The Power of Reconciliation
EMO’s Annual Celebration honors community leaders promoting justice, peace & reconciliation

Every year, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s (EMO) friends and supporters gather from around the state to celebrate and honor ecumenical partners who have accomplished extraordinary things in Oregon. The EMO Community Awards and Celebration Dinner is a joyful and informative recognition of the work our congregations and people of faith accomplish together. This year’s dinner will be held the evening of Oct. 13 at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Portland, with the theme “The Power of Reconciliation.”

Our major dinner sponsors this year are Providence Health & Services and Legacy Health System, which to date are joined by Augustana Lutheran Church, First Congregational Church in Portland, First United Methodist Church in Portland, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Ron Means, Oregon Food Bank, the Rev. Dr. Rodney Page & Sandra Page, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church, SEIU Local 503, Williamette Quarterly Meeting, Wright Land Co., and the Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell & George Crandall.

The event will also include a silent auction, with proceeds going to support EMO’s ministries, as well as continuing our tradition of a collection for our ministries around the state.

Community leaders and organizations honored

The Rev. Mark Knutson, senior pastor at Augustana Lutheran Church since 1995, will be honored as “Ecumenist of the Year.” Knutson is dedicated to collaborative, ecumenical and interfaith work for the greater community. The event will also include a silent auction, with proceeds going to support EMO’s ministries, as well as continuing our tradition of a collection for our ministries around the state.

The Rev. Mark Knutson, pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church, will be honored as ‘Ecumenist of the Year,” in recognition of Knutson’s leadership and commitment to fostering the love of Christ through ecumenical dialogue, witness and ministry.

The summer of 2009 has proved to be a busy and challenging one for all concerned about federal (and state) health reform. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) has launched the Oregon Interfaith Health Justice Campaign (OIHJC)—a joint project of EMO with the Archimedes Movement and Oregon Action. The goal of the campaign is to educate Oregonians from diverse religious backgrounds about the problems with our current health care system and engage them in efforts to reform the health care system so that it provides universal health care coverage and access, reduces or eliminates health disparities, and is more cost-effective.

To understand the details of complex health reform proposals, EMO has been actively engaging concerned religious leaders and activists in federal health reform discussions. A number of statewide conference call briefings were set up for members of the faith community. Two calls focused on how reform would affect poor and low-income Oregonians. Participants also discussed both Medicaid expansion as part of health reform and how the proposed insurance exchange, combined with affordability subsidies, would assist low-income Oregonians in purchasing health insurance. Current federal proposals would provide subsidies on a sliding-scale basis to those low-income individuals or families that make less than 300 to 400 percent of the federal poverty level. For a family of four, the federal poverty level is $22,050. So if subsidies went up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level for a family of four, they would be available to all such families making up to $66,150.

Other briefing calls examined how health reform would affect seniors and Medicare, and explored issues of immigrant access to health care under federal health reform.
Health care, justice and the faith community

For centuries, the Christian community and other faith traditions have been at the forefront of providing some of the best health care in the world. Christian Missionary Orders, inspired by the model of Jesus as a compassionate healer, care for the poor in developing nations throughout the world. Closer to home, faith-based health systems like PeaceHealth, Adventist Health, Providence Health & Services and Legacy Health System tend to the health needs of people on all ends of the economic spectrum. Religious community organizations like the Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's HIV Day Center offer important health care resources, ensuring support to those often living with inadequate care.

Religious communities are also responsible for creating and supporting community-based services to provide health care for those with inadequate or no health insurance. In parts of Oregon as diverse as Southwest Portland, Bend and Bandon, religious organizations have joined together with other sectors to create medical clinics that offer free or reduced-cost services to meet the needs of those who critically need such care. Portland's Southwest Community Health Center is actively assisted by the its ecumenical Supporter Group, whose members include the Bilal Mosque Association, Congregation Neveh Shalom, Hillsdale Community Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, St. Clare Church, St. Luke Lutheran Church and West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The Rev. Bill Ellis, formerly of Trinity Episcopal Church in Bend, helped to found the Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) Clinic of the Cascades in Bend. Currently, the Rev. Stephen Koski of Bend's First Presbyterian Church serves on the VIM Board of Directors. Religious leaders also sit on the board of the Bandon Community Health Center—a Rural Health Clinic (RHC) that will be opening this fall. (The RHC program is intended to increase primary care services for Medicaid and Medicare patients in rural communities.)

The existence of these services speaks volumes to awareness of the need and the concern that many Oregonians have for the condition of their neighbors, as these programs depend on the generous support of donors from all sectors. Simply put, without such support, many Oregonians would not get the health care they need.

However, their very presence reminds us of the enormous and unnecessary gaps in the way we provide health care. As a recent pastoral letter issued through the National Council of Churches states, "Health and wholeness in our communities cannot be achieved piecemeal, much less a caring health care be regarded as the privilege of some." Access to quality and affordable health care should not be based on wealth, employment status or age, but on the principles of justice and fairness rooted in the belief in the basic human dignity of all people. Thus, as people of faith, we are called to affirm that access to affordable and quality health care is a basic human right that should be extended to all people.

Sadly, however, this sentiment is not universally shared. Last month, I attended one of Congressman Kurt Schrader’s town hall meetings in Oregon City. One participant spoke eloquently about living with Parkinson’s disease and the high quality of care he was receiving from his doctor. He then concluded his remarks with his belief that current legislation being considered in Congress, if passed, would cause him and therefore he would do all he could to light the reform efforts offered by the President or Congress. What I found disappointing was that he was misinformed about the proposed legislation. More disappointing, he missed the opportunity to advocate for similar coverage for those in this country who have Parkinson’s but who do not have the means to get the same high quality, excellent coverage that he had.

And it is at this point that the faith community can offer major contributions in the health care debates in the days ahead. We can help to broaden this man’s perspective to include the needs of all people. We can lift up the big vision of universal coverage and develop places for theologically enriched and informed deliberations about the future of health care policy in this country. We can also continue to compassionately and creatively serve those in need through a variety of means, be they big health care systems or local grassroots organizations.

And through all of this, we can advocate passionately in the spirit of the prophet Amos, who said, “Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream,” carrying us to the day when health care inequities will be no more.

Ecumenical conferences across the globe

Parliament of the World’s Religions — Dec. 3 to 9, 2009, Melbourne, Australia. First held in 1889, the Parliament of the World’s Religions brings together the world’s religious and spiritual communities, their leaders and their followers to gather, reflecting on the need for America, as well as for the planet, to come together in peace and hope. As this year’s edition draws to a close, organizers are counting the full impact of addressing the needs of the world’s religious and spiritual communities, and their leaders and their followers to gather, reflecting on the need for a new era of interreligious understanding and cooperation. The event is expected to attract more than 3,000 visitors, including notable religious leaders, scholars, and practitioners from all over the world.

Sabeel Witness Visit — Oct. 29 to Nov. 6, 2009, Israel and Palestine. Sabeel is an ecumenical grassroots liberation theology movement among Palestinian Christians. Inspired by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, it seeks to deepen the faith of Palestinian Christians and promote unity among them toward social action. The “Sabeel Witness Visit” offers a window into the daily lives of Palestinians living in the Occupied Territories and the experiences and challenges they face. The land cost is $1,100. For more information or to register, visit www.sabeel.org.

Upcoming EMO sponsored & cosponsored events

October 3
Food Sovereignty for All: An Interfaith Summit — Overhauling the Food System with Faith-Based Initiative, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Portland Community College, 4000 SW Western Blvd, Corvallis. Join us for a tour of local demonstration sites and a discussion on how faith communities can make a difference in our food system. Learn about community gardens, commercial kitchens, micro-enterprise incubation, buying clubs, wellness policies and more. Visit the farmers’ market to gain an understanding of electronic food stamp access and the “That’s My Plate” program. Learn more and register at www.emoregon.org.

October 13
EMO Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Reception/Silent Auction and 7 p.m. Dinner/Awards Presentation at the Portland Hilton, Pavilion, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland. Visit the front page for more information or for reservations, visit www.emoregon.org or call (503) 221-1054.

October 18
Hand to Hand, 12 to 4 p.m. at Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland. A community resource fair, bringing together more than 30 Portland metro area nonprofits that provide essential food services and support to local individuals and families. For more information, contact Bob Forresten at hoody@emoregon.org or (503) 245-6946.

December 1
World AIDS Day Fundraiser and Breakfast, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at Concordia University, Portland. Sponsored by Concordia University, this fundraiser will benefit EMO’s HIV Day Center. More details will be available at www.emoregon.org.

For more information or to register, visit www.parliamentofreligions.org.
**IFFF partnering with Bon Appetit to provide cooking classes for kids**

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership (IFFP) partnered with Bon Appetit Management Company this summer to provide cooking classes for middle school students who are part of Expressiones, a program of Hacienda Child Development Center. Expressiones is an after-school and summer enrichment program designed to increase family participation and school attendance and reduce youth risk factors such as gang involvement, dropping out of school and alcohol abuse. Hacienda works with community organizations throughout the summer to provide activities for the kids.

The cooking classes were taught by three enthusiastic chefs from Bon Appetit Management Company—a food service company that is committed to creating a just and sustainable food system. Bon Appetit generously donated chef time, supplies and food for the classes as a way to give back to the community, empower youth to build a better food system and promote healthy eating.

Since IFFP conducted a 2007 food assessment in areas of northeast Portland—including the Cully neighborhood where Hacienda is based—IFFP has prioritized these areas in its projects to improve food access. Providing cooking classes for Hacienda is one of several such projects. The classes give kids a chance to learn new skills, eat healthy food, be inspired by people who love their work and take home recipes to try at home with their parents.

IFFP is planning other classes with the chefs for the fall.

If you would like more information about the cooking classes, please contact Alison Warren at (503) 221-1054, ext. 210, or awarren@emoregon.org.

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**Forums scheduled on “Faith, Health Reform & Our Community”**

- **SALEM**: Sept. 22, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., First Congregational Church, 700 Marion St. NE.
- **BEND**: Sept. 29, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 230 NE Ninth St.
- **EUGENE**: Oct. 4, time TBD, First Christian Church, 1166 Oak St.
- **HOOD RIVER**: Oct. 15, time TBD, Hood River Middle School, 1602 May St.
- **PORTLAND**: Nov. 7, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Maranatha Church of God, 4222 NE 12th Ave.
- **BEAVERTON**: Nov. 10, 7 to 9 p.m., St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 12405 SW Burner Rd.

**Steering committee members recruited**

During this summer, EMO recruited an impressive array of religiousOregonians to serve on a steering committee for the OHJC. These include:

- The Rev. David Bean, Cherry Park United Methodist Church in Portland, and president of Methodist Federation for Social Action.
- Tom Burns, attends St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church and is a health policy expert who advised state legislators on health reform.
- Rabbi Michael Cahana, Temple Beth Israel in Portland.
- Aelea Christofferson, attends First Presbyterian in Bend, served on the Finance committee of the Oregon Health Fund Board and is a small business owner.
- Bob Horenstein, Community Relations Committee director, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.
- Betty Johnson, chair of the Corvallis Interfaith Health Network.
- The Very Rev. Jim McNeil, deacon at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in Ontario and former Ontario City Council member.
- Robin Ingram-Rich, RN, MPH, member of First Christian Church (Disciples) in Portland.
- Linda Payne, parish nurse, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Portland.
- The Rev. John Reutter-Harrah, pastor, Prince of Life Lutheran Church in Oregon City.
- Bruce Stude, executive director of Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries.
- Barbara Segal, Providence Health & Services.
- Priscilla Lewis, Providence Health & Services.

**Oregon Interfaith Health Justice Campaign Web page launched**

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon launched a new dedicated OHJC Web page on the EMO Web site. You can go to the Web page to sign our “Interfaith Statement of Conscience on Health Reform” and access a list of resources available to help work for a more just health care future. Signing the statement of conscience is a way to be sure you receive e-mail announcements about EMO’s health reform activities. Please visit the page at www.emoregon.org/healthcare_reform.php.

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**EMO’s Community Ministries by the numbers**

(April through June 2009)

- **Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial**: Received 19,610 pounds of donated food and supplied three-to five-days worth of groceries to 5,067 individuals (up from 4,151 during the same quarter last year).
- **Portland International Community School**: During the 2008-2009 school year, the school served a record 62 students.
- **Russian Oregon Social Services**: Provided 181 Russian-speaking clients with direct services, including assistance to 62 domestic violence/sexual assault clients. 21 women received a free mammogram, 4 clients received rental assistance, 11 dental care, 8 legal assistance and 18 attended ESL classes.
- **Shared Housing**: Arranged 36 matches, providing 328 months of housing.
- **Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees**: Received 58 refugees and asylum seekers from Cuba, Iraq, Burma and the Former Soviet Union.
EMO Annual Celebration

Continued from page 1

good. He serves on the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland and the Albina Ministerial Alliance and was a past president of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. Knutson is also committed to building a truly diverse and multicultural community and congregation at Augusta—a 103-year-old congregation with over 700 members. Augusta is a thriving multicultural, multinational, welcoming and affirming church without borders. It has been a Sanctuary congregation since 1996 and is the home of a non-profit collaborative.

Before joining Augusta, Knutson served on the National Council Churches (NCC) Young Adult Ministry Committee and worked with the NCC, World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation to lift up youth delegates for assemblies and meetings. Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfeld, who passed away tragically in January 2009, received posthumously the “Two Pauls Award,” presented in recognition of outstanding promotion of interfaith dialogue, service and relations.

Hirschfeld helped establish Congregation P’nai Or in 1996, a welcoming Jewish Renewal community, where he served as rabbi until his death. He was passionately involved in interfaith dialogue for over 30 years and was an active member of the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland. He took groups to Israel and Palestine to meet with and support individuals and organizations working to bring about a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Hirschfeld was also an internationally-known singer, composer of Jewish liturgical music, storyteller and teacher of Jewish spirituality.

Jubilee Oregon will be honored with the “Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award,” which recognizes outstanding commitment to humanitarian responsibility that has significantly enhanced the quality of life for all. Jubilee Oregon, a local chapter of Jubilee USA Network, is an all volunteer group committed to fulfilling the Jubilee goal of definitive cancellation of crushing debts to fight poverty and injustice in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

“Ecumenical Service Awards”—given in recognition of special achievements in ecumenical community ministries in Oregon—will be presented to McNemarville Area Habitat for Humanity and Madras United Methodist Church (UMC). Habitat for Humanity’s mission is to build partnerships among volunteers, families and the community in order to build simple, decent houses with families in need. They closely congregations in the McNemarville area to one another, as well as linking college students to both congregations and “builds” in Central and South America. They are not just building houses, they are building relationships and networks within the faith community.

Madras UMC is the center of a strong, lively ecumenical collaboration among Madras churches, including an emergency food program, community kitchen, garden and other programs. The congregation recently held an event in a public park providing free food, haircuts, medical screening, car washes and more.

Join us!

You can sponsor a table of 10 at the event for $600. Ask nine friends to join you in sponsoring and attending for a fun and worthwhile evening—or treat friends and business associates to a place at your table. Table sponsors can also designate seats at their table for EMO guests who otherwise could not afford the dinner fee. Individual tickets are $60 each. For reservations, download a Response Card at www.emoregon.org.

The donation of silent auction items is also welcome. All money raised will go to support EMO and its programs. Donate a weekend at a vacation home, tickets to a show, travel miles or a gift certificate from your favorite service business, restaurant or shop, which can attract new customers and receive free publicity while doing good for your community.

For more information about the event, including sponsorship or auction item donations, please contact Carla Starrett-Bigg or Elizabeth Wertherl Shadle at (503) 221-1054.

Help EMO reach the goal of raising $70,000 for the Collins Foundation challenge grant.

Double your gift today!

All gifts to EMO will be matched 100 percent by the Collins Foundation.

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Please make tax deductible checks to EMO or pay by:
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express
Card No. __________________________ Exp. Date __________
☐ $2,500 ☐ $1,000 ☐ $500 ☐ $250 ☐ $100 ☐ $50 ☐ Other $ ________

Please send your gift to:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, 0245 SW Bancroft St., Suite B, Portland, OR 97239. You may also make a credit card donation over the phone by calling EMO at (503) 221-1054 or make a secure on-line credit card donation at www.emoregon.org.

EMO celebrates recent grants & gifts

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s Board of Directors and staff extend their appreciation to those who have supported EMO’s ministries. The following is a partial list of foundation and community support received by EMO since the Spring 2009 issue of the Voice.

Donor (Fund) ____________________________ Program ____________________________
The Collins Foundation Dingo’s Restaurant HIV Services, “Dining Out For Life” 2009 Annual Fund
Echo Restaurant HIV Services, “Dining Out For Life” HIV Services, “Dining Out For Life”
The Energy Foundation Evangelical Lutheran Church in America HIV Services, “Dining Out For Life”
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Oregon Interfaith Power & Light Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership
Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church HIV Services, “Dining Out For Life”
Methodist Church SOAR Legal Services 2009 Annual Fund
II Piatto’s Restaurant HIV Services Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Portland International Community School
Kiwarius Club of Portland HIV Services Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership
Oregon Food Bank Spirit Mountain Foundation Russian Oregon Social Services
PGE Foundation Starky’s Restaurant and Bar HIV Services, “Dining Out For Life”
Por Que No Taqueria SubRosa Portland International Community School
Portland Schools Foundation HIV Services Spirit Mountain Foundation
Portland Interfaith Ministries Portland International Community School
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) HIV Services Spirit Mountain Foundation
Presbyterian Church in the United States HIV Services, “Dining Out For Life”
Program at Luther Memorial HIV Services, “Dining Out For Life”
Presbyterian Church in the United States Portland International Community School
Program at Luther Memorial HIV Services, “Dining Out For Life”
United Methodist Church Portland International Community School
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Honor and memorial gifts

May to mid-August 2009

Gifts in Honor
In honor of the Climate Change Initiative
Martin J. Desmond
In honor of Bonny J. Grossbow
Van Hardison
In honor of Verrie Meyer
Linda Baergl
In honor of G.P. Pardington
Joyce Lew
In honor of Loyd O. Schaad
Dianne D. Schaad
In honor of Mark W. Weidkamp
Kenneth M. Weidkamp

Gifts in Memory
In memory of Mary Boos
Richard H. Boos
In memory of Mrs. R. L. Carlson
Celia Carlson
In memory of John Casas
Raymond L. Barnes
In memory of Emily Davis
Diana B. Baird
In memory of Periphecan Camille
Elizabeth Foster-Hunt
Charles W. Hunt

In memory of Lenore Frimoth
Elmce Frimoth
In memory of Amanda Jackson
Patricia M. Brakel
In memory of Geo and Ethel Johnson
Christian P. Heil
In memory of Paula Justice
Clarence J. Justice
In memory of John Lanagan
John B. Marks
In memory of Noel A. Martin
Mary L. Martin
In memory of Roger M. Melrose
Sam Pobanz
In memory of Kay Muagre
Wayne Muagre
In memory of Patricia Smith
Dan Blair
In memory of Leo Sorenson
Aileen A. Sorenson
In memory of David S. Suarez
Rebecca Levison
Edward A. Orter
In memory of Dennis Tonellen
Lustie A.Followell
In memory of Katherine Weidkamp
Richard A. Brown

E.70.1041 - L. Paramita

The late Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfeld will be honored with a posthumous “Two Pauls Award” for over 30 years of interfaith work.