

Inside...

Get to know your neighbor: Multi-faith books provide insight. Page 2

■
Oregon congregations save money, energy and the earth. Page 3

■
Recovery homes open doors to new way of life. Page 4

■
Public policy work continues in interim period. Page 6

■
Celebration engages youth in sacred music. Page 7

Faith community responds to national tragedy

Following the tragic events of Sept. 11, faith communities across the nation responded by gathering people together to pray, mourn and comfort one another. Throughout Oregon, places of worship opened their doors for meditation and prayer, clergy comforted individuals waiting to hear from loved ones, and communities organized prayer vigils to provide the opportunity for people to express their grief.

For example, the faith community in Bend responded collectively to the tragedy by offering several events throughout the week, including an interfaith worship service sponsored by Interfaith Ministries of Central Oregon. A series of interfaith services were also held each evening at different congregations, including First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church and First Lutheran Church. A special Taizé Vespers for World Peace was also held.

In Eugene, Two Rivers Interfaith Ministries sponsored two services and an on-going vigil in response to the terrorist attacks. The vigil is being held each evening at the Federal Building. Over 400 people attended a service on the evening of Sept. 11, in the Cuthbert Amphitheater. A second interfaith service held at First United Methodist Church on Friday, Sept. 14, drew a standing room only crowd of 1,000. Both services included Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey and leaders of the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i and Mormon communities. Local Muslim cleric, Tammam Adi, shared these words, "Brothers and sisters in New York, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania, your



Susan Gartner

Oregonians stand together and find comfort in song at the Portland Day of Prayer and Remembrance service.

assassins failed. . . Your death will not create ignorance and prejudice, but enlightenment and unity."

In Portland, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon joined with representatives of the faith community for an interfaith prayer service that was held at First United Methodist Church on the evening of the terrorist attacks. "The day would be a Tuesday like any other, yet we woke to a new reality," Rabbi Daniel Isaak, Congregation Neveh Shalom, prayed. "We need to stand with each other to share our grief. . . may the Eternal message of God's concern for all God's children link us to generations who have evoked prayers during other terrible times of tragedy and loss."

EMO also participated in a memorial service that was Portland's response to President Bush's call that Friday, Sept. 14, be a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance. Over 3,000 people joined Mayor Vera Katz and religious leaders at the Rose Quarter Commons in northeast Portland.

Words of prayer and memorial were offered from Native American, Jewish, Christian, Islamic and Buddhist traditions. Senator Margaret Carter led the crowd in singing "America the Beautiful" and "Let There Be Peace on Earth." Candles were lit, and a moment of silence was observed in honor of those who died. People left the gathering with a sense of hope and unity.

"We call on people of faith to reach out to one another," stated David Leslie, EMO executive director. "We are praying for those who are suffering and for an end to the violence. We are concerned about retaliation against innocent persons and urge a spirit of peace throughout our nation."

To foster a continued spirit of peace and unity in this time of confusion, fear and uncertainty, additional interfaith events are being planned around the state. For updated information about prayer vigils, to read prayers of peace and to find out how you can help, please visit the EMO Web site at www.emoregon.org.

Nonviolence is in our hands

*"I will not use my hands
or my words
for hurting myself or others."*

The pledge is simple, but the impact is profound. The Hands Are Not for Hurting Project, a nonprofit organization located in Salem, Oregon, is dedicated to educating children and adults about their moral and legal right to live free of violence. In light of the recent violence

against the United States, taking the pledge is a positive action individuals can take in the wake of the national tragedy.

The project encourages people to take the above pledge, to trace their hand on purple paper (the color purple is used to honor and remember victims of violence), cut out the hand print, sign their name and age on the hand print and display their purple hand as a visual reminder of their commitment to stop and think before acting out in anger.

Continued on page 7



Wisdom and courage needed in the days ahead

"Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love."

—from the Prayer of St. Francis

September 11 began with an early morning breakfast celebration of my son's sixth birthday. Within minutes, the memories of presents, singing, hugs and kisses, gave way to death, destruction, terror and confusion. As I drove from Portland to Seaside for a meeting, I listened to the reports about the planes that had struck the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

As the tragedy unfolded, I made and received telephone calls about planning a prayer vigil that evening in Portland. I called home several times and learned more about the devastation and loss of life. By the time I arrived in Seaside I was numb, confused, full of grief, sorrow and anger.

I was not alone. While "ground zero" may have physically been on the East Coast, we all felt the impact and were pulled into the center of the terror. In response to the physical, emotional and spiritual damage inflicted by the terrorists, we experienced the unifying power of empathy. We became connected through the horror of the attacks, our grief for the

dead and missing, and our continued hope for the living.

In recent days, we have wept, prayed and sung songs of mourning. We have had late night and early morning telephone conversations with loved ones attempting to reassure one another that tomorrow will be a better day. We have listened to our children's questions, struggling with the how's and why's about the tragedy. We have had sleepless nights and listless days searching for the adequate and just response to the terror that struck this nation on



David Leslie

September 11. We have stood with one another against racism and religious hatred.

Today we are facing prospects of war—the type of war that the President says will be protracted, fought in foreign lands and complete with loss of human life. Is this the right response to the terrorist attack on this nation? Will acts of war result in a cessation of hostilities, or will they produce more violence, hatred and bloodshed? Will our responses be based solely on retribution for past actions or will they be grounded in the desire to build a better world in the future?

Bringing the terrorists to justice and protecting people's safety are para-

mount. Equally important is the development of a course of action that is based on justice and peace, not vengeance and revenge. We must keep open the public square for debate and deliberation, confident that it is here the best decisions will be developed.

When receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sánchez said, "Hope is the strongest driving force for a people. Hope which brings about change, which produces new realities, is what opens man's road to freedom. Once hope has taken hold, courage must unite with wisdom. That is the only way of avoiding violence, the only way of maintaining the calm one needs to respond peacefully to offenses."

The days ahead will be difficult. May God grant wisdom and courage to all in power so that life, rather than death, may be the order of the day.

May God grant wisdom and courage to all in power so that life, rather than death, may be the order of the day.

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



Multi-faith books: Getting to know your neighbor

Now is the time to seek out a better understanding of our neighbors. The following books provide insight into various faith traditions.

Sacred Myths
Stories of World Religions
Retold by Marilyn McFarlane
Sibyl Publications, Portland

A vibrant way to hand down spiritual traditions and teach children tolerance for others' beliefs. *Sacred Myths* retells 35 stories that are precious to world religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Native American, and Earth-based religions. Brief introductions explain the basic tenets of each religion. Approved by religious authorities. Ages 10 and up.

Islam: A Primer

By John Sabini, Middle East Editorial Associates, Washington, D.C.

This basic overview is an excellent introduction to the history, beliefs, and practices of Islam for readers not familiar with one of the world's great religions. For those who want to delve further into the subject, a detailed bibliography of suggested readings is included. First published in 1983, this classic is now in its fifth printing.

Welcome to the Family!
Opening Doors to the Jewish Experience

By Lois Sussman Shenker
White Cloud Press, Ashland
Welcome to the Family! is a user-friendly guidebook designed to

Continued on page 7

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

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

Save the date!

EMO Annual Community Celebration & Awards Dinner

Thursday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m.

Marriott Hotel, 1401 SW Naito Parkway, Portland

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 is a list of recent foundation support received by EMO.

Program	Award	Donor
HIV Day Center	\$2,000	Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
Hopewell House Hospice Center	\$250	The Oregon Community Foundation
Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns	\$7,000	Ralph L. Smith Foundation
Northeast Emergency Food Program	\$2,500	Black United Fund
Parent Mentor Program	\$13,000	Children's Trust Fund of Oregon
Parent Mentor Program	\$500	Kiwanis Club of Portland
Portland International Community School	\$25,000	Juan Young Charitable Trust
Portland International Community School	\$3,000	Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust

Oregon Interfaith Power and Light: Leading by example

The challenge of global warming and the Northwest energy crunch calls all of us to be mindful of the way we use energy, of where that energy comes from and how it impacts creation. EMO's Oregon Interfaith Power and Light (OIPL) is challenging congregations and their members across the state to lead by example by conserving energy and purchasing renewable energy. OIPL estimates that if every member of every faith community in Oregon reduced their use of fossil-fueled electric energy by 20 percent by conserving energy and signing up for renewable power, they would reduce Oregon's carbon dioxide emissions by 605,000 tons.

OIPL is an outgrowth of the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign, one of 18 statewide, interfaith efforts to slow global warming. The OIPL program aims for congregations and their members

to make commitments to action on energy and global warming. OIPL congregations or groups pledge to conserve energy in their facilities and to educate their members about global warming, energy conservation and renewable power. They also sign up for clean, renewable power through their electric utilities or have their members sign up for wind power. Some ambitious congregations are looking into generating their own energy on-site through rooftop solar (photovoltaic) systems.

OIPL staff has given presentations to congregations and clergy in Pendleton, Medford, Bend, Newberg, and The Dalles. "The interest in energy conservation and renewable power is growing," said Jenny Holmes, who directs EMO's environmental ministries. "We're impressed with the enthusiasm we see across the state."

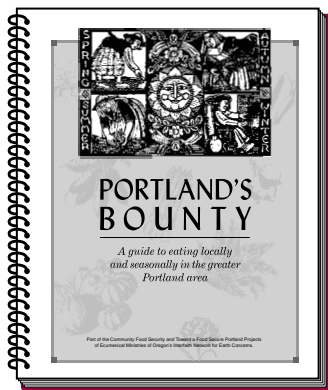
Denominations are also taking action. A resolution passed at the recent Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church requires each congregation in the conference to have an energy audit conducted and to use the audit to develop a ten-year strategy for conserving energy and saving money. "Our Conference will be accountable to the Creator's call to be the best stewards we can of the gifts of Creation," states the resolution, which was inspired, in part, by the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign. To learn more about OIPL or to request a presentation, please call Teri Ruch, OIPL Coordinator, at (503) 736-0845.



Windows of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church are caulked as part of the congregation's pledge to conserve energy.

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL) congratulates the following groups for becoming OIPL congregations or facilities this summer:

- First Unitarian Church, Portland
- The Grace Space, Portland
- Hopewell House Hospice Center, Portland
- Medford Congregational United Church of Christ, Medford
- The Multnomah Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends, Portland
- St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, Portland
- St. Luke Lutheran Church, Portland
- St. Paul of Damascus Lutheran Church, Boring
- Southminster Presbyterian Church, Beaverton



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 (\$2.75 for the first book and 50¢ for each additional book). To purchase one or several copies, contact Jenny Holmes at INEC at (503) 244-8318 or look for the guide in local bookstores.

EMO reps meet with Klamath Falls community

On August 21 and 22, EMO representatives traveled to Klamath Falls to meet with clergy, water irrigators, political leaders, farmers, ranchers, tribal members and their representatives and others impacted by the water crisis in this region of Southern Oregon and Northern California. The visit was prompted by EMO's concern for and support of the people in the region, and provided the opportunity to learn how EMO, member denominations and affiliated organizations (including Farm Aid) could assist with emergency aid, political advocacy and community dialogue.

The meeting in August was preceded by meetings held in June that included diverse community, religious and disaster relief organizations that have established Klamath COAD (Community Organization Active in Disaster) to collectively respond to the crisis.

On the recent visit to the head gates of the Lower Klamath Basin, farmers and their supporters described their plight and their anger and frustration at the federal government and environmental groups that advocated for implementation of the Endangered Species Act in the Klamath Basin. Adding to the tension was the presence of a number of regional and national groups—representing all perspectives—that see the struggle in Klamath Falls as an opportunity to further political agendas. These included

environmental militia, agriculture and water users and political leaders.

At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, a meeting with area clergy was held. In attendance were representatives from Sacred Heart and St. Pius Catholic Parishes; United Evangelical Free Church; Merrill, Malin and Peace Presbyterian Churches; and Hope, Trinity and Klamath Lutheran Churches. Clergy reported that requests for emergency food both from churches and the food bank had dramatically increased, as had requests for mental health services. The clergy shared that tensions between the various water users had increased and an increased number of acts of discrimination aimed at tribal members were reported. The clergy also spoke of a "deepening disaster" that will continue after Klamath Falls is no longer in the headlines. They believe needs for emergency food, counseling and other services will continue to grow as the losses set in.

While change will be happening in the Klamath Basin, the impact of this change is yet to be known. What is certain is that a community connection (Klamath COAD) has been established to provide coordinated emergency assistance for the residents of Klamath Falls. For more information about Klamath COAD, please contact Bob Pickle, (541) 883-3471 or e-mail bpickle@lcsnw.org.

Oregon Farm Worker Ministry seeks executive director

Oregon Farm Worker Ministry, a faith-based organization, is currently seeking applications for the position of executive director to provide leadership in statewide organizing of the religious community to advocate for farmworkers' rights.

Experience in grassroots organizing and mobiliz-

ing, ability to communicate to a variety of faith traditions, strong leadership, administrative and communication skills desired.

Candidates should send resume to OFWM, 230 W. Hayes, Woodburn, OR 97071. For more information, call Verne Cooperrider at (503) 585-8540.

ROSS offers cross-cultural education

Recent census reports show that more Russian and Ukrainian immigrants are calling Washington and Oregon home than in any other states in the country. If you work, live or go to school in Portland or Vancouver, you now see Russian-speakers as clients, co-workers or students.



ROSS provides comprehensive case management services to Russian-speaking refugees and immigrants. Over 10,000 clients were served last year.

EMO's Russian Oregon Social Services program (ROSS) has been working with Russian-speaking refugees and immigrants since 1994. ROSS understands the many obstacles they encounter upon arrival to this country. English, citizenship and computer classes are offered at no cost, and a series of classes on law and safety, tax preparation and community orientation are also available to help these new residents acculturate successfully into American society.

In addition, ROSS also reaches out to Americans who work with and serve Russian-speakers. "It's important for Americans to understand the Russian-speaking community if they are going to work closely with them and be good neighbors," says Yelena

Sergeyeva, ROSS program manager. Cross-cultural education can help bridge communication gaps, clarify misunderstandings and improve outreach projects.

Cultural sensitivity is also important when working with the Russian-speaking community. Recognizing ROSS' expertise in cultural sensitivity, the Susan B. Komen Foundation recently funded a breast cancer awareness program to Russian-speaking women in the Portland area. Working collaboratively with Russian-speaking congregations as well as service and refugee resettlement agencies, ROSS has been able to educate and promote the importance of early breast cancer detection. "Discussing this subject must be done appropriately," explains Svetlana Chvetsova, outreach coordinator. "Many topics, especially those concerning women's health, are especially sensitive to many Russian-speaking women. Health presentations can easily embarrass them and have them running in the other direction." Because of ROSS' culturally sensitive approach, more than 300 Russian-speaking women have attended these presentations since January 2001, and many have also received free mammograms.

ROSS is now offering cross-cultural education services to banks, loan offices, realtors, and other businesses. These groups can now access useful and practical information to help deliver services in a more customer-friendly way to Russian-speaking newcomers. ROSS will also be offering translation services and cross-cultural education to employers and businesses that employ or work with Russian-speakers.

If you are interested finding out how your business or organization can benefit from cross-cultural education services, call ROSS at (503) 777-3437.

Oregon Recovery Homes

Opening doors to a new way of life

Oregon Recovery Homes (ORH), a division of EMO's Shared Housing program, has changed the lives of hundreds of people in recovery across the state. For the last eight years, EMO has been administering the state of Oregon's revolving loan fund for the development of cooperative recovery homes. Last October, EMO was awarded a state-funded contract to hire staff, focus on community outreach and further develop the program.

The mission of Oregon Recovery Homes is to help restore the lives of men and women recovering from alcoholism and drug addiction through the establishment of democratically self-run, financially self-supporting recovery homes. The peer-based support groups are a practical and cost-effective method in breaking the cycle of addiction. Oregon Recovery Homes allows individuals and communities throughout Oregon to utilize this priceless housing

resource to afford recovering individuals the opportunity to become responsible, productive members of society.

Mike Morgester, ORH outreach coordinator, is himself an example of the success of Oxford House, which is the recovery home model that ORH currently replicates. Once homeless as a result of addiction, Mike became a member of an Oxford House and found his path to recovery. With outreach as part of his recovery, he started volunteering at Oxford Houses in Portland and became an integral leader in the organization. Today Mike's achievements include opening nearly 30 Oxford Houses, serving on the World Council for Oxford House, Inc. as a policy issues consultant and most importantly, being a role model for people in recovery.

In the months to come, Oregon Recovery Homes will continue on a productive but demanding path. Mike will focus efforts researching other areas of Oregon that are appropriate for establishing new recovery homes. Other efforts will include development of publicity material, planning a statewide workshop scheduled for the spring, organizing a trip to the World Convention of Oxford Houses in November and assisting established Oxford House chapters to function at their full potential.

If you have a large home available for rent, household furnishings to donate, or if you'd like more information about Oregon Recovery Homes, call Mike Morgester at (503) 244-7890 or e-mail recoveryhomes@emoregon.org.



ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES of In the community

An interactive tour of EMO ministries and services

Monday, October 15, 2001
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Lunch will be served at Hopewell House Hospice Center

This tour will introduce you to the many ways EMO meets the needs of our community. Vans will be loading at 9:15 a.m. at EMO, 0240 NE Portland. To reserve your space, please contact Mindy Becker at (503) 777-3437.

World AIDS Day marks 20th anniversary

This World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, 2001, marks the 20th anniversary of the identification and naming of the disease. Throughout most of this period, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, through the HIV Day Center and Daily Bread Express programs, has provided meals, counseling, support services and a safe, welcoming gathering place for individuals facing the challenges of life with HIV/AIDS.

Thankfully, there are now medications that can sustain and prolong life for those living with HIV/AIDS. However, these medications are not a cure, nor do they provide for a "normal" comfortable lifestyle. People living with HIV/AIDS often face a regimen of twenty or more pills per day, which can produce serious side effects. Alarming, rates of infection (which had been going down) have stabilized and are even beginning to climb once again. The end result is that more and more people are living with HIV/AIDS, currently an estimated 4,000 individuals in the Portland metropolitan area.

Nationally, the epidemic has shifted into minority communities. According to national estimates, in 1999,

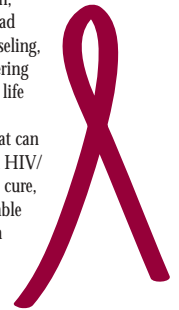
Home providers needed

Shared Housing is experiencing an increase in the number of people seeking homeshare arrangements, and is accepting applications for home providers. If you have an extra room available in your home, and would like help with rent, household chores or personal care, Shared Housing may be the answer for you.

EMO's Shared Housing program is a matching and referral service that brings together those who need affordable housing with people who have homes and want help with rent, household chores or personal care.

Many elderly, disabled and low-to-moderate income homeowners and renters have found that rent and/or services provided through homesharing have been an important factor in enabling them to remain in their homes. Home seekers have found affordable housing at low rent or in exchange for work.

For more information, please call Shared Housing at (503) 225-9924.



LOCAL MINISTRIES of OREGON

In the community

Interactive tour of EMO ministries and services

Monday, October 15, 2001
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

will be served at Hopewell House Hospice Center.

Introduce you to the many ways EMO meets the needs of people in
areas will be loading at 9:15 a.m. at EMO, 0245 SW Bancroft St.,
for your space, please contact Mindy Becker at (503) 221-1054.

EMO marks 20th anniversary of disease

74 percent of new infections were in African-American and Latino communities. In response to this shift, EMO's HIV Services has specifically focused outreach efforts into these communities.

Worldwide, the AIDS pandemic represents the greatest medical disaster that we know of in human history. By the end of 2000, nearly 22 million people had died, leaving over 13 million children orphaned. There are currently an estimated 36 million individuals living with HIV/AIDS, including 1.4 million children. There were over five million new infections in 2000 alone. Recent reports detail the beginnings of even larger outbreaks of the disease in India and China.

As individuals and as a community, we can provide meaningful response to the crisis. We may choose donations, volunteerism, letters to political leaders, education within our congregations and communities of prayer, but we must not turn our backs in the face of such suffering.

For more information about EMO's HIV Services, or to schedule a presentation in your community, please contact Lowen at (503) 460-3822.

Homelessness and the faith community

EMO is participating in discussions with religious leaders, civil activists and concerned citizens regarding homelessness in the Portland metropolitan area. A consultation on homelessness and the faith community's response will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland. Issues surrounding Dignity Village, shelters and affordable housing will be explored. EMO will convene similar discussions in the future, involving community, civic and business leaders.

For more information, please contact Rick Stoller at (503) 221-1054.

Workshop explores values, healthcare decisions

Reflection on values and beginning meaningful dialogue with loved ones are on the agenda for Caring Conversations, an afternoon workshop on advanced directives to be held on Sunday, Oct. 14, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, 8235 NE Airport Way, Portland.

The workshop, sponsored locally by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon in conjunction with AARP Oregon and numerous other state organizations, is designed to empower attendees and their loved ones to "begin the conversation"—to think through and talk about their spiritual values, life experiences, and personal goals. After focusing on their core values, attendees will think about healthcare wishes and decisions and begin the process of completing an Oregon advanced directive.

Registration fee for the workshop is \$15 per individual and \$25 per family. Pre-registration is required. To register by phone, call 1-877-926-8300. Those attending the workshop are encouraged to bring a family member if they wish, and people from all age groups are welcome to attend.

Faculty for the workshop will include the Rev. Melinda Smith, EMO's Director of Compassionate Care and Education at Hopewell House Hospice Center. In addition to EMO and the AARP, community sponsors also include the Oregon Gerontological Association, Oregon Health Decisions, the Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation, and Oregon Hospice Association.

For more information, call the office of AARP Oregon at (503) 652-8855.

Donors needed for refugees' first Thanksgiving dinner

EMO's Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) program will be hosting the second annual "Refugees' First Thanksgiving Dinner" on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 22. This multicultural event drew over a 100 refugees last Thanksgiving for a hearty turkey dinner along with door prizes ranging from new dishes and blenders, to wool coats and gift certificates.



If you would like to contribute to the 2001 Refugee's First Thanksgiving Dinner, please make check payable to SOAR—Refugees' First Thanksgiving, 2906 NE Glisan St., Portland, OR 97211.

For more information, please call Olga at (503) 284-3002.

Jazz event draws hundreds

Delicious food, sparkling music, and the excitement of a silent auction combined to make Jazz Under the Stars 2001 "the best ever," according to Melinda Smith, EMO Director of Compassionate Care. EMO's annual fundraiser for Hopewell House Hospice Center, held on the Hopewell lawn on July 19, attracted a record 230 guests. The event raised over \$7,000 to support Hopewell's charity care fund.

Attendees were treated to specialty coffee drinks and a variety of appetizers, pizzas, and gourmet desserts as the evening's featured entertainment, the Dan Balmer Trio, played their distinctive brand of contemporary jazz. The first-ever silent auction garnered tremendous enthusiasm (and some good natured competition) from bidders who crowded the living room in search of a perfect gift. At intermission, special recognition was given to the evening's

sponsors, Newstalk 860 KPAM, Ater Wynne LLP, and Barbie and Burke Rice.

Adding to the evening's success story was the involvement of so many volunteers in planning the event. "The volunteers added so much excitement and insight to the event," says Melinda Smith. "Without their involvement and their help in planning, publicity, and set-up, the evening wouldn't have been such a success." Planning committee members included volunteers Ann Berlureau, Jodi Braun, Janie Graham, Barbie LeBrun, Janice Patrice, and Jeff Thorne, with assistance from EMO staff Mona Ballard, Gordon Dickey, Bridgett Harrington, Stephanie Howell, and Janet Snedecor.

Plans are already underway for Jazz Under the Stars 2002. If you would like to be involved next summer or could donate an item to next year's silent auction, please call Janet Snedecor at (503) 244-7890.

Hundreds of people enjoyed a jazz-filled evening at Hopewell's Jazz Under the Stars event, held July 19.



2001 legislative session overview

Given the state's skewed tax structure and historic underfunding of social services to the state's most vulnerable populations, the results of the last legislative session should come as no surprise. Once again, funding to address the root causes, even the symptoms, of Oregon's hunger, homelessness and poverty was in short supply.



Enid Edwards, director of public policy advocacy

Yet, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and its many partners in advocacy achieved some important successes during the 2001 legislative session. Perhaps most importantly, we collaborated with a broad base of advocates to call for adequate funding to our most vulnerable citizens. This collaboration, called the "Campaign for Fairness," reflected the combined resources of many organizations and was visible within the capitol building during the session. In giving permission to our elected representatives to use the kicker as necessary to fulfill the state's obligations, we helped to set the stage for lawmakers to make responsible decisions on behalf of all Oregonians. We hope that the many individuals and organizations who comprised the Campaign for Fairness during the 2001 legislative session will continue to make their funding priorities known, particularly during the coming months as Oregon faces additional revenue shortfalls and considers convening in special session.

Our successes included key elements of the Campaign for Fairness platform, such as restoration of funding for Oregon Project Independence, existing Medicaid reimbursement rates for assisted living facilities, funding for affordable housing development, and certain payments to TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) recipients.

We also secured new funds for statewide food stamp outreach, and the state working family childcare tax credit was made refundable. EMO also worked to defeat a number of bills, including bills that would extend the death penalty to additional crimes and a bill to allow the Ten Commandments to be posted in public schools. For additional information on our successes and disappointments during the session, please see our Web site, Public Policy link at www.emoregon.org.

Interim period not a time of rest

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon continues its social and economic justice advocacy in the interim period, principally by monitoring the implementation of bills passed, ongoing participation in the significant reorganization of the state Department of Human Services, and research and advocacy concerning a variety of citizen initiatives.

As noted above, Oregon's state revenue forecast predicts another significant shortfall. This is especially concerning to advocates for public supports for vulnerable families, as the 2001 legislative budget did not include flexibility for rising caseloads. With no budget cushion to absorb revenue shortfalls, and a

worsening statewide job market, advocates foresee Oregon families who live on the economic margins to be at increasing risk. If the state legislature convenes a special session this spring, it will be to determine further cuts in an already insufficient state budget. Please communicate with your elected representatives to let them know that their decisions with respect to the poor and marginalized are important to you.

In addition, EMO is working to support the ballot initiative to replace the death penalty with a life sentence; participate in the public dialogue concerning "faith-based initiatives"; support food stamp and TANF reauthorization at funding levels adequate to support growing caseloads; encourage fair and responsible implementation of legislation that re-shapes the Oregon Health Plan; support effective reorganization of the Oregon Department of Human Services; seek appropriate funding for human services from the legislative Emergency Board; and provide ongoing support for campaign finance reform. For more information on current activities, please visit EMO's Web site at www.emoregon.org.

Governor Kitzhaber signs the Working Family Child Care Tax Credit bill, which makes the credit accessible to Oregon's lowest-income working families. This bill was key to the Campaign for Fairness platform.



Direction of national charitable choice legislation unclear

President Bush's legislation to federally fund faith-based organizations' social service programs, HR 7, seemed to be losing priority to other concerns, even before the September 11 disaster.

On August 17, John Dilulio, Jr. resigned his position as head of the government's religion-based initiative that was established to identify and address barriers to implementation of Charitable Choice legislation. The committee's report presents 15 "barriers" that faith-based nonprofit groups face when attempting to provide federally funded social services. An amended version of HR 7 passed the House on July 19, 2001. At printing, the bill awaits a hearing by the Senate Committee on Finance.

Reflecting significant public comment by national religious organizations, Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa.,

indicated that the "quality of employment exemption for religious groups" will be dropped from the bill. Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, a religious liberty watchdog group based in D.C., has stated that, "If the Bush administration tries to change federal regulations and fund religion, we will immediately file suit in federal court."

On the state level, the Oregon Law Commission will examine existing Oregon statutory and regulatory provisions governing state social service programs involving private nonprofit providers to determine if any laws need to be changed or modified to increase service delivery by nonprofit, including faith-based, organizations in partnership with the state.

Sister Prejean will speak to religious community

Sister Helen Prejean, whose work with death-row inmates was the focus of the 1995 film *Dead Man Walking*, will speak in November at an interfaith conference organized by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the Oregon Catholic Conference, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Oregon Synod, Presbytery of the Cascades and the Portland Chapter of the American Jewish Committee. The conference will be held in Portland on Friday, Nov. 16, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please check the EMO Web site at www.emoregon.org for updated information about the location.

Topics include a brief history of the death penalty in Oregon and the U.S., the interfaith nature of opposition to the death penalty, religious social teaching on the death penalty, and tools and resources for congregational education and organizing. Information on religious social teaching and tools for use in congregations will be a particular focus and will be geared toward specific denominations. All are welcome. For more information on this event, please contact EMO at (503) 221-1054.

Bieberle's contribution to Oregon unmatched

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon expresses its deep sorrow at the passing of Gerald "Jerry" Bieberle, lobbyist, in August. "Jerry worked generously and tirelessly in support of Oregon's most vulnerable populations," said Enid Edwards, EMO public policy advocate. "Jerry's advocacy was a blend of extraordinary

kindness, integrity, passion, pragmatism, creativity and irreverent humor, and he will be missed dearly."

Remembrances can be made to Sisters of the Road Cafe, 133 NW Sixth Ave., Portland, OR 97209; or to the Animal Rescue and Care Fund, PO Box 14956, Portland, OR 97293.

Program celebrates sacred music

An Evening of Eighty Eight Keys, an annual gospel concert and awards ceremony, will be held Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Jefferson High School auditorium, Portland. The evening will feature several artists including nationally-recognized vocalist Candi Staton, from TBN Ministries; the Inspirational Sound gospel choir from Eugene; the Portland Jewish Academy Children's Choir; RAP 1, a contemporary dance group; the Portland Metropolitan Youth Choir; and pianist Elbert Mondainé.

Eighty Eight Keys was founded in 1989 by Elbert Darrell Mondainé, Jr., whose vision was to help dreams become a reality for those who aspired to be singers and musicians. Now in its eighth year, An Evening of Eighty Eight Keys continues to encourage, recognize and promote Oregon's musical talent. It provides the state's gospel musicians and educators an opportunity to showcase their skills and be publicly recognized for them.

In addition to advancing gospel music as an art form, Eighty Eight Keys assists young, developing

talent toward potential music careers through its music and instrument scholarships. "The goal of the program is to give scholarships and instruments to kids who can't afford them," explains John Tolbert, program director. "This is a consistent way of getting kids back into church to perform." This year's event will feature an instrument drive. Concert attendees are invited to bring a slightly used wind or string instrument that will be distributed to children in need.

Eighty Eight Keys is seeking volunteers to assist with the event. Tickets are available at Fastixx, \$12.50 advance purchase, \$14.50 day of the event. For more information, call John Tolbert at (503) 285-7324.



NCCC general assembly meets in November

The Annual General Assembly of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCC) will be held Nov. 13 to 16 at the Oakland Marriott City Center Hotel, Oakland, Calif. Dr. Tony Campolo, professor emeritus of Sociology at Eastern College in St. David's, Pennsylvania, will be the keynote speaker.

A festival highlighting a variety of models of ministry from ecumenical agencies and organizations will be held at various times throughout the gathering. Conversation work groups focused on poverty will also be held. Participants will have the opportunity to work on Habitat for Humanity projects in Oakland.

The NCCC will also install incoming president, Elenie Huszagh, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension, 4700 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, on Thursday, Nov. 15 at 5 p.m.

Nonviolence is in our hands

Continued from page 1

Established in 1997 by founder and executive director, Ann S. Kelly, the Hands Project Pledge is now used in schools, places of worship, day care facilities, birthing centers, government agencies, homeless shelters, battered women's shelters, businesses, youth centers, and homes in Oregon and in at least forty other states. National and international interest in the project continues to grow. Schools in Japan, Mexico and Canada are also currently using the Hands Project Pledge.

"The pledge is a wonderful way that churches can create awareness and a community spirit of nonviolence," stated the Rev. Gail McDougale, pastor of First Congregational Church (UCC) in Salem. "We display posters in the church and always take the pledge annually in October. If everyone took this pledge and kept it, the reduction in violence and its dehumanizing, degrading consequences would be dramatic. Whatever our religious tradition, peace and the dignity of self and others are core values."

Congregations are urged take the Hands Project Pledge on Sunday, Oct. 14, which marks the beginning of Oregon's annual "Hands & Words Are Not

For Hurting Week" and the national Y.W.C.A.'s annual "Week Without Violence." There are several ways congregations can participate: place a copy of the vow in each bulletin, which worshippers could sign and place in the offering plate; read the pledge in unison during a service; and/or create a collage which includes the pledge, the signatures of those taking it, and the purple hand/red heart logo. A visual display in the congregation could continue to serve as a powerful permanent reminder of the pledge of nonviolence.

To request a copy of the pledge, or to order other project materials, i.e. brochures, posters and banners, please call the Hands Project at (503) 587-4853 or 1-888-443-6299. You can visit the Web site at www.handsproject.org.

It is important to have feedback on how the Hands Are Not For Hurting Project was implemented and the results that occurred. If your congregation participates in the pledge, please contact Stephanie at EMO, (503) 221-1054, so we can share your experience with others.

NRSV search engine added to Web site

The National Council of Churches of Christ has added a search engine to their Web site that indexes the entire New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (NRSV) at www.ncccusa.org. To access the search engine, go to the "search" page and type in any word or phrase. The search engine will find all scripture passages that contain the word(s), provide a list of commentary backgrounds on the passages and will display them in context. You can also compare the NRSV's wording with more than 20 other translations.

Position Opening

Oak Grove United Methodist Church is seeking a half-time youth and children's ministries director. For more information, please call (503) 654-3161.

Multi-faith books

Continued from page 2

increase the comfort level of those unfamiliar with the Jewish experience. This practical handbook is written especially for those seeking simple explanations about Jews, Jewish events, and Judaism, and will increase both the reader's knowledge and comfort level in interacting with Jewish people. The book addresses the issues of intermarried families and speaks to their concerns in a warm, welcoming manner, interspersing personal family stories with basic information about the Jewish experience. Local author Lois Shenker will talk about her book October 29 at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Neveh Shalom, 1900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland.

Additional information about world religions is available at EMO's Web site, www.emoregion.org. Click Calendar of Events, Interfaith Calendar and Families of Religions.

Denominational meetings slated for fall

Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon annual convention

The annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon will be held October 12 to 14 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Bend. The theme will be "Living Our Baptism in Congregation, Diocese and the World." For more information, please call (541) 382-5542.

American Baptist Churches annual gathering

On October 19 to 21, the annual gathering of the American Baptist Churches of Oregon will be held at The Riverhouse in Bend. The theme of the gathering will be "Celebrate! Making a Difference. . ." Ken Medema, internationally known songwriter and performer, will be the featured musician, and J. Alfred Smith, senior pastor of the Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, Calif., will be the featured speaker. For registration information, please contact Emerald Baptist Church at (541) 342-6559 or e-mail EmeraldBaptist@aol.com.

Presbytery of the Cascades stated meeting

The stated meeting of the Presbytery of the Cascades will be held November 8 to 9 at First Presbyterian Church in Medford. For more information, call (503) 227-5486 or 1-800-495-4114.

Episcopal Diocese of Oregon annual convention

The 113th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon will be held November 15 to 17 at the Seaside Convention Center in Seaside. The theme will be "Joyful Living—Joyful Giving Stewardship: A Way of Life." For more information, call (503) 636-5613 or visit the Web site at www.diocese-oregon.org.

Calendar of Events

October 10

Consultation on Homelessness and the Faith Community's Response. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland. EMO will convene a discussion with religious leaders, civil activists and concerned citizens regarding homelessness in the Portland metropolitan area and issues surrounding Dignity Village. For more information, call Rick Stoller at (503) 221-1054 or rstoller@emoregon.org.

October 14

Caring Conversations: Making Decisions About End-of-Life Care. 1 to 5 p.m., Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, 8235 NE Airport Way, Portland. This workshop is designed to help individuals and their loved ones talk about end-of-life values and preferences. Sponsored by AARP, Oregon Gerontology Association, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Oregon Health Decisions, Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation and Oregon Hospice Association. For more information or to register, call (503) 652-8855.

October 19

Care of Self: Care of Story. 8:30 to 11 a.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 NE Hancock, Portland. John C. Karl will be exploring the use of stories to nourish the self and recompose the soul. Presented by the Samaritan Counseling Center.

October 22

Energy Stewardship Workshop: Save Energy, Money and the Earth! Bend. Time and exact location to be announced. Learn how to save 20 percent or more on your energy bill and how to support your sustainable economic development through renewable power. Topics include tips for home lighting audits, energy efficiency guidelines for home and place of worship and updates on renewable energy. Sponsored by EMO's Oregon Interfaith Power and Light project. For more information, call (503) 244-8318.

October 22 to November 11

Trips of Perspective. Travel to India to be taught by those who possess little of the world's resources, to gain perspective and have our lives changed. To register or for more information, please call Dale or Esther at Journey into Freedom at (503) 244-4728 or email journey@teleport.com.

October 23

Beautes Baroque—A Benefit for Trinity Consort. Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Avenue, Portland. Call (503) 222-9811 to order your subscription or www.trinityconsort.org.

October 26

Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries Spiritual Retreat. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Peavy Arboretum, Corvallis. Led by Sister Dorothy Pulkka of the Shalom Prayer Center, this retreat is open to parish nurses, chaplains, church ministers, health care providers and social workers. To learn more or to register, visit the Samaritan Health Services Web site at www.samhealth.org.

October 26 to 27

Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries Conference. Linn County Fair & Expo Center, Albany. This conference is open to parish nurses, chaplains, church ministers, community health and hospice staff, health care providers, physicians and social workers. Sponsored by Samaritan Health Services and Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries. For more information or to register, visit the Samaritan Health Services Web site at www.samhealth.org.

October 26 to 28

Deepening Our Relationship with God. A retreat for women that will be held in the Portland area. To register or for more information, please call Dale or Esther at Journey into Freedom at (503) 244-4728 or e-mail journey@teleport.com.

Save the date!

EMO Annual Community Celebration & Awards Dinner

Thursday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m.

Marriott Hotel, 1401 SW Naito Parkway, Portland

October 27

Everyday Spirituality. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Central Lutheran Church, 1857 Potter Street, Eugene. The Second Annual Oregon Synod Lay School of Theology presents this one-day workshop on 21st Century Discipleship and Decision Making with Dr. Martha Stortz and The Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker. For further information or to register, contact (541) 346-7546 or dglass@kozmail.com.

October 27

An Evening of Eighty Eight Keys. 7 p.m., Jefferson High School auditorium, Portland. An annual gospel concert and awards ceremony that will feature several artists including nationally-recognized vocalist Candi Staton, from TBN Ministries; the Inspirational Sound gospel choir from Eugene; the Portland Jewish Academy Children's Choir; RAP 1, a contemporary dance group; the Portland Metropolitan Youth Choir; and pianist Elbert Mondainé. Eighty Eight Keys is seeking volunteers to assist with the event. Tickets are available at Fastixx, \$12.50 advance purchase, \$14.50 day of the event. For more information, call John Tolbert at (503) 285-7324.

October 27 to 28

Bach: Father and Son. Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Avenue, Portland. Part of the Sacred Music in a Sacred Space concert series featuring the great sacred choral works of the 17th and 18th centuries performed on period instruments in historic Trinity Cathedral. To order your subscription, call (503) 222-9811 or www.trinityconsort.org.

October 27 to November 4

Through the Farmworkers' Eyes. This travel seminar to Cuernavaca and Oaxaca, Mexico is co-sponsored by the Oregon Farm Worker Ministry and the Episcopal Hispanic/Farmworker Ministries of North Carolina. Led by the Center for Global Education, the seminar promises opportunities for conversation with people across the spectrum of Mexican society. Contact Oregon Farm Worker Ministry for further details at (503) 981-8384 or ofwm@earthlink.net.

November 10

Everyday Spirituality. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., First Lutheran Church, 231 NW Idaho, Bend. The Second Annual Oregon Synod Lay School of Theology presents this one-day workshop on 21st Century Discipleship and Decision Making with Dr. Martha Stortz and The Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker. For further information or to register, contact (541) 346-7546 or dglass@kozmail.com.

November 10

Local Food and Economic Justice. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1011 SW 12th Avenue, Portland. This event will bring together farmers, eaters and policy makers to consider how to sustain local agriculture during a time when the globalization of agricultural markets threatens the viability of farming in Oregon. Sponsored by the Economic Justice Committee of First Unitarian Church, EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns and others. For more information, call Jenny Holmes at (503) 244-8318.

November 11

Everyday Spirituality. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Peace Lutheran Church, 210 N. 9th, Pendleton. The Second Annual Oregon Synod Lay School of Theology presents this one-day workshop on 21st Century Discipleship and Decision Making with Dr. Martha Stortz and The Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker. For further information or to register, contact (541) 346-7546 or dglass@kozmail.com.

November 11

Cool Congregations: Caring for Our Climate. 1:15 to 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 12th and Olive Streets, Eugene. This is the fourth of a series of regional workshops sponsored by the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign. The event will celebrate what local congregations are doing to address global warming, share models for education and action, and provide skill-building sessions on education and organizing your congregation, energy conservation and green building. It will include an update on the science of global warming by scientist Dr. Jack Dymond of Oregon State University. For more information, contact Jenny Holmes, Campaign Coordinator, at (503) 244-8318.

December 15 to 16

A Baroque Christmas at Trinity and Wassail Party. Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Avenue, Portland. Part of the Sacred Music in a Sacred Space concert series featuring the great sacred choral works of the 17th and 18th centuries performed on period instruments in historic Trinity Cathedral. To order your subscription, call (503) 222-9811 or www.trinityconsort.org.

January 1

One Day of Peace. On December 15, 2000, the U.S. Congress unanimously passed an initiative stating that January 1 of every year be designated as a day of peace and sharing. To promote this day of peace and sharing, call (503) 422-7254 or www.onedayofpeace.net.

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 Stortz and The Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker. For further information or to register, contact (541) 346-7546 or dglass@kozmail.com.

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.

To submit calendar items for the *Voice*, please email showell@emoregon.org.