-mail [nefp@emoregon.org](mailto:nefp@emoregon.org).

A program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

## ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES

In the community

You are invited to an interactive tour

Monday, February 11, 2002  
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
0245 SW Bancroft St.

Lunch will be served at Hopewell House.

This tour will introduce you to the needs of people in our community. For more information, contact Mindy Becker at (503) 244-7890.

## Housing option offered

**P**atton Home, located in the historic Albina neighborhood of north Portland, is accepting lease applications for income-qualified adults who require some help with everyday living. Applications are welcome from anywhere in the country. To qualify for residency, an individual's annual income must not exceed 60 percent of the area mean. Generally, individuals also qualify for Medicaid assistance.

Services provided at Patton Home include daily meals and snacks, assistance with medication, laundry services, housekeeping services, assistance with medical



Chris Howell

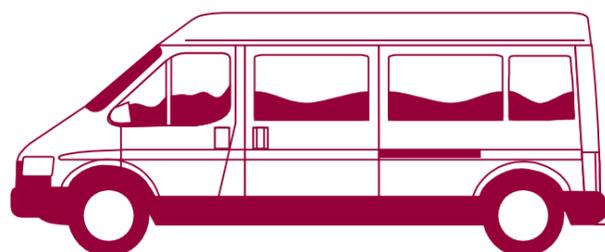
Patton Home provided

## Lift van available for community groups

The Ride Connection has awarded Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon the use of a new 15-passenger van with a wheelchair lift. The van will be used primarily for the transportation of the elderly and disabled residents of the Patton Home. However, we expect that the van will be available for use by other non-

profit community and church groups.

For more information, call Gary Logsdon at (503) 221-1054 or e-mail [glogsdon@emoregon.org](mailto:glogsdon@emoregon.org).



## MINISTRIES of OREGON Community

our of EMO ministries and services

January 11, 2002  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
1000 N. Street, Portland

Well House Hospice Center

the many ways EMO meets the  
community. To reserve your space, please  
call 503-221-1054.

## Patton Home

appointments, special diets as prescribed and person care. Qualified staff is on-site around the clock, and a registered nurse is on call.

Patton Home also offers social and wellness activities planned around tenants' interests and rehabilitative needs. Small pets are welcome, and a beauty shop is available on-site. Patton Home was recently remodeled and is fully ADA-compliant.

For more information about Patton Home, please contact Gary Logsdon at (503) 221-1054.



Provides affordable personal care in a home-like atmosphere.

## Refugees enjoy Thanksgiving dinner

Over 200 newly arrived refugees from around the world gathered at the All Saints Episcopal Church in SE Portland on Thanksgiving Day to share their first taste of an American tradition. As the smell of turkey and stuffing filled the room, conversations in Russian, Haitian Creole, Spanish and Farsi could be heard, truly bringing the American melting pot to life.

The dinner was hosted by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's resettlement program, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR). This was the second annual Refugees' First Thanksgiving Dinner held for newly arrived refugees in the Portland metro area. "Our goal is to make refugees feel welcome," stated Helen Koba, program manager of SOAR. "This is a hard time for refugees, so it's especially important to accept and embrace them into our community."

Donations by local businesses, nonprofit agencies and members of the community made the event possible. The evening's agenda included a traditional turkey dinner, live music and a free raffle to all those attending, with a chance to win a prize. Lucky winners went home with brand new dish sets, blenders and other various household items.

One Ukrainian guest, Valentina, shared her story of coming to America and all the struggles she encountered. After losing her husband within months upon arrival, she felt lost and scared. SOAR helped her receive funding for her husband's funeral, and assisted her with finding a new affordable place to live. Tears filled her eyes as she expressed her gratitude



David Core

A refugee family enjoys their first Thanksgiving dinner.

to her case manager and the rest of the SOAR staff.

All the guests have their individual stories of struggle, but they all share the gratitude of their newly found freedom.

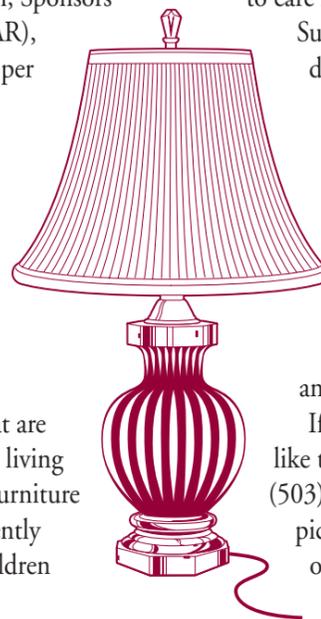
SOAR provides comprehensive case management services for newly arrived refugees including agency referral, advocacy, immigration services, ESL tutoring, housing assistance, etc.

For more information on how to get involved and help refugees, please contact SOAR at (503) 284-3002 or e-mail [soar@emoregon.org](mailto:soar@emoregon.org).

## Household items needed for refugees

EMO's refugee resettlement program, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR), resettles between 600 and 800 refugees per year in the Portland metropolitan area. Clients come from various countries in Africa, Cuba, the Middle East, Bosnia and the former Soviet Union. SOAR provides them with comprehensive resettlement services including agency referral, immigration counseling, assistance housing and health services, and English tutoring.

Currently, we have a few families that are in need of extra help. Some families are living in transitional housing, with minimal furniture and clothing. One Russian woman recently lost her husband and is left with six children



to care for. Another young woman from the Sudan is here alone with her one-year-old daughter, hoping the INS will allow her husband to join her soon. She is also living in cramped housing, using her couch as a bed.

We need your help! SOAR is very low on household items to provide for our clients. The items in need are: tables and chairs, couches, lamps, blankets, pillows, pots and pans, dishware, silverware and cups.

If you have any of these items you would like to donate, please contact SOAR at (503) 284-3002. SOAR staff is available to pick up your donation from your home or business.

## Giving to EMO through United Way

Please remember you can donate to EMO through United Way contributions.

Although EMO is not a United Way member agency, individuals may designate our organization as a beneficiary by selecting EMO in the "Donor Option" box on the United Way pledge form.

Please consider EMO as your donor option.

## Parent mentors needed

Would you like to improve the life of a child by mentoring the child's parent? The Parent Mentor Program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon matches volunteer parent mentors with parents enrolled in specific social service agencies for treatment for addiction or domestic violence. The parents are working hard to make major changes in their lives. The parents and their children benefit from the friendly support of a mentor who listens to their concerns, goes on outings with them and shares simple living skills and attitudes. Mentors have experience parenting or working with children and are at least 25 years old. The program provides preparation and support for mentors.

For more information, phone (503) 231-3571 or e-mail [mentor@emoregon.org](mailto:mentor@emoregon.org).

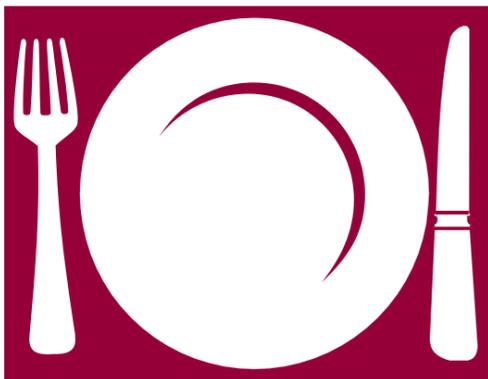
## Budget shortfall puts vulnerable at risk

Entering 2002, the state of Oregon is facing a budget shortfall of \$723 million. In the next few weeks, the state legislature is planning to meet in special session to work through the budget shortfall and find ways to balance the budget.

Religious, education and human service advocates are especially concerned that the budget will adversely impact people in need. Oregon leads the nation in unemployment and continues to be considered the "hungriest state in the nation" by the United States Department of Agriculture.

"While the decisions legislators are making are economical public policy and political decisions, they are much more," stated Bob Castagna, executive director of the Oregon Catholic Conference. "These decisions are essentially moral decisions affecting vulnerable and poor Oregonians whose lives hang in the balance."

For more information on EMO's advocacy efforts, please visit the Web site at [www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org).



## While fields lie fallow, advocates continue dialogue

Oregon's religious community is continuing its advocacy efforts in support of a more equitable agricultural economy by participating in several initiatives. This fall, the Oregon Senate Interim Task Force on Farm Workers was convened by Senate President Gene Derfler. Chaired by Senator Roger Beyer (R) and vice chair Senator Avel Gordley (D), the task force includes a broad cross section of representatives from farm labor, growers, advocacy groups and the religious community. Representatives from PCUN and NORPAC are participating in the task force.

The religious community representatives include Mary Jo Tully, chancellor, Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon; Norene Goplen, director of advocacy, Lutheran Advocacy Ministries; the Rev. Steve Sprecher, Office of the Bishop of the United Methodist Church, Oregon-Idaho Conference; and David Leslie, EMO executive director. The task force will meet again in early February, and will hear public testimony and identify the issues the group will focus on.

In addition to participation in the Senate task force, representatives from the religious community have formed a coalition in response to the successful Walk for Farmworker Justice in June 2001. Several walk participants have joined together to form the Farmworker Justice Coalition (FJC). The goal of the coalition is to help facilitate collective bargaining for farmworkers. Several organizations are participating in the coalition, including the Oregon Fellowship of

## Faith community called to action against death penalty

*Justice, the Death Penalty, and the Congregation*, held in mid-November, was a successful consultation that engaged people of faith to further study the issue of the death penalty in Oregon. Co-sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, Oregon Catholic Conference, Lutheran Advocacy Group, the Life for a Life Campaign and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the event drew over 150 people from diverse faith backgrounds.

The keynote speaker, Sister Helen Prejean, shared insights she has gained from her experiences working with people affected by the death penalty. She stressed that people of faith have a moral obligation to take action to ensure that all human life is held sacred.

Other speakers offered personal experiences and beliefs related to the death penalty. The Rev. LeRoy Haynes, pastor, Allen Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, spoke about the racial inequities inherent in the death penalty. He said that much of his advocacy efforts had been focused on helping people to understand this aspect of the issue. By focusing on this reality, he has found that people on both sides of the issue can begin dialogue on the controversial issue.

Randi Brox, a Zen Buddhist minister from Portland, shared the story of her brother's murder and the path she has taken to exclude bitterness and anger from her life. She has found that peace will

only flow from forgiveness. She advocates for rehabilitation of offenders.

Dr. Bill Connor, one of the chief petitioners seeking to place the Life for a Life initiative on the 2003 ballot, spoke on the recent history of this issue in Oregon. The Life for a Life Initiative seeks to replace the death penalty with a mandatory sentence



Emily Gottfried

Sister Helen Prejean passionately calls the faith community to action to oppose the death penalty.

of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole and restitution to the victims' families.

The National Council of Churches has published a booklet, distributed by the American Friends Service Committee on the policy and position statements of most major denominations in the U.S. To request a copy, or for information, please call Drew Strayer, public policy assistant, at (503) 221-1054 or e-mail [dstrayer@emoregon.org](mailto:dstrayer@emoregon.org). For information, to volunteer, or to request petition sheets and documents, please call the Life for a Life Campaign office at (503) 249-1556.

## Phillip Wong named new public policy director

Phillip Wong has been named EMO's new public policy director, and he will begin his new role in early January. He succeeds Enid Edwards, who is now serving as associate state director for advocacy with AARP-Oregon.

Phillip is a native Oregonian who has been working on affordable housing and working wage campaigns. He has solid experience in community organizing, urban planning, and public policy analysis and development. Phillip received his bachelor of arts degree in political science from Lewis and Clark College, and his master of science degree in public policy from Rutgers University.

"I am committed to working for proactive social change and social justice issues," Phillip shared. "Economic and racial justice are two issues especially close to my heart. I look forward to working with religious and community leaders and advocates throughout the state, advocating on behalf of Oregonians in need."

To reach Phillip, please call (503) 221-1054 or e-mail [pwong@emoregon.org](mailto:pwong@emoregon.org).

## Nine churches celebrate new union

After forty years of study and prayer through the Consultation on Church Union (COCU), nine U.S. Christian churches agreed to stop “consulting” and start living their unity in Christ more fully. On Jan. 20, 2002, these churches will inaugurate a new relationship to be known as Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC). The inaugural celebration will be held in Memphis on Jan. 18 to 21, 2002, and will feature keynote speaker Ambassador Andrew Young.

In the new relationship, each communion will retain its own identity and decision-making structures, but they will also pledge before God to draw closer in sacred things—including regular sharing of the Lord’s Supper and a common mission, in particular a mission to combat racism together. Each church will also commit itself to undertake an intensive dialogue toward the day when ministers are authorized to serve and lead worship, when invited, in each of the communions.

COCU had its origins in a proposal made by the late Rev. Eugene Carson Blake, a high-ranking

Presbyterian leader, in a historic sermon preached Dec. 6, 1960, at Grace Episcopal Cathedral in San Francisco. Dr. Blake’s sermon became front-page news. It envisioned a new church that would simultaneously be “truly catholic and truly reformed.” Two years later, at COCU’s first plenary, participants agreed to add a third description, “truly evangelical,” to Dr. Blake formula.

The nine member churches include: African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Episcopal Church, International Council of Community Churches, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church.

For additional information, please visit the Web site at [www.cocu.org](http://www.cocu.org) or [www.cuicinfo.org](http://www.cuicinfo.org). For information about the inaugural celebration, please contact Rev. Gordon White at (978) 453-5423 or e-mail [kgordonwhite@msn.com](mailto:kgordonwhite@msn.com).

*Excerpted from Consultation on Church Union materials.*

*For with you is the fountain of life*  
Ps. 36:5-9

**An invitation to celebrate Christian  
community service and commitment**

**Ecumenical Community Worship Service**  
Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2002, 7 p.m.  
Agnes Flanagan Chapel  
Lewis and Clark College  
0615 SW Palatine Hill Road  
Portland, Oregon

**For more information, please call  
EMO at (503) 221-1054.**

## Smith to serve in new interfaith position

The Rev. Melinda Smith, director of EMO’s compassionate care and education program at Hopewell House Hospice Center, has been named EMO director of ecumenical and interfaith relations.



The Rev. Melinda Smith

“This new position was created to enhance EMO’s ecumenical and interfaith programming and cooperative ministry,” stated David Leslie, EMO executive director. “It will also enable EMO to better connect with religious and community groups around the state. We are very pleased Melinda will be serving in this new role.”

Melinda is an ordained Presbyterian minister who received her master’s of divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School. She has served as pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church in Portland, and she worked for EMO’s refugee resettlement program, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR).

Melinda has served on numerous boards and committees, including the Clinical Pastoral Education Program Advisory Board of Legacy Emanuel Hospital. Currently, Melinda serves on the board of directors of the Oregon Hospice Association.

“I am excited about this new role,” Melinda shared. “It will give us the opportunity to further explore important issues from a theological perspective, such as biomedical ethics and justice issues. Part of my role will be to develop activities and events that will help foster dialogue about these issues in the wider ecumenical and interfaith community.”

Melinda’s office is currently at Hopewell House Hospice Center. To reach her, please call (503) 244-7890 ext. 204 or e-mail [msmith@emoregon.org](mailto:msmith@emoregon.org).

## Anne Frank exhibit coming this spring

*“It’s difficult in times like these: ideals, dream and cherished hopes rise within us, only to be crushed by grim reality. It’s a wonder I haven’t abandoned all my ideals, they seem so absurd and impractical. Yet I cling to them because I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart.”*

Anne M. Frank, August 1, 1944

The exhibit entitled *Anne Frank: A History for Today* will be at Lloyd Center in Portland, from April 8 to May 5, 2002. It will serve as the centerpiece attraction for performances, films, lectures, exhibits and other related events dealing with tolerance and human rights. Admission is free. Presented by the American Jewish Committee, the Archdiocese of Portland, First United Methodist Church, the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

**Foster parents make a difference  
in children’s lives.**

**You can too.**

**To learn more, please call (503) 542-2330.**



**THE BOYS & GIRLS AID  
SOCIETY OF OREGON**



## Charitable estate planning benefits

St. Francis of Assisi wrote, “When we die we will not be judged by what we have accumulated, but by what we have given away: our love, our service, and our generosity to others.”

As we plan for the future, a will represents our love, service and generosity to others. Estate planning can also fulfill a desire to support a particular mission or program through a charitable bequest. Here are other benefits of charitable giving to consider:

**Why?** Charitable giving helps you, the donor with:

- a charitable tax deduction
- capital gains tax savings
- income benefits
- estate tax savings

**Why?** Individuals 60+ years of age hold \$8 trillion that will be transferred inter-generationally within the next 20 years.

**Why?** Stats show that in 1990, only 20 percent of the estimated 20 million individuals who died included nonprofit organizations or charities in their wills.

**Why?** By leaving a legacy gift to EMO, you will provide for others. Your estate planning will allow EMO to continue to “Unite People of Faith in Service to Others.”

**How?** EMO staff and staff from the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation are available to assist or provide free consultation. For more information, contact Gordon Dickey, EMO development director, at (503) 221-1054 or by e-mail at [gdickey@emoregon.org](mailto:gdickey@emoregon.org).

# Calendar of Events

## January 29

*Understanding Hospice.* 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Hopewell House Hospice Center, 6171 SW Capitol Hwy. in Portland. This class will provide an introduction to hospice philosophy, hospice team, as well as historical and cultural perspectives. This class is first in a series of six classes entitled "Caring for the Terminally Ill" that will be held on consecutive Tuesday evenings. Classes may be taken as a series or individually. The registration fee is \$10 per class or \$40 for all six classes. For more information or to register, call Janet Snedecor at Hopewell House, (503) 244-7890, ext. 205.

## January 31

*Community Forum on the Portland Harbor Superfund Cleanup.* 7 to 9 p.m. at St. John's Community Center, 8427 N. Central, Portland. The public input component of the Superfund cleanup is an opportunity to become involved in an issue that affects North Portland communities and your family. The forum will introduce participants to the Superfund cleanup and answer any questions people may have. For more information, call Willamette Riverkeeper at (503) 223-6418.

## February 5

*A Nursing Perspective for the Caregiver.* 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Hopewell House Hospice Center, 6171 SW Capitol Hwy. in Portland. Topics covered include physiology of terminal illness, pain and symptom management, and practical comfort care. Cost is \$10. For more information or to register, call Janet Snedecor at Hopewell House, (503) 244-7890, ext. 205.

## February 8 to 10

*Living Life Out of Call.* Location TBA in Portland. Participants will look at the question "Where is God inviting me, at this point and time, to put my life energy?" For more information, contact Journey Into Freedom at (503) 244-4728 or e-mail [mail@journeyintofreedom.org](mailto:mail@journeyintofreedom.org).

## February 9

*Everyday Spirituality.* 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 12405 SW Butner, Beaverton. The second Annual Oregon Synod Lay School of Theology presents this one-day workshop on 21st Century Discipleship and Decision Making with Dr. Martha Storz and the Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker. For further information or to register, contact (541) 346-7546 or e-mail [dglass@kozmail.com](mailto:dglass@kozmail.com).

## February 9 to 10

*Urban Ministry Plunge.* EMO will be conducting an immersion/reflection experience with students from the religion program of George Fox University. EMO offers urban ministry plunge experiences for pastors, youth groups, seniors, students and other interested parties. If you are interested in scheduling an urban ministry plunge for your group, please call Rick Stoller, EMO associate director, at (503) 221-1054.

## February 12

*Getting through the Day: Practical Skills.* 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Hopewell House Hospice Center, 6171 SW Capitol Hwy. in Portland. Topics covered include safely moving a bed-bound person, bed baths and personal care, bed changing, and infection control. Cost is \$10. For more information or to register, call Janet Snedecor at Hopewell House, (503) 244-7890, ext. 205.

## February 19

*Living with Dying.* 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Hopewell House Hospice Center, 6171 SW Capitol Hwy. in Portland. Topics include understanding and coping with psychological and emotional experiences of illness, grief and loss. Cost is \$10. For more information or to register, call Janet Snedecor at Hopewell House, (503) 244-7890, ext. 205.

## February 23 to March 9

*The Orphan Queen.* Performance times vary. The Orphan Queen is a modern musical interpretation of the biblical book of Esther. This west-coast premiere production includes a large cast, colorful Persian-inspired



## January 23

### *Ecumenical Community Worship Service*

7 p.m. Agnes Flanagan Chapel, Lewis and Clark College, 0615 SW Palatine Hill Rd., Portland. In celebration of the 2002 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the theme of the worship service is *For with you is the foundation of life*-Ps 36:5-9. For more information, call Melinda Smith at (503) 244-7890.



## February 28

### *EMO Annual Community Celebration & Awards Dinner*

7 p.m. at the Portland Marriott Downtown Ballroom, 1401 SW Naito Parkway in Portland. Tickets are \$50 each, and sponsors may host a table for 10 for \$500. The annual community celebration will honor the work of EMO as well to celebrate members of the community who have made a difference in Oregon. The awards dinner will honor individuals, congregations and community groups in several categories. For more information, or to order tickets, please call EMO at (503) 221-1054.

costumes and sets, and a jazzy musical score perfect for the entire family! For more information, call (503) 244-0111.

## February 26

*When Communication Gets Tough.* 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Hopewell House Hospice Center, 6171 SW Capitol Hwy. in Portland. Topics covered include understanding the special communication needs of the dying person. Cost is \$10. For more information or to register, call Janet Snedecor at Hopewell House, (503) 244-7890, ext. 205.

## March 1 to 3

*Serving God and Mammon: The Impossible Dream.* Location TBA in Southern Oregon. An examination of how mammon permeates our country and each of our lives, and we will live into an alternative vision. Contact Journey Into Freedom at (503) 244-4728 or e-mail [mail@journeyintofreedom.org](mailto:mail@journeyintofreedom.org).

## March 5

*Finding Meaning and Sustenance.* 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Hopewell House Hospice Center, 6171 SW Capitol Hwy. in Portland. Topics covered include spiritual care perspectives, finding meaning in life and death, and self care for caregivers. Cost is \$10. For more information or to register, call Janet Snedecor at Hopewell House, (503) 244-7890, ext. 205.

## March 7 to 28

*Journey to Absolute Freedom in Indian Religious Traditions.* 7:05 to 8:50 p.m., location TBA in Eugene. Referred to as Moksha, Nirvana, Union with the Divine, etc., the state of Absolute Freedom is considered the desired goal of human life in various religious traditions of India. Presenter, Beena Howard. Classes will be held four consecutive Thursdays. Offered by Lane Institute of Faith and Education. For more information, call (541) 868-1574 or e-mail [life@heartofeugene.org](mailto:life@heartofeugene.org).

## March 9

*Patton Home Garden Opening Celebration.* 10:00 to noon, in the Patton Home Community Room at 4619 N. Michigan Ave., Portland. Sponsored by Friend of Community Gardens, Portland Community Gardens and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns. For more information call (503) 823-1612.

## March 20 to April 1

*Trip of Perspective to Haiti.* Journey into Freedom's trips of perspective are a journey to another world, the world of those that have long experienced oppression. The trips are not to fix the problems, to have answers or even make a difference. Their purpose is to be present, to stand in solidarity with the people, to witness how two-thirds of the world live, and be transformed. (Trip of Perspective to Africa is planned for Oct. 20 to Nov. 9, 2002.) Contact Journey Into Freedom at (503) 244-4728 or e-mail [mail@journeyintofreedom.org](mailto:mail@journeyintofreedom.org).

## April 2 to 30

*The Bible as Literature: The Hero's Journey.* 7 to 9 p.m., Wesley United Methodist Church, 1385 Oakway Rd., Eugene. History comes to us as story—stories told by our ancestors to succeeding generations. For centuries, history among the early Hebrew tribes was oral. This class will use Joseph Campbell's pattern of the hero's journey to examine how the Bible's authors employed drama to capture the audience's attention. Presenter, Charleyne Gates. Classes will be held five consecutive Thursdays. Offered by Lane Institute of Faith and Education. For more information, call (541) 868-1574 or e-mail [life@heartofeugene.org](mailto:life@heartofeugene.org).

## April 7 to May 5

*Anne Frank: A History for Today Exhibit.* Lloyd Center, Portland. This high-profile event is expected to attract 100,000 people, including 20,000 students. Admission is free.

## April 14

*Baby Boomers: What Now? A Community Dialogue.* 1 to 4 p.m., Eugene Water & Electric Training Room (North Bldg), 500 E. 4th, Eugene. With our children leaving home, our parents leaving this world, and our country in a state of flux, many Baby Boomers are wondering "What Now?" Too young and energetic to retire, but too old and wise to continue on the current course too much longer, we are poised to reshape our individual and collective lives. Facilitators: Bess and Barry Nobel. Offered by Lane Institute of Faith and Education. For more information, call (541) 868-1574 or e-mail [life@heartofeugene.org](mailto:life@heartofeugene.org).

To submit calendar items for the *Voice*, please email [showell@emoregon.org](mailto:showell@emoregon.org).