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Peace conference and prayer vigil encourage others to give peace a chance

During the month of May, Portland residents will have an opportunity to explore the global peace movement on the occasion of the visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, May 13 to May 15.

The World Peace Conference will be convened on Tuesday, May 15, from noon to 5 p.m. at Smith Memorial Center Ballroom at Portland State University. Organizers and participants will engage in dialogue concerning world peace issues and how peace can be achieved in our lifetime.

"We have traditionally looked at the problem of world peace in secular terms. This conference looks at it from a spiritual dimension," commented Gary Alan Spanovich, executive director for Holistic Planning Resources, and the World Peace Conference coordinator.

A steering committee representing religion, business and government is responsible for planning the event. The planning committee includes Gary A. Spanovich; David A. Leslie, EMO executive

director; business owner Bob Murase, Murase & Associates; the Rev. Stephen Schneider, pastor of Grace Memorial Episcopal Church; Rabbi Joshua Stampfer of Congregation Neveh Shalom; and the Rt. Rev. Abbot Joseph Wood, OSB of Mt. Angel Monastery.

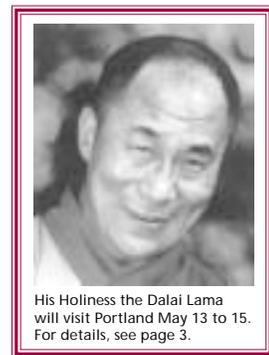
Guest speakers scheduled to appear at this event include Nobel Peace Prize laureates Betty Williams (1976) and Adolfo Pérez Esquivel (1980); Dr. Robert K. Musil, executive director of Physicians for Social Responsibility, the U.S. affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985; Dr. William F. Schulz, executive director of Amnesty International, which was awarded the prize in 1977; world peacemaker Dr. Helen Caldicott; and other peace activists.

Other participants scheduled to appear are the Children's Choir for Peace; Sr. Nirmala, successor to Mother Theresa; and serving as moderators, former U.S. senator Mark O. Hatfield and the Rev. Mary

Manin Morissey of the Living Enrichment Center.

A congregational prayer vigil and interfaith prayer service will take place on Saturday, May 12, at the Temple Neveh Shalom, 2900 Peaceful Lane, Portland.

For tickets for the peace conference, call (503) 725-4195. For information about the prayer vigil, call (503) 221-1054.



Columbia River pastoral letter released

The pastoral letter "The Columbia River Watershed: Caring for Creation and the Common Good" was released on February 22. The timely pastoral letter is the work of 12 Catholic bishops in the international Columbia River watershed region of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia. The letter was formally released at simultaneous press conferences held in Portland and Seattle.

The three-year process to develop the letter included a series of listening sessions to listen to the diverse voices throughout the region and "Reading the Signs of the Times" consultations. In 1999, EMO became involved with the project, and along with other Northwest ecumenical bodies, began to engage Oregon communities to favorably respond to the letter.

The bishops wrote the letter "because we have become concerned about regional economic and ecological conditions and the conflicts over them in the watershed." The

letter is addressed to Catholics and to all people of good will. The bishops indicate that it is their hope "that we might work together to develop and implement an integrated spiritual, social and ecological vision for our watershed home, a vision that promotes justice for people and stewardship of creation."

The 12 bishops who signed the pastoral letter are Archbishop John G. Vlazny, Archdiocese of Portland, Ore.; Archbishop Alex J. Brunett, Archdiocese of Seattle, Wash.; Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen (Retired), Archdiocese of Seattle, Wash.; Bishop William S. Skylstad, Diocese of Spokane, Wash.; Bishop Thomas J. Connolly (Retired), Diocese of Baker, Ore.; Bishop Robert F. Vasa, Diocese of Baker, Ore.; Bishop Eugene J. Cooney, Diocese of Nelson, British Columbia; Bishop Michael P. Driscoll, Diocese of Boise, Idaho; Bishop Robert C. Morlino, Diocese of Helena, Mont.; Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J., Diocese of Yakima, Wash.;

Auxiliary Bishop Kenneth D. Steiner, Archdiocese of Portland, Ore.; and Auxiliary Bishop George L. Thomas, Archdiocese of Seattle, Wash.

The release of the pastoral letter by the 12 bishops not only showed solidarity and support of this issue, but also informed the public on the many uses of the river and the ecological concern of overuse and abuse of the watershed.

"We call for a thorough, humble and introspective evaluation that seeks to eliminate both economic greed that fails to respect the environment, and ecological elitism that lacks a proper regard for the legitimate rights and property of others," the letter states.

The bishops describe the themes of the letter as "biblical and Catholic Church teachings about stewardship; the need to respect nature; and the need to recognize and promote the common good. These themes are consistent with a Christian

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A perspective on faith-based initiatives

As the interest related to President Bush's Faith-Based and Community Initiatives program increases, I find myself saying more and more often, "Working with government has always been a faith-based initiative."

One never knows what tomorrow's politics will bring. Will a current administration's commitment to rural development be on the agenda of the next administration? Will adequately funded support services for older adults, children and people moving from welfare be the order of the day, or will they be lost due to political expediency? Will the religious community's expertise, values and integrity be honored by government, or will the religious community be simply reduced to another prospective provider of services, a convenient way to abdicate the responsibility of ensuring that all people in need are equitably served?

Since the earliest days of this nation, the church—now the broader faith community—and government have found ways to work together to address people's needs. Institutions such as Church World Service, Catholic Charities, Jewish Family and Child Service, Albina Ministerial Alliance and Lutheran Family Services have developed effective and appropriate ways for people of faith to address the needs of people without compromising the integrity of the faith.

Additionally, religious-based community development corporations and community-based cooperative ministries, such as Snow Cap in east Multnomah County and FISh in Roseburg, have allowed the faith

community to develop ministries addressing housing and basic human needs without compromising the integrity of the local congregations.



David Leslie

These ecumenical and interfaith ministries are also effective vehicles for a congregation and its members to share their faith and leverage the public funds needed to address human needs in ways that do not compromise the liturgical and theological integrity of the congregation, nor the important church-state relationship as prescribed in both state and federal constitutions.

Now, in this era of discussion and debate around enhanced government-religious partnerships, it would be tempting to say that the current models of church-state partnerships are adequate and there is no need to review or change current practices. If I were to draw this conclusion, however, I believe that I would be irresponsible. We live at a time in this country when societal problems are immense. Poverty, hunger, illiteracy and inadequate health care have not been eradicated. Everyone who needs adequate and affordable housing or child care in this country does not have it. And every congregation, religious community and denomination that could participate in a social ministry program or poverty reduction program does not.

If we are going to be able to develop big visions and implement major movements to address the causes and effects of poverty in this nation, new and enhanced partnerships between church and state are needed. Religious communities that have not historically been "at the table," but who can reach

people and communities that current governmental agencies and faith-based programs cannot, should be invited to participate. Faith-based programs often have the ability to reach underserved populations that governmental or other nonprofit organizations cannot. Faith-based programs often employ methods of serving that address both physical and spiritual needs, leading to positive results unobtainable by other approaches.

Enhanced church-state partnerships, however, should not translate into diminished levels of accountability. When governmental—that is, public—funds are involved, it is critical that the recipient of such funds have the capacity to use and account for the funds appropriately. It is also important that those faith-based organizations that decide to partner with government avoid sectarian proselytizing. It is also important that all people who are eligible for the service are served regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation or religious affiliation—or lack thereof. If a religious organization does not want to adhere to these requirements, no problem, it simply should not seek governmental funding to carry out its ministries.

While details related to the implementation of the administration's Faith-Based and Community Initiatives are limited, we have a good opportunity to share our commitment to collaboration and our expertise as developers of highly effective cooperative ministries and services. It is important that we share our expectations and concerns with the new administration and our elected officials now, so that as programs are developed, they are done so in a way that keeps central the integrity of both church and state alike. Your voice and vision are needed, and they are needed now.

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

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
- With capital gains tax savings
- With income benefits
- With estate tax savings

Why? \$8.5 trillion is held by individuals 60+ years of age, and 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.

voice

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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
Diocese of Oregon—Episcopal Church in Western Oregon
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Greek Orthodox Church • Presbyterian Church USA
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ, Latter Day Saints
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland
United Church of Christ • United Methodist Church
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches
Designated Member: Church Women United

EMO celebrates recent grant awards

The board of directors and staff extend their appreciation to the many supporters who have given their time, treasures and talents in support of the program ministries of EMO. The following is a partial list of financial donations awarded to EMO by congregations, businesses and foundations.

| Program | Award | Donor |
|-----------------------|-----------|--|
| EMO Annual Fund | \$150,000 | Collins Foundation* |
| HIV Day Center | \$5,200 | PGE-Enron Foundation |
| Hopewell House | \$10,000 | Phileo Foundation |
| INEC and OIPL | \$25,000 | Portland General Electric Co. |
| INEC | \$3,000 | Jackson Foundation |
| NE Emergency Food | \$3,000 | Irwin Foundation |
| NE Emergency Food | \$3,000 | Jackson Foundation |
| NE Emergency Food | \$2,000 | Phileo Foundation |
| Parent Mentor Program | \$30,000 | Collins Foundation |
| Parent Mentor Program | \$13,000 | Northwest Health Foundation |
| Parent Mentor Program | \$6,000 | Hoover Family Foundation |
| Patton Home | \$20,000 | Collins Foundation |
| Patton Home | \$1,000 | Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon |
| ROSS | \$8,300 | Susan G. Komen Foundation |
| PICS | \$14,000 | June & Julian Foss Foundation |

*This award includes a \$75,000 challenge of dollar for dollar.

Northeast Emergency Food Program addresses hunger in the neighborhood

EMO's Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) is meeting the urgent food needs of north and northeast Portland neighbors while working to develop community solutions to secure access to adequate, affordable and healthy food for all. The program is currently distributing nutritionally balanced food boxes to over 1,200 people in need each month. In addition, a neighborhood food workshop series has been initiated in an effort to provide a forum for neighbors to come together and share their food-related skills, identify local food resources, and encourage nutritional awareness.

The work of the Northeast Emergency Food Program is a shared ministry, supported largely through active church involvement. Local congregations collectively contributed over \$25,000 in financial support for the food program in 2000. In addition, the equitable and dignified service we provide is a direct reflection of our committed volunteers, many of whom are congregational representatives. Parish support extends beyond financial contributions and volunteer involvement. Twenty local churches regularly participate in our annual Christmas in July food drive and hunger awareness campaign.

NEFP will benefit from the Starbucks Coffee Company's community consciousness and eagerness to promote neighborhood responses to neighborhood issues. Throughout the month of June, NEFP will be featured in ten eastside Starbucks stores. The educational campaign will primarily focus on hunger awareness and how to participate in neighborhood-based solutions to address hunger.

Starbucks employees will volunteer at the NEFP location to learn how the work of NEFP fits into the larger food system. In addition, NEFP volunteers will talk with customers at designated Starbucks locations, sharing information about the food program. The partnership will also include a food collection on behalf of NEFP at Starbucks stores in late June.

NEFP appreciates Starbucks' commitment to the community and the partnership that has been developed to assist the agency in serving those in

need. Volunteer opportunities abound in assisting with this partnership!

The Northeast Emergency Food Program is one of 280 local network agencies of the Oregon Food Bank. The Oregon Food Bank recovers food by



cultivating relationships with food processors, transport companies, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. The Oregon Food Bank also receives nonperishable food from community-based food drives. In addition, the Oregon Food Bank administers Federal USDA surplus commodities allotted specifically to emergency

food providers. Approximately 65 percent of the total food distributed to families in need comes via a weekly delivery from the Oregon Food Bank. The remaining 35 percent is direct in-kind support from local churches and businesses.

The Northeast Emergency Food Program continues to see an increasing dependence on the emergency food system. Over one-third of the families served have at least one employed adult. However, the average annual median income of people served is around \$8,000. Most adult guests are working, retired or disabled. Many are frequently underemployed, with low-wage, part-time or seasonal jobs, facing high housing costs and often attempting to balance employment with child care. Slightly under 50 percent of those served by the NEFP are children.

Poverty and hunger are incredibly complex issues. The solution to food security is entangled somewhere within the issues of public policy, livable wages, affordable housing, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, and our ability to demonstrate simple compassion and respect for one another. Food, being the most basic of human needs, is a tangible issue for richly diverse communities to come together around. Amidst the many multifaceted barriers within the sphere of poverty, the Northeast Emergency Food Program provides a warm and welcoming place for individuals and families to be nourished.

For more information about NEFP's efforts to provide solutions to food security, please contact Jennifer Core at (503) 284-5470 or by e-mail at nepf@emoregon.org.

Columbia River pastoral letter released

Continued from page 1

belief that the earth is a creation of God intended to serve the needs of all creation." These themes relate to "caring for creation," "caring for community," and "caring for our common home."

The bishops consider the "rivers of our responsibility" as the final level of reflection in their letter. In this section the bishops propose ten "considerations for community projects to renew the watershed." These are the ten considerations:

1. Consider the common good
2. Conserve the watershed as a common good
3. Conserve and protect species
4. Respect the dignity and traditions of the region's indigenous peoples
5. Promote justice for the poor, linking economic justice and environmental justice
6. Promote community resolution of economic and ecological issues
7. Promote social and ecological responsibility among reductive and reproductive enterprises

8. Conserve energy and establish environmentally integrated alternative energy sources

9. Respect ethnic and racial cultures, citizens and communities

10. Integrate transportation and recreation needs with a sustainable ecosystem

The letter concludes with the bishops identifying the big task of balancing the various needs of the watershed region, yet acknowledging the region's capability to meet the challenge. "It is a challenge worthy of the men and women who inhabit this watershed. It is a challenge that will test the resolve of us all. Such a challenge can be met only with faith in God, faith in one another and mutual cooperation."

For more information on the pastoral letter "The Columbia River Watershed: Caring for Creation and the Common Good," call John Reid, project manager, at (206) 729-3737 or visit the Web site at www.columbiariver.org.

Creating a hate-free zone: Ten Ways to Fight Hate

In response to the recent hate crimes within the southeast Portland neighborhoods, local neighborhood groups are organizing intervention efforts to educate their communities on how to diffuse possible hate crimes. Community organizers are calling on the community to stand against this movement and have offered the following suggestions:

Ten Ways to Fight Hate

1. Act
2. Unite
3. Support victims
4. Do your homework
5. Create alternatives
6. Speak up
7. Lobby leaders
8. Look long-range
9. Teach tolerance
10. Dig deeper

For more detailed information on crime prevention or community involvement, call Marcia Dennis or Rhetta Drennan, crime prevention specialists, at (503) 232-0010 or Jan Jones, public safety assistant, at (503) 988-6127, ext. 230.

Portland hosts Pathways to Peace festival

The Northwest Tibetan Cultural Association (NWTCA) is hosting a communitywide festival called "Pathways to Peace" on May 13 to 15 in Portland. The keynote speaker for the festival will be the Dalai Lama, spiritual advisor and political leader of the Tibetan people, who will speak about the power of compassion and nonviolence.

Events scheduled during his visit include these:

- A "Welcoming Celebration" of the Dalai Lama's arrival in Portland at Pioneer Courthouse Square on Sunday, May 13.
- The Amala Peace Walk, a one-mile walk for peace that ends at Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square in time to welcome the Dalai Lama on May 13.
- "Generating a Good Heart and Awakening the Mind," a two-day teaching at the Earle A. and Virginia H. Chiles Center, University of Portland, on Monday and Tuesday, May 14 and 15.
- A youth summit on nonviolence for selected Oregon and southwest Washington high school students at Portland's Memorial Coliseum on Monday, May 14.
- A luncheon at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Portland to benefit the NWTCA on Tuesday, May 15.

Festival organizers hope that the Pathways to Peace festival will help unite people seeking great wisdom about peace with local peace leaders in Oregon as well as national leaders.

The NWTCA was established in 1994 to support cultural activities for Tibetans who make their home in Oregon and southwest Washington.

For more information, please contact Gary Spanovich at (503) 222-7172 or by e-mail at info@nwtca.org, or visit the Web site at www.nwtca.org.

PICS celebrates Class of 2001

At 7:00 in the evening on Friday, January 26, Portland International Community School (PICS) honored its first graduating class. PICS is one of many direct service programs offered through the collaborative efforts of faith groups and individuals responding together to meet the needs of Oregonians. PICS, an alternative high school, provides a learning environment in which students of diverse cultural experiences can work at appropriate skill levels, attend classes designed to meet their needs, and receive the individual attention and support they require to succeed. Until this year, PICS had been a transition program, able to award high school credit but not high school diplomas. Many of its former students transferred from PICS to a public high school or to the PCC high school completion program only two or three credits shy of graduation. Last fall, after seven years of taking students to the brink of graduation and then sending them away, PICS was awarded its Candidate Certificate of Accreditation by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, qualifying the school to keep its students through their graduation and award them its own diplomas.

Although January graduation ceremonies are highly unusual, so is PICS, and students who have overcome great obstacles to graduate deserve the opportunity to receive their diplomas immediately. The staff wasted no time in planning a commencement program for the prospective graduates. Rachel Baldwin, vice principal, made the invitations. Ellen Irish, principal, designed the programs. Michael Gourski, computer instructor, designed the diplomas, which featured a drawing of the school by art instructor Aaron Goodrich. Speech teacher Justin Dawes prepared the commencement address.

Local café owner Anne Hughes extended her hospitality by hosting the event at her café and generously contributed to providing caps and gowns for the graduates. Staff and students deeply appreciated her in-kind donations and the support by others, too.

Currently there are 44 students enrolled in PICS from ten countries. Six are due to graduate in June 2001.

For more information on PICS, contact Ellen Irish at (503) 232-5333 or by e-mail at pics@emoregon.org.

EMO's refugee program moves to a new home

EMO's refugee resettlement program, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR), recently moved to a new office building.

The new office is located at 2906 NE Glisan, Portland, Oregon 97232. The phone and fax numbers will remain the same: (503) 284-3002 and (503) 284-6445.

SOAR, a program within EMO's Refugee and Immigration Ministries (RIM) and an affiliate of Church World Service, links sponsors, congregations, friends and community organizations with refugees before they arrive in the United States. SOAR offers comprehensive refugee resettlement services to assist refugees and immigrants in becoming self-sufficient, integrated community members in the United States.

For more information on SOAR, contact Ann Stephani at (503) 284-3002 or by e-mail at soar@emoregon.org.

Come share yo

A new president, a new be

On February 22, at Tigard United Methodist Church, celebrants attended Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's annual worship service and awards dinner, entitled "Come Share Your Faith—A Time For New Beginnings."

The annual celebration began with an ecumenical worship service in the sanctuary, where the Rt. Rev. William O. Gregg, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, delivered the homily. The interfaith service concluded with a spirit-filled musical presentation by A*G*A*P*E Youth Workshop Choir of Allen Temple, under the direction of the Rev. René Ward.

Immediately following the ecumenical service, guests convened in the main hall for an awards dinner, where they were greeted by Lori Brocker, former president of the EMO board of directors, who transferred her presidential powers to the newly elected president, Virginia Roberts.

"EMO has benefited greatly from Lori's leadership as president, and I look forward to working with her in the future as a member of the board of directors," stated Roberts.

A longtime supporter of EMO, Roberts was officially installed as EMO's new president and presided over the awards dinner festivities, which included the installation of new officers—the Rev. Dr. Wesley Taylor, president-elect; the Rev. Ronald Williams, secretary; and Robert Morris Smith, treasurer—as well as an acknowledgment of outgoing board members Father James Retalas, Roger Wirt, Rodney Landes, and Tim Volpert.

In addition, new board members were introduced: the Rev. Canon Marianne Wells Borg, the Center for Spiritual Development; the Rev. Benjamin Dake, Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church; the Rev. Patricia Ross, First Congregational United Church of Christ; and Dr. Hyong



EMO's 2001 Employee Recognition Awards

EMO congratulates the 2001 Employee Recognition Award winners. Employees were nominated by their peers and selected by a screening committee, based on their spirit of commitment, exuberance and innovation. Here are this year's honorees:

Client Service Award

HIV DAY CENTER
Lowen Berman
Julie Close
Megan Franklin
Russ Miller
Mara Steen
Tim Tommaso

Pulling Together in Partnership Award

SHARED HOUSING
Laura Baumeister

Thinking Outside the Box Award

NORTHEAST EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM
Jennifer Core
SOAR
Olga Dedulin

Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award

SOAR
Scott Furrow
HIV DAY CENTER/HOPEWELL HOUSE
Tim Tommaso

Share your faith

resident, a new beginning

Rhew, a professor of Chinese studies at Reed College.

A "State of EMO" address given by David A. Leslie, EMO's executive director, highlighted EMO's achievements and its future plans.

During the awards dinner, hosted by the Rev. Wes Taylor, pastor of Tigard United Methodist Church, several persons and organizations were honored with commemorative plaques for their commitment toward ecumenism in the Northwest. This year the Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award was presented to Ann Shepherd, and the Ecumenist of the Year Award was presented to the Rev. Dr. F. Wayne Bryant.

In addition, three organizations were presented with the Ecumenical Service Award: Tigard United Methodist Church (Tigard), Ainsworth United Church of Christ (Portland), and RVIRNet (Rogue Valley). Lastly, the Parenting for Peace and Justice Family Camp organizations were presented the Two Pauls Award.

Concluding the evening was a video entitled "Building on Faith," produced by Sue Arbutnot and Richard Wilhelm of Hare Productions. The 12-minute video featured EMO's ministries and the people who unselfishly give of their time and talents. Robertson gave closing remarks and extended an invitation to "Come Share Your Faith" by supporting EMO with a financial contribution. "We understand the need for continued fundraising and the development of endowments, as well as long-term funding sources for all the ministries which make up Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon."

On the following morning, board members reassembled at Tigard United Methodist Church for an all-day retreat to reflect on EMO's accomplishments and set future objectives.



Building communities with cooperative housing

Since its inception in 1982, EMO's Shared Housing program has challenged the Portland metropolitan community to look at low-income housing in new ways. By empowering individuals to make informed decisions with regard to home-sharing, Shared Housing promotes affordable housing and community building across socioeconomic, race and generation lines. Shared Housing addresses issues of displacement, offering people ways to remain in their increasingly unaffordable homes. In 2000, Shared Housing created approximately 174 new units of low-income housing without lifting a brick.

Beyond the basic services of matching homeowners with people who need homes, the Shared Housing program recently added two new projects. In October, the state of Oregon's Department of Human Services awarded EMO funds to hire an outreach worker to promote the expansion of cooperative households for recovering addicts. Michael Morgester was hired after having spent six years starting recovery homes through Oxford House Inc., a national volunteer-based organization dedicated to democratically run, self-operated cooperative recovery housing.

According to Morgester, the vision of the collaboration between the recovery community and EMO is "to open the eyes of broader community to the process [of recovery]. I want to show the faith community of Oregon that one way to address issues of addiction is to support individuals in recovery with safe housing options." While Oxford House Inc. has established 62 houses in Oregon, the presence of a paid outreach worker is now opening up areas of the state, such as Eastern Oregon, that previously offered no such housing alternative.

A Bureau of Housing and Community Development grant has allowed EMO to partner with Hispanic Access Center, a local agency serving the needs of the Latino population of the Portland area. The result is the creation of Casa Comunidad, a cooperative living community for low-income, Spanish-speaking men. Located in outer southeast Portland, Casa Comunidad is a five-bedroom home nestled off the busy streets in a quiet neighborhood. Building on Oxford House ideas of maintaining a democratic, self-sufficient cooperative household, the men living in the Casa rotate house chores and responsibilities and meet weekly to discuss and vote on household issues. Casa Comunidad opened in late December and currently has two vacancies. It is the hope of project organizers that this particular model of cooperative housing will be adapted by other agencies that seek to establish low-cost housing alternatives for their clients in an increasingly unaffordable housing market.

The future of Shared Housing depends on an expanding definition of low-income housing in the Portland area. As the population grows in number and diversity and housing prices continue to increase, alternatives must be found to protect the economically vulnerable. Sharing housing, whether between two individuals or 12, is one way to use existing housing resources in a way that is both environmentally sound and inexpensive and also encourages neighborhood diversity. Intentional cooperative models such as Oxford House and Casa Comunidad are a method of applying the shared housing model on a larger scale. As the Shared Housing program continues to evolve, it is hoped that our ideas and projects will help the Portland community confront tough housing issues proactively and creatively.

For more information on Shared Housing, contact Erica Nelson or Laura Baumeister at (503) 225-9924 or by e-mail at housing@emoregon.org.

EMO celebrates volunteers

On April 5, EMO volunteers were honored with a reception at Grace Memorial Episcopal Church, 1535 NE 17th Ave., Portland. Now in its second year, the annual event provides an opportunity for EMO to say "Thank You" to the people who volunteer in all aspects of EMO's community ministries.

"The gifts of our volunteers are at the heart of every program at EMO," said Executive Director David Leslie.

Last year, EMO's community ministries benefited from over 41,158 hours of service provided by 1,488 volunteers who assisted the interfaith, nonprofit organization with meeting its annual ministry goals.

Volunteer opportunities vary widely at EMO, from packing food boxes for a hungry family of five at the Northeast Emergency Food Program, to delivering hot lunches to homebound clients via the Daily Bread Express program offered by the HIV Day Center.

"EMO volunteers are a valuable asset to our community ministries," commented Mindy Becker, human resources director. "They not only contribute their talents, perspectives, and experiences, but also offer inspiration and encouragement to others."

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at EMO, please contact Mindy Becker at (503) 221-1054 or by e-mail at mbecker@emoregon.org.

Keeping promises

When the legislative session opened in January, advocacy groups from across the state wasted little time in voicing their opposition to certain proposed cuts in the governor's budget. Protests were heard from higher education, seniors, and other groups with strong, well-organized advocacy efforts.

But in addition to proposing cuts to important senior services, state police, corrections, and higher education, the governor's initial budget slashed job retention supports for low-wage workers leaving welfare, as well as other important services for our vulnerable neighbors. And because the working poor have so little in the way of resources (time, reliable transportation, disposable income) with which to fund or mount an effective lobbying effort, there was no rally on the capitol steps to express outrage regarding these cuts.

In March, the revised revenue forecast estimated a net reduction in general fund revenues for the biennium of approximately \$100 million. The governor rebalanced his budget in response to the revised forecast, but neither the governor's revised budget nor the budget proposed by the Joint Ways and Means Committee co-chairs reflects concern about cuts in critical services for the working poor.

Meanwhile, Democratic leaders have criticized Republican leaders for making promises they can't keep—to restore funding for seniors and universities—and neither side has proposed a comprehensive plan for increasing revenues or using existing revenues to underwrite those promises.

Oregon's faith community is concerned about another promise, made almost a decade ago to working poor families. It was a promise made by state government to encourage many families to take the important first steps toward independence from public assistance. In 1994, when Oregon sought a federal waiver to initiate what became known as "welfare reform," it was done with a promise of continued support to those who needed it most. The promise, put succinctly by Department of Human Resources Director Gary Weeks to the Portland City Club in 1998, was: "In Oregon, when you leave welfare, supports follow you."

In spite of these promises, every proposed budget on the table in Salem today reflects a direct hit to working families struggling to survive. Are the supports in question still needed? Yes, and perhaps more now than ever. A recent University of Oregon survey found that of those Oregonians who left welfare or food stamp programs two years ago, roughly one-third are unemployed. Of those who do work, roughly half are living at or below the federal poverty level. In fact, poverty among working families with children in Oregon has more than doubled since 1977. We also know that Oregon is currently ranked by the USDA as the hungriest state in the nation—despite a commitment by the legislature in 1989 "to eradicate hunger in Oregon by the year 2000."

Three hundred thousand Oregonians lack health insurance, 68,000 of whom are children. According to the Northwest Job Gap Study, the living wage for

a single adult in Oregon with two children is \$16 an hour, while 77 percent of all job openings in the state pay less than that. The annual cost of child care in Oregon averages between \$4,000 and \$6,000 for one child—and this cost is not reflected in federal poverty guidelines. Oregon taxes low-income families at rates higher than most other states, and our threshold is lower than most other states. In 1999, for example, Oregon began taxing a family of four at \$14,400, while the income threshold in neighboring California was \$35,500.

Is this really the time to cut job retention supports such as child care subsidies and job training? By contrast, 17 states have *increased* their cash assistance to those families who are still—for a variety of reasons—unemployable and who face a slowing economy in the near-term.

This month, EMO advocates are joining with others in the faith community across Oregon to mount what we've named the Campaign for Fairness. This campaign will call for restoration of critical supports to our most vulnerable families. EMO will also urge lawmakers to use available revenues, such as the "kicker," and seek new sources of revenue as necessary to fund these supports. Please watch for specific information soon in a mass mailing to congregations statewide, including a postcard campaign to our elected representatives. EMO invites you to join us in urging our representatives to ensure that our promises are kept.

You can reach Enid Edwards at (503) 221-1054 or by e-mail at eedwards@emoregon.org.

Plugging into the Legislature

You can voice your opinion or get information concerning a bill, your legislators' activities, or a committee hearing via mail, telephone, or Internet. Here's how:

Mail

Address letters to your legislator to: Senator (Representative) Name, State Capitol, Salem, OR 97310.

Telephone

Using the Legislative Information and Citizen Access Line, you may leave a voicemail message for one or more legislators or speak to an operator to request a copy of a bill or information concerning a bill's status or a committee

meeting. Within Salem, call (503) 986-1187. During the session, Oregon callers outside of Salem can use a toll-free number: (800) 332-2313. (Note: You may leave one message for multiple legislators by naming each intended recipient at the beginning of the message.) Your message will be forwarded.

If you wish to receive a copy of the minutes from a particular hearing on a bill (free of charge), ask to be forwarded to Committee Records or call that office directly at (503) 986-1182.

For the *2001 Oregon Legislative Guide*, a comprehensive digest of information on Senate and House districts, elected representatives, statutory committees, and the legislative process, call (503) 986-1180 or write to: Legislative Administration,

Legislative Publications/Distribution, 900 Court St. NE, Room 49, Salem, OR 97301. There is a \$2 fee for each copy.

Internet

Visit the Web site at www.leg.state.or.us for access to a wealth of information concerning bills, on-line access to live committee proceedings, and elected representatives.

Also, please join EMO's e-mail-based advocacy network for timely notice of hearings on bills of interest as well as background research on a variety of issues that we follow. This service is provided by EMO free of charge. To join, please contact Drew Strayer at EMO at (503) 221-1054.

Tools for effective advocacy

At the Interfaith Advocacy Day in Salem this February, Lutheran advocate Norene Goplen and Presbyterian advocate and former state representative Anitra Kitts Rasmussen reminded participants that legislators do pay close attention to the views of their constituents. Here are some suggestions for effective advocacy:

Whether communicating by mail, phone, or in person:

1. Identify yourself as a constituent and include your name and address.
2. Be brief and specific about a bill or issue. Identify bills by number or a concise description (write, for example, "Restore Cuts to TANF").
3. State clearly the result you seek.

In e-mail correspondence, incorporate steps (1) through (3) above into the subject line. For example, your subject line may read: "A Constituent Urges You to Vote 'No' on House Bill XXXX."

Don't "let the perfect be the enemy of the good."

It is sufficient to let your legislators know that a proposed policy does not reflect your faith or sense of justice. Share your personal experience or perspec-

tive, or briefly refer to the social principles of your denomination. You needn't know all the answers in order to testify or write an effective letter.

Face-to-face visits are the most effective form of advocacy.

Take advantage of legislator visits to your district, get to know the staff, and don't hesitate to call for a brief appointment if you're going to be in Salem.

One of the best ways to get information concerning a bill or to express your opinion regarding its merits is to attend committee meetings personally. These meetings are open to the public and held in the Capitol building according to a published schedule. If the meeting is characterized as a "hearing," you may ask to testify by adding your name to the sign-in sheet at the door. Personal testimony is very welcome. People who have traveled more than 100 miles to attend a hearing generally testify first. You may testify along with one or two other people if you wish. The process is simple, and you only need remember one courtesy, i.e., to address the committee through the committee chair. (That is, begin your remarks with "Madame Chair, Members of the Committee . . ." and respond to questions with "Chairman Jones, Representative Smith . . .") If you wish to testify at a

hearing, it's a good idea to call committee staff in advance to ascertain their preferences concerning copies of written testimony. If your elected representative serves on the committee, a courtesy call to his or her staff in advance is appreciated.

EMO's director of public policy advocacy is available to answer any questions or to accompany you to a legislator's office or committee hearing at any time. Call Enid Edwards at (503) 221-1054.

Phone calls also can be very effective.

And they are an easy way to thank your legislator.

Written communication:

1. Handwritten or typed personal notes are best. Be sure to include your address on the letter itself. If you can, provide two copies of the letter; one copy will go into the bill file that your legislator takes onto the floor when the bill comes to a vote.
2. If your comments are communicated via electronic mail, it's best to write your own message—as opposed to signing onto a broadcast message. Remember that your physical address doesn't show in an e-mail message unless you write it in.

OIPL: Power to the people

People of faith have the power to slow global warming. This is the message of EMO's newly launched Oregon Interfaith Power and Light (OIPL) program. The purpose of OIPL is to educate congregations and their members about the power of the choices we make about energy and our role as citizens, and to enable actions that make a difference. Portland General Electric and the Bullitt Foundation provided start-up funding for OIPL.

With recent reports of the seriousness of global warming and the Northwest energy crisis, the time has never been better to get our own houses in order, our houses of worship and the houses we live in. OIPL provides the spiritual foundations and tools to act. "Our energy use has a profound impact on the health of our communities and environment. How can communities of faith not be involved when it touches on everything we care about?" said Jenny Holmes, program director of EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns.

One key component of the OIPL program is to encourage congregations to purchase green energy. According to the Northwest Power Planning Council, green energy is energy produced with a minimum of pollution and other environmental impact from technologies like solar and wind. About 40 percent of the electricity used in the Northwest is generated by fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are the main contributors of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas. Individuals and congregations can purchase green energy by signing up for an extra monthly payment on electric bills. The more people who purchase green energy, the greater the demand for green energy in marketplace, and the more green energy will come

on line. The marketplace will be a vital place for people to act.

Energy efficiency is also a key component of OIPL. It is hoped that through the program, the energy saved will reduce the pressure to build natural gas turbines for generating electricity. By saving energy, congregations and individuals will be able to have the extra money available to invest in green energy. However, OIPL believes that cost is not the only issue in purchasing energy. Faith compels us to consider impacts of energy sources on health, social justice and the environment.



How your congregation can get involved

OIPL plans to involve at least 50 congregations in the program in the first year. Program aspects include presentations on the program, technical assistance with forming a green team, workshops and trainings, as well as ongoing technical support to congregations working on energy efficiency. On May 27 in Portland, OIPL will offer a special workshop called "Cool Congregations: Congregations Caring for Our Climate" to introduce OIPL, explore models of congregational action, and provide skill-building opportunities. To sign up for the workshop or a presentation for your congregation, call (503) 244-8318.



The Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation presented EMO with the 2001 Founders' Award on February 24 in recognition of a valued commitment to further the quality of life for the people of the Northwest and as a community leader on the issue of caregiving, for Hopewell House, a hospice center meeting the needs of the terminally ill and their families. Pictured (left to right): Frost Comer, volunteer at Hopewell House; David A. Leslie, EMO executive director; the Rev. Melinda Smith, EMO director of compassionate care, and Roger Wirt, former EMO board member.

World Council of Churches encourages countries to work toward ratification of Kyoto Protocol

"The rejection of the Kyoto Protocol by the Bush administration is a betrayal of their responsibilities as global citizens," said Dr. David Hallman, the World Council of Churches (WCC) climate change program coordinator, in a response to the decision of the U.S. government to reject an international treaty designed to combat global warming. The United States, with four percent of the world's population, emits 25 percent of the global emissions that are leading to climate change.

The WCC Central Committee, meeting in Potsdam on January 29 to February 6, reaffirmed its position that "industrialized countries bear the major moral responsibility for precipitating climate change and therefore must exercise leadership that results in real action to reduce the causes."

Hallman, a member of the United Church of Canada, noted that there is increasing evidence that vulnerable peoples, especially in the poorer countries, are already suffering from the impacts of human-induced climate change. He pointed to the past two

years of devastating floods in Mozambique, rising sea levels in the Pacific Islands, and persistent years of drought in Africa.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a scientific body that advises the United Nations, reported earlier this year that "there is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities."

Hallman stated that the climate change issue will continue regardless of the recent rejection: "If the U.S. walks away from the Kyoto Protocol, it just means that another treaty with even more ambitious targets will have to be negotiated in the future as evidence of the devastating impacts of climate change mounts. We encourage all other countries to continue working toward the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol regardless of the U.S. action."

For further information, visit the Web site at www.wcc-coe.org or send email to ka@wcc-coe.org.

Global Warming Campaign takes root in region

The Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign is taking root in communities across Oregon. Participants in the October 2000 training event at Silver Falls State Park are organizing regional conferences to build teams of people who will be able to work together on strategies unique to their regions.

Also, dozens of congregations are involved in educating their members about global warming, and campaign subgroups on public policy and media outreach are energetically following the campaign publicity. The campaign has substantially deepened its relationship with other organizations working on global warming, including the Global Greenhouse Network and the Oregon Environmental Council.

Regional conferences are essential to bringing the message of the campaign to diverse communities in Oregon. The objectives of the conferences are to explore global warming as a religious issue and encourage congregations, households and communities to take immediate action in response to this issue. Each regional conference will be tailored to the interests and needs of the region in which it is held. Conferences planned thus far include the following:

Medford: April 29. **Honoring and Healing the Creation: Faith Communities Respond to Global Warming.** Medford Congregational United Church of Christ, 1801 E. Jackson St., Medford. A resource fair will be held from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., and presentations run from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Activities and exhibits are scheduled featuring displays, consultants and cleaner models of transportation. Topics of discussion include the reality of global warming, faith perspectives, and meeting the challenge of global warming.

Portland: May 27. **Cool Congregations: Congregations Caring for Our Climate.** Congregation Neveh Shalom, Portland, 1:15 to 6 p.m. The workshop will highlight Northwest congregations and their efforts to address global warming, as well as share successful congregational models for education and action. The workshop will focus on the following topics: how to form a Green Team in your congregation, energy efficiency and auditing, transforming your church into a "green" building, and financing energy efficiency.

The Dalles: June 9. **Global Warming and Eastern Oregon.** UCC Congregational Church, 111 E 5th St., The Dalles, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Presentations will explore how global warming may impact eastern Oregon, renewable energy for rural areas, agriculture and global warming and religious perspectives.

Eugene: October 7. First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St., Eugene.

For more information about OIPL and related events, contact Jenny Holmes at (503) 244-8318 or by e-mail at inec@emoregon.org.

Calendar of Events

April 17 and 24

LIFE! Spring Class: Mysticism. 7 to 8:30 p.m., St. Jude Catholic Church, 4330 Willamette, Eugene. Lane Institute of Faith & Education (LIFE), an affiliate of EMO, presents a four-part interfaith series on mysticism. Guest lecturers include Joel Morwood, Rabbi Hanan Sills, Ruthann Duncan, and Imam Tamman Adi. For more information, call (541) 344-1425 or send e-mail to Life@heartofeugene.org.

April 20

MHAAO Open House. 4 to 7 p.m., MHAAO Facility, Rose City Village Office, 1610 NE 66th Ave., Portland. The Multicultural HIV/AIDS Alliance of Oregon will have an Open House to celebrate its new facility. For further information, contact Lena Palacios at (503) 408-6993.

April 28

Procession of the Species. Portland. Sponsored by the Earth and Spirit Council. For more information, call (503) 452-4483.

April 29

The Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign Regional Conference. 12:30 to 5:30 p.m., Medford Congregational United Church of Christ, 1801 E Jackson St., Medford. Spearheaded by EMO and its Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC), this is the first of four conferences bringing the message and tools of the Global Warming Campaign to communities around Oregon by exploring immediate action that can be taken in our congregations, households and communities. For further information, contact Jenny Holmes at (503) 244-8318.

April 29 to 30

15th Annual Mary McConnell Symposium. Alton L. Collins Retreat Center, 32867 SE Hwy. 211, Eagle Creek. Guest speakers Dr. Kathryn Breazeale and Dr. John J. Carey will discuss the theory and practice of "covenantal relations" during this two-day retreat. For more information, call (503) 637-6411 or send e-mail to alcr@teleport.com.

April 30 to May 3

2001 National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU). "I am the Way, the Truth & the Life." San Diego. A three-day seminar where ideas and experiences are exchanged among people who are concerned with Christian unity and how to overcome the divisions that exist. For more information, contact the Rev. Canon Kenneth Treat at (619) 596-3345 or by e-mail at kady@cts.com.

May 1

Principal for a Day (PEAD). Portland. Provides an opportunity to go beyond the headlines and experience public education in action. A select group of business and civic leaders will have a firsthand opportunity to appreciate both the strengths of our public schools and the challenges they face. For more information, contact Jayme Armstrong at the Portland Schools Foundation, (503) 234-5404.

May 4

Restorative Justice: An Alternative Approach To Crime and Punishment. 7 to 9 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Collins Hall, SW 18th and Jefferson, Portland. This event is free and is sponsored by the Western Prison Project. For more information, call (503) 335-8449.

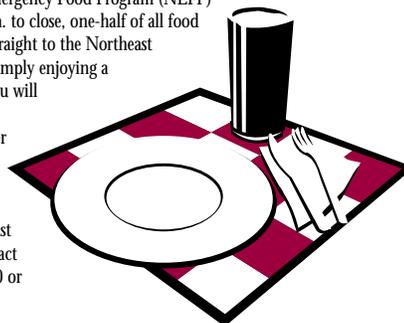
May 4 to 6

Ministry of Money: Oregon Basic Workshop. Menucah Retreat & Conference Center. A three-day workshop designed to help individuals "examine the power of money" in their lives and its impact on families, institutions, national priorities and international relationships. For more information, call (541) 593-7351 or send e-mail to judyo@minimitter.com.

Benefit night for NEFP on May 7 at the Bagdad Theater and Pub

McMenamins Bagdad Theater and Pub will host a benefit night for EMO's Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) on Monday, May 7. From 5 p.m. to close, one-half of all food and beverage proceeds will go straight to the Northeast Emergency Food Program. By simply enjoying a meal with friends and family, you will support NEFP!

McMenamins Bagdad Theater and Pub is located at SE 37th and Hawthorne in Portland. For more information, or to make a donation to the Northeast Emergency Food Program, contact Jennifer Core at (503) 284-5470 or nefp@emoregon.org. See you on May 7!



May 9

Faith-based Affordable Housing Network Meeting. 1 to 3 p.m., location to be announced. The network is a way for faith-based affordable housing providers to get to know each other's projects, generate ideas for their projects and connect with resources. Held the second Wednesday of each month through June. For details, call (503) 225-9924 or send e-mail to housing@emoregon.org.

May 9 to 10

12th Annual Northwest Spring Symposium. Portland State University and Oregon Convention Center. This two-day event will feature an awards luncheon, foundation meetings, events for board members and executive directors, classes for those new to nonprofit and more. For information, call (503) 797-2668 or send e-mail to inpm@pdx.edu.

May 13

Dalai Lama Welcoming Celebration. Noon to 6 p.m., Pioneer Courthouse Square, Portland. His Holiness the Dalai Lama will be welcomed formally to the city of Portland. He will address the audience at 4:30 p.m. For further information, call (503) 222-7172.

May 13

The Amala Peace Walk. Noon. Lincoln High School, 1600 SW Salmon, Portland. "Amala" is the Tibetan word for "mother," and this walk symbolizes the wish of all mothers around the world for a peaceful planet. Starting the afternoon of Mother's Day, Tibetan mothers will be leading the walk in their traditional dress. Sponsored by the Northwest Tibetan Culture Association and Pathways to Peace. For further details, call (503) 222-7172.

May 15

World Peace Conference. noon to 5 p.m., Portland State University, Smith Memorial Center Ballroom, Portland. This conference will feature a panel discussion by Nobel Peace Prize laureates and other peace activists, prayers for world peace, and more. See the article on page 1. For further information or tickets, call (503) 725-4195 or visit the Web site at www.worldpeaceconference.com

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Cool Congregations: Congregations Caring for Our Climate. 1:15 to 6 p.m., Congregation Neveh Shalom, Portland. The workshop will highlight Northwest congregations and their efforts to address global

warming, as well as share successful congregational models for education and action. The workshop will focus on the following topics: how to form a Green Team in your congregation, energy efficiency and auditing, transforming your church into a "green" building, and financing energy efficiency.

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July 9 to 19

Oregon School of Judaic Studies Summer 2001.

Offerings:

- *Bernard Malamud*, English 410/510
- *Malmonides*, Philosophy 410/510
- *Changing family structures among east European Jewry*, History 410/510
- *Representing Jewish mothers in 20th century American Jewish fiction*, English 410/501.
- *Socio-cultural conflicts in and over Israel/Palestine*, History 410/510

All classes will be held on the campus of Portland State University. For further information about days, times and cost, call Rabbi Stampfer at (503) 246-8831, ext. 19.

July 19

Jazz under the Stars. Hopewell's annual fundraising event, has been set for 7 p.m. We will gather on the Hopewell House lawn to listen to Dan Balmer and his band. Specialty coffee, gourmet pizza, and desserts are included in the ticket price of \$25 per person. Door prizes will be given, and for the first time silent auction items will be offered. Tickets will be available in May from EMO's main office, (503) 221-1054, or from Janet Snedecor at Hopewell House, (503) 244-7890.