

**At the**

# CUTTING EDGE

A United Methodist Women's CA/NV Conference Publication



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☀ **LET THE SUNSHINE IN** ☀

**By Grace Randall & Kat Teraji**

***“Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance. Great dancers are not great because of their technique, they are great because of their passion.***

***Dance is the hidden language of the soul.”***

- Martha Graham (1894-1994) US dancer, choreographer

I watch the lithe woman before me as she slowly turns, sways back and forth, and raises her arms high as if to embrace the sun, then lowers them and places her hands over her heart. Looking much younger than her 80 years, she moves with supple grace down the church aisle as “How Great Thou Art” is being sung.

The dancer, Grace Randall, tells me, “Sacred dance has become the medium which allows me to fully express in worship settings the love of God, Christ's church, and his people. My experience has led me to believe that it would be a wonderful part of the worship experience in our churches.”

“Sacred or liturgical (as it is sometimes called) dance enables me to express my emotions to words and music. I believe that natural dance lets the sunshine in on our soul's cells and frees us from the ice-like rigidity that prevents us from experiencing true freedom of the spirit. Sacred dance enables us to find another way to experience joyousness while magnifying the Lord.”

Grace has always loved to dance. “A young WWII veteran home after the war taught me how to do the swing,” she says. “At social dances, we whirled and

laughed, or danced quietly to the romantic strains of popular music.”

“Not long after learning the swing together, we were married and danced through 41 years of marriage until he was taken away by lung cancer.”

Without her partner, Grace thought her dancing days were done.

But she says, “My love affair with dance began again several years ago when I attended a workshop in creativity (writing, music, poetry, etc.) led by artist Beverly Shamana before she became Bishop.

At the close of the event, Grace asked Shamana to explain why dance was not included. “I believe creative dance is part of our spiritual nature,” Grace argued. Shamana agreed.

During the closing moments of the workshop, the participants were singing a hymn unfamiliar to Grace. “Suddenly, Shamana asked me to dance,” she recalls. “She opened the door...and encouraged by the spirit, I stepped through that door.”

Later on, at a District United Methodist Women's Retreat held in the Santa Cruz mountains, 200 women were singing the age-old favorite hymn, ‘In the Garden.’ “Responding to the spirit, I stepped into the aisle and began to flow with the words to the music.” The supple and sylphlike movements of Grace seemed to be expressing the deepest emotions of her soul.

“Later, a young woman came up to me with tears

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**WEAVING the FIBER & FABRIC of FAITH**

by Nancy Watling, Conference President

**ON BEHALF OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Annual Conference Session, June 17, 2005

I am honored to be speaking today on behalf of the California/Nevada United Methodist Women. We are also quite honored to have had our organization included in the Board of Laity this past year. We value this opportunity to include our voice in the proceedings of the Annual Conference of 2005. Thank you, Bishop Shamana and Pete.

We like to think of UMW as a resplendent and dedicated arm of the Methodist Church actively engaged in fulfilling the mission of Christ and the Church, and interpreting the purpose of United Methodist Women which reads:

“The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the Church.”

We are a 136-year-old organization whose emphasis is MISSION with special attention to the needs of women, children, and youth. It is a laywoman’s organization. California-Nevada’s membership numbers close to 12,000. Monies raised for CA/NV local and community projects amounted last year to \$575,714. Total CA/NV national and international gifts to mission through Women’s Division were in excess of \$331,250.

The Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church administers the 67 Conferences of UMW. Total membership is slightly less than 1,000,000; the annual budget is about \$20,000,000, and the Division administers an extensively developed program of spiritual enrichment, leadership, preparation, mission education, and social action.

We are proud of our accomplishments: our well attended Schools of Mission Education, our diversity. Our Conference team roster reads like a United Nations listing, and the rewards of working together comprise a very special gift. We are proud of our cooperation with the California Council of Churches in presenting the annual Legislative Event, and proud

of our scholarships and grants to adults and youth. Of special regard is the work accomplished by the Beulah Fund grants, which are intended for older adult needs throughout the Conference and are available to all Conference churches that qualify.

As for what we would like to envision for the future, our goals don’t differ from the dreams and concerns of the Church proper. Specifically, we’d like to see increased membership and improved relevancy and communication.

Membership might be easily increased in one way by the establishment of units in every church in the Conference, not just most churches. The Discipline has a “shall be,” not a “may be” in that well-known sentence about establishing units of UMW.

What minister or organization has not striven to achieve intergenerational membership, as well as leadership, in order to enjoy the pluses of respect and cooperation realized when generations work together. Contrary to some of our detractors, we are not an organization intended for octogenarians only. We will continue to work to attract new younger members and newly retired members.

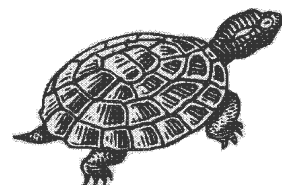
Above all, we need to make known the breadth of the work of United Methodist Women, its far-reaching potency and force, and its ageless purpose. Meanwhile, remembering that we are the role models carrying this torch of commitment to the mission of Christ and the Church, and in return, reaping the joys of association and accomplishment while doing our work of the laity.

“Truly I say unto you, as you did it to one of the least of these my children, you did it to me.” Amen.

Will all members of United Methodist Women and all present at this Conference who have been touched by members and action of United Methodist Women--be it your mother, grandmother, a mission gift, a ministerial or camp scholarship, or even good Methodist potluck food—PLEASE stand and recognize this resplendent arm of the Church!

Lovingly,

*Nancy*



(Continued from ✨, Page 1)

in her eyes and revealed her emotions about having lost her father. And then widows with eyes filled with tears came to talk to me.

“Many other experiences have followed for me. It is a media for worship, a sacred uplifting and releasing experience. In my imagination, the Spirit is represented by the rainbow, a musical staff, the colors of which vibrate and sound to me like the humming of many bees. When I respond to the calling of the Spirit, I’m able to give expression to the words and music from deep recesses of my soul.”

Now at age 80, Grace continues to dance her way through life with passion.

“It’s like Mark Twain said: ‘Dance like no one is watching. Sing like no one is listening. Love like you’ve never been hurt and live like it’s heaven on Earth.’”

**Editor’s Note:** *Grace has held many UMW offices in Vallejo and Mountain View and in the CA-NV Conference. We stand on the shoulders of women such as Grace. May we never forget the pioneering efforts of those who have gone before us to light the way. I asked her to dig through her archives and share her history as a **United Methodist Woman:***

**2005 Conference Officers**

President ..... Nancy Watling  
Vice President ..... Kay Walker  
Secretary ..... Joanne Iritani  
Treasurer..... Juliet Maliksi  
Chr. Committee on Nominations..... Naoma Bodin

**Mission Coordinators:**

Spiritual Growth ..... Sookie Song  
Education & Interpretation ..... Jeannie Ortiz  
Social Action ..... To Be Supplied  
Membership Nurture & Outreach..... JoAnn Wells  
Secretary, Program Resources..... Laddie Galang  
Communications Coordinator ..... Kat Teraji  
Coord., Korean-American ..... Jane Yoon  
Women’s Network  
Coord., Hispanic Women’s Network .. Celina Mayorga

“One of my most precious jewels in my UMW "crown" is the office I held as president of the Woman's Society

of Christian Service back in 1953 to 1954! That was a terrific year because our little Society was involved in raising money for a new church building. It was fun acting as publicity chairman, too.

“Another jewel came when I served as Secretary for our Conference in 1985 to 1986. Those were the years when I transitioned from the typewriter to the computer in the middle of the year. That was an experience!

“My next little jewel came when I was a member of the Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women in 1986. The members of that commission asked me to implement an Asian American Women's Leadership Seminar and funded it with a grant. The event was held in Burlingame in 1987.

“Another jewel was added when The Asian American Women's Caucus of the National Federation of Asian American United Methodists elected me as their president and sent me to the 1992 General Conference at Louisville, Kentucky.

“The last jewel in my UMW "crown" came when I became the Coordinator for Education and Interpretation for the California-Nevada Conference UMW. I enjoyed working with the local church UMW Coordinators so much. There you are! It was a big job, but a very pleasant trip down memory lane.”

**Committee on Nominations:**

Betty Stallworth, Lupita Diaz, Louise Rose, Jenny Younwoo Han, Elizabeth Kang, Carmencita Navarro, Willa Sudduth

**Members of Comm. On Charter for Racial Justice Policies:**

Jane Yoon, Susan Byungsook Lee, Theresa Thibodeaux, Celina Mayorga, Martha Milk, Mary Lou Robinson, Geneie Cunyngnam, & Kat Teraji

**2005 Mission Education Events Officers**

Dean of Schools..... Kay Walker  
Assistant Dean ..... Barbara Ward  
Asst. Dean: Korean Studies ..... Sahie Kang  
Registrar ..... Joanne Iritani  
Treasurer & Business Manager..... Juliet Maliksi  
Team Secretary ..... Mary Lou Robinson

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**On the Charter for Racial Justice** By **Geneie Cunyningham**, Chair of the Committee on the Charter for Racial Justice Policies

Our Conference has the distinction of being a very diverse group. Since diversity is a major part of our Conference, why not use this diversity as our strong point? Let's ask ourselves, How can the Conference work together to celebrate this diversity? Where are the strengths? How can these strengths be implemented in our local units? Without local units being involved, excited, and committed to any program offered by the Conference, little can be accomplished.

Now comes the problem. How can we celebrate this marvelous diversity on the local level? I need ideas from all of you. Some districts have greater diversity than others. Can this be shared among the districts? What a great challenge is before our Conference to explore the many talents and histories of our diverse groups.

I would like to use the word JUSTICE as a starting point. Justice involves all people working together. There are numerous topics or titles under the umbrella of justice: gender bias, elder care, safe schools, equal pay for equal work, and the list goes on. How can the local units use these topics? What has been done in the past? It appears as if each district will need a separate plan to meet their own needs and interests.

This chairmanship is new to me. I will need lots of help. The Committee on the Charter for Racial Justice Policies would appreciate your suggestions.

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**Goals for the California-Nevada Conference of United Methodist Women**

**Goals Committee  
2005 - 2006**

1. Continue to celebrate and increase our diversity within the UMW/CA-NV Conference, in order to be recognized as a model conference within the Western Jurisdiction.
2. Hold a Conference Officers' Retreat annually for the benefit of the total Conference, to be held in January at Santa Nella.
3. In order to promote the concepts of Mission and the PURPOSE of the United Methodist Women, each District will plan and implement the Unit Visitation Program.
4. Each District Visitation Team will visit at least 75% of the active Units in the District within a two-year time period.
5. Continue the itineration of Districts by the Conference President.
6. Charge each District to encourage frequent study and discussion of the Charter for Racial Justice Policies.
7. Continue to support Legislative Events sponsored by the CA-NV Conference and/or the California Council of Churches.
8. Continue outreach to increase membership, including teens and young women.
9. Publish these goals in the Conference Newsletter and the UMW Annual Meeting Program book.

Submitted by Goals Committee:  
*Barbara Ward, Kay Walker, and Sookie Song*  
April 16, 2005

This Spring the California-Nevada Conference UMW threw its support behind the **Legislative Issues Briefing** sponsored by the **California Council of Churches** in Sacramento, giving both monetary support and sending representatives to make the UMW voice heard on behalf of women and children.

## What a joy it was...

...to gather with so many other concerned and dedicated people working for justice at the annual **Legislative Issues Briefing at the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sacramento in May.**

By **Beverley Canon**, Mission Coordinator for Social Action, San Jose District UMW

There were five of us from the San Jose District who attended the 2005 Legislative Event: Beverley Canon, Donna Furuta, Connie Hunter, Esther Jakel, and the Rev. Margo Tenold.

Two outstanding speakers, Susan Pace Hamill, an author from Alabama with an extensive background in law, and the Rev. Alexia Salvatierra, a Lutheran Minister in Los Angeles County and executive director of CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice), delivered addresses that kept us attuned to every word.

Ms. Hamill described the tax system in Alabama as “in the pits” with the poor paying the greatest taxes and the wealthy paying very few and warned us that California, too, could get there someday, if we don't take action for a just tax system now. She stressed that the tax structure should be biblically-based and that the Bible forbids oppression.

She stated “the people in the pews are asleep at the switch and don't even see the evils of poverty.” She

closed by saying, “The people must reclaim tax policy as our issue of justice. As goes Alabama, so goes the Nation.”

Pastor Salvatierra was aware of injustice at a very early age while growing up in a racially mixed neighborhood in Los Angeles. She has energetically fought for the low income worker for over 20 years, not only at home, but across the nation and around the world.

She strongly believes that a living wage and health care are essential to the success of the low income worker.

For the past year, she has organized monthly vigils in front of the Radisson Hotel to bring attention to the fact that when the hotel purchased another hotel, management **did not honor the previous workers' contracts.** Many of these workers are non-English speaking; many are older adults who **had been with the hotel for 20 to 30 years.**

New jobs are difficult to find, and their families are hurting. She has had some successful results due to these vigils. In addition, thanks to her efforts, every family had a turkey and every child a gift for the holidays.

In addition to the speakers, there were six workshops to choose from on Saturday morning, all related to justice in taxation and the struggles of low income families in California. After lunch, we gathered in small groups and walked to the Capitol to meet with various legislators, in order to make our voices heard.

The Event was very well-organized, interesting, and thought-provoking. I wish everyone could have attended. When it comes up next year, please try to work it into your schedule. You will never forget it.

## Korean Women Plant Seeds of Joyful Harvest

By **Katherine Kim**, Deaconess, & Treasurer for the Western Jurisdiction Core Planning Group

“I won't be idle with despair; I will gather myself around my faith. We are God's eyes, God's hands, God's heart,” Jan Love defined Mission using this quote from pop singer Jewel's song, “Hands,” during the plenary session of the Korean-American United Methodist Women's National Training Event. For 100 women in Nashville from May 19-22, the event was their first introduction to United Methodist Women. Thirty more

women remained on a waiting list due to space limitations. This national training event started in 1993 under the direction of Rev. Hea Sun Kim, Women's Division Korean Consultant, and we are celebrating our 12th anniversary this year.

With the help of Women's Division, the Korean UMW has grown to the point where this may be the last national gathering. It is time for us to become independent and pay back what we owe for Mission.

***“The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps.”*** (Proverbs 16:9). Kyung Za Kim, current (and first) Korean president of Women's Division, described how she had been challenged with the difficulties of language and differences in culture, but the Korean National Training had helped her grow into today's position.

As she described her role as bridge between UMW and Korean UMW, she said that the Charter for Racial Justice first adopted by the UMW had helped her to become Women's Division president.

Jan Love described the hardships her family suffered in the South because of her father's support of the Civil Rights Movement in his work as a Methodist minister. When things happened such as the KKK burning an effigy in front of Love's house, it was the belief and support of UMW that made a difference.

In gratitude, she became a member of UMW. She encouraged us to participate in UMW with courage and vision. Her moving speech brought the audience to its feet in a standing ovation.

Karen Prudente, Executive Secretary of International Ministries, introduced us to the Bible Women's Program. A woman receives training from Women's Division, and then she in turn teaches the local women to become Bible women, training them in Bible study, literacy, health issues, and other necessary techniques for daily living.

We learned that Korean Bible Women started in 1910;

it was exciting to know that we are the fruits of this program.

It is a great mission opportunity for anyone who wants to serve God directly and indirectly by donating their time or money to help underprivileged women and children around the world.

For example, one can buy a pig for \$100 to feed a family, \$500 for a mushroom project, and \$125 for tailoring and sewing materials, etc. Microcredit is a program for lending money to people in order to help them become self-supporting. People can borrow a small amount of money to start a business, and then pay it back later as they make a profit. This enables local women to feed their families and support themselves.

We studied the Samaritan woman (John 4:9-14). She was so inspired after talking to Jesus that she went out to spread the gospel. We are going to go out into the world and spread the gospel just like the Samaritan woman did. But how are we going to do it?

Many women said they want to work with the Bible Women's Program, and some volunteered to donate to the Microcredit Program.

When an offering was collected, the women gave \$15,280 as their gift to Mission.

On the first day, we planted sunflower seeds and watched them grow over the course of our meeting. On the last day, sunflowers bloomed beautifully. This is how we grew during those days together. At our closing ceremony, we pinned sunflower corsages on each other, remembering our commitment to Mission.

We pledge to be a seed of Mission and to grow up strong in doing God's work. We are the new possibilities. We are going out into the world to plant **the seeds of Joyful News and to harvest God's Good News through our Mission Work!** *“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.”* (Phil. 4:13).

## Women Who Dare

### Commission on the Status and Role of Women in the Methodist Church

By Kat Teraji & Willa Sudduth

“Human rights require the rights of women.” —*First Lady Laura Bush, speaking at the World Economic Forum, The Dead Sea, Jordan.*

“When we pray, we also have to move our feet.” —*Willa Sudduth quoting Congressman John Lewis (D-GA).*

At this year’s CA-NV Annual Conference Session in June, Willa Sudduth gave a presentation on the revival in the Conference of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW).

**COSROW was established as an action-oriented commission to address the under-valuing and under-use of women at all levels of the denomination. It works from within to bring about the full inclusion of all women in the total life and mission of The United Methodist Church.**

Sudduth is chairperson for the current committee on COSROW and brings a long history of social activism to the role.

Sudduth was educated in labor history at UC Berkeley and was a founding member of the International Association of Women Machinists.

As a single mom raising five children, Sudduth always fought for equal rights and benefits for women. In her earlier activist years, she picketed the South African Embassy with the International Coalition of Labor Union Women; and she also served on the State Civil

Rights Task Force, where she was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown.

Now her work with the UMW is a strong way of supporting the issues that most affect women and children. Having just finished a term as Mission Coordinator for Social Action, Sudduth is serving on the nominating committee. She also serves as the Coordinator for the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

Sudduth carries a piece of women’s history with her which she shares with younger women: the original cassette tapes from Status and Women held in Texas.



Sudduth recalls that when the men who’d been staying there heard about the women’s conference, they refused to check out, trying to prevent the women from being able to bring their belongings into the hotel.

Sudduth was a delegate to this Conference which was held just after the 1976 General Conference which established the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women as a standing commission.

Shortly after that, the UMC elected the first woman bishop, Marjorie Matthews, of the North Central Jurisdiction.

In 1984, the UMC elected Leontine T.C. Kelly, an African-American, as the UMC’s first woman of color bishop.

“Even though a lot seems like it has changed,” Sudduth said, “We are still

fighting for the same issues. Many things have not changed enough.”

To those sensitive to such issues, it seemed more than a little ironic when Sudduth’s presentation on COSROW at this year’s CA-NV Annual Conference was cut short because earlier speakers (male) had been too lengthy, and the schedule needed to be tightened up.

The United Methodist Church is preparing to celebrate another unique moment in its history in 2006: the 50th anniversary of our denomination granting full clergy rights to women.

Sudduth said, “We need to know women’s history in order for the story of our church to be inclusive. If it doesn’t include all women, Native-American, African-American, Asian-American, European-American women, etc., then we have only part of the story, and we want to have the whole story told.”

M. Garlinda Burton, General Secretary for COSROW, put it this way: “You and I have opportunities for ministry that our grandmothers couldn’t have imagined.”

“Why? Because the *first* woman was willing to risk ridicule in her annual conference. Because that *first* group of sisters organized and staged demonstrations at General Conference to see that we received full voting rights.

“Because the *first* woman usher, trustee, lay leader, missionary, pastor, superintendent, and bishop paved the way...we’re becoming the church our mothers always envisioned. Thanks be to God.” (*The Flyer*, Vol. 36, No. 3).

## Women Who Dare

### Profile of A Daring Woman of Faith

*At age 86, the dynamic Sookie Song serves with the CA-NV Conference as Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth.*

STORY BY SOOKIE SONG

Praise the Lord! At age 16, I left the Los Angeles Korean UMC. Perhaps due to a language barrier, I did not understand the Trinity. For forty years I searched and during that time I found the Baha'i Faith and served as a teacher for 18 years. This was a stepping stone to meet Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

One day I happened to turn to the Bible and read this verse: John 16:12-13: "I have much to say to you, more than you can bear. But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truths." Why should I study with all prophets (Baha'i) when Jesus Christ spoke so plainly to me? I was immediately baptized by the Santa Maria Baptist Church in Texas, where I lived.

A year later, **my life suddenly collapsed** when the Lord took my daughter (28), father (92), and my husband (65), all within two months! **What should I do with my life?** But I left it to the Lord.

Very shortly, the Southern Baptists summoned me to be their mission representative to South Korea and the Philippines. Without hesitation, I accepted, armed only with the Lord's words, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil 4:13).

For 18 years, I labored, always calling on the Lord for strength. The government asked me to build the Bongdam Community Junior High School, which I did willingly, provided I could teach English with the Bible as a text book. This was granted. My work in the Philippines took me to the boroughs where five churches were established. Training young ladies to be Sunday School teachers was most rewarding. This phase of my missionary work took me to many countries in the Far East.

India was most challenging; some young men threw stones at me, but the Lord helped me persevere. In the Upper Volta Region of Ghana, I received a spiritual revelation about working with women and children.

When I returned to Seoul, it was discovered that I had cancer, so I was rushed to Los Angeles for treatment. While still recuperating, I was doing mission work at a small Korean church when I was introduced to Col. Yul Song. With no time to waste at age 75, we were married within nine days.

Yul brought me back full circle to my Methodist roots when I joined his church, San Francisco's Korean UMC. My aunt and uncle had been the first Korean couple ever married there. Today we have been happily married for 10 years. I am now looking forward to sharing love and fellowship with my Christian sisters, and I am ready to respond to whatever the Lord asks me to do. Shalom. ~ **Sookie P.S. When you dare, blessings fall.**

☀ RISE! SHINE! GLORIFY GOD! ☀

**Make your plans now to attend the 2006 Assembly May 4-7 in Anaheim, CA!**

**Join women from around the country and around the world — it only happens once every four years, and this time it's taking place right in our own backyard. It is a great opportunity to join hearts and clasp hands as we join together to radiate Christ's love to the world. The attendance limit is 8,000. Deadline for Reservations in Conference Hotel Blocks: Dec. 1, 2005. Registration**

**Deadline: March 20, 2006, or before, if seating capacity is met.**

**For more info, log onto [http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/assembly\\_2006.cfm](http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/assembly_2006.cfm)**



**From the Editor's Pen ...**

**K a t C h a t**

**A Woman Who Dared  
For More Than a Century**

It's a story too seldom told, the story of a CA-NV Conference United Methodist Woman's legacy that can never be fully measured. It comes in the form of a diminutive woman with a big heart by the name of **LaRhee Nichols**.

Many in our Conference are preparing to celebrate the life of this amazing woman who passed away on August 18 at the age of 103.

LaRhee was born on April 11, 1902, in Arizona, back when it was still Indian Territory. She first met her future husband Elton one day at the auto shop he and her father operated in Buckeye Valley.

One day in 1921, 19-year-old LaRhee was wearing a pink organdy dress and a huge pink homemade hat she had designed herself. As Elton was down repairing a car on the floor grease-monkey style, he happened to glance up and catch sight of this gorgeous vision known as LaRhee.

"That's the girl I'm going to marry!" he said - and as it turned out, his prediction came true. They had a happy marriage that lasted for more than 75 years, and Elton lived to be just shy of 102 years old.

Although LaRhee and Elton raised five children, their legacy lives on in more than the progeny who now span five generations of grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren. After moving to California in 1926, LaRhee and her husband worked as youth leaders, mentoring hundreds of young people over the years.

In the 1940's, LaRhee and Elton were the first people in Santa Clara County to openly accept Japanese families as they returned home after being held in internment camps during WWII. While others shunned the returning Japanese Americans, LaRhee and her husband met them at their trains, located housing for them, arranged health care, tried to find them jobs, and worked to secure the return of their property.

"We battled," LaRhee said, "We tried to locate their old homes, but many times they had been ransacked

and vandalized while standing empty. Many of them were burned to the ground while the family was interned." Many had lost everything. LaRhee immediately invited these Japanese Americans to the Methodist Church where they were warmly welcomed into the activities there.

Maybe it was the childhood memories she had of starving Indians who came to the back door to beg for food that first filled her with empathy for those experiencing hard times. She explained, "My mother never sent them away empty-handed."

She was a pioneer in working with migrant farm workers, going to visit the work camps, and helping set up a mobile thrift shop. LaRhee housed migrant ministers in her own home when they needed a place to stay.

"I'm just starting to feel my age," LaRhee told me at age one hundred. At her 100th birthday party, LaRhee entertained company from Oregon, Texas, New Mexico, and even from as far away as the Netherlands--in fact, one hundred visitors signed the guest book.

LaRhee was a great friend to another active United Methodist Woman by the name of Eunice Coates, a teacher for 31 years. "The Nichols took care of me when I was sick," she says. "They were like second parents to me."

Their friendship continued for 46 years, and Eunice visited LaRhee every Sunday until the week she died.

The Japanese Americans LaRhee had helped came to visit her years later and spoke movingly of what she had meant to them and how she had helped them start their lives over again. She received Christmas cards from some of these grateful Americans for more than 55 years.

The help she gave inspired others after her to help those they came into contact with, and they in turn helped others. This living chain continues on into the future, and generations of people will live better lives because of it. This is the legacy of a United Methodist Woman who is treasured in the hearts of many, a woman who had the courage to live more than a century of life with extraordinary generosity, love, and compassion.

## **UMW KICKS OFF GREEN TEAM ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM**

*A new program activating local UMW members to work on environmental issues in their communities was launched at the Spring board meeting of the Women's Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries.*

*Environmental justice is the fair treatment and involvement of all people, regardless of race, ethnicity or economic status, in the decision-making process on environmental public policies. The 24-member UMW Green Team vowed to work to make the voices of the powerless heard in areas of environmental policy making.*

*The green team identified water pollution and conservation as key concerns in local communities around the country and globally. Recycling was another issue of particular interest. The Green Team is joining in the U.N.'s global WASH campaign, which calls for "water, sanitation and hygiene for all" in the world.*



## **CA-NV Conference United Methodist Woman Joins Green Team!**

My name is Lupita Diaz, and I am a member of Alum Rock UMC. I am now in training to represent the Green Team. All of us are concerned for our environment and committed to doing our best in making the air, water, and land safer and cleaner. I will be working on the issues of water conservation and pollution. These are very important issues; please join me in this task.

Here's what you can do: Bathrooms — The water company will change your toilet for one that uses less water, or if you prefer, you can put a rock in the tank to create the same effect.

Showers — There are special low-flow showerheads that control the force of the water.

Bathroom/Kitchen Faucets — When you brush your teeth, or wash dishes by hand, please do not let the water run continuously.

Kitchen — Use a full load when operating the dishwasher. When possible, use regular dishes, or use paper products that will be recycled. Please do not use Styrofoam products.

The Green Team is developing strategies for addressing the environmental concerns of our local communities. We are working on such issues as water pollution, safe drinking water, bottled water and privatization, water conservation, recycling/landfills, chlorine-free products, air pollution, climate change/global warming, mercury contamination in food and water and alternative sources of renewable energy.

*I am asking for your help in making this project successful. Thank you for your cooperation. I am available to speak on this subject if you need me. My address and phone number are:*

**Lupita Diaz, Green Team Member,**

**349 Gordon Ave., San Jose, CA 95127 (408) 259-9387**

# CA-NV Conference United Methodist Women



## ***WOMEN WHO DARE***

### **Join us for our Annual Celebration**

Keynote Speakers:

- ◆ **Bishop Beverly J. Shamana**
- ◆ **J. Ann Craig, Executive Secretary for Spiritual & Theological Development, Women's Division**

When: Saturday, October 29 Registration & Lunch: \$14.00

Registration: 8:00 A.M. Gathering: 8:45 Opening: 9:00

Location: Turlock First UMC at 1660 Arbor Way in Turlock, CA

### **REGISTRATION**

#### **for our Annual Celebration**

Registration & Lunch: \$14.00

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare needed: Name(s) & ages \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to CA-NV Conference UMW

Mail this form and check to:

Joanne Iritani  
400 Munroe Street #26  
Sacramento, CA 95825-6424  
Email: fjiritani@aol.com

**California-Nevada Annual Conference  
United Methodist Women  
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Gilroy, CA 95020  
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## **UMW Calendar of Activities**

### **2005**

#### **August 19-21**

Mission Education Event

University Inn- Reno, NV

#### **Sept. 16-18** Mission Education Event

Ramada Inn – Santa Nella, CA

**October 28** – CA-NV Conf. UMW DOLTE  
Turlock, CA

**October 29** - CA-NV Conf. UMW Annual  
Celebration – Turlock, CA

### **2006**

May 4-7

UMW National Assembly, Anaheim, CA  
[http://gbkm-umc.org/umw/assembly\\_2006.cfm](http://gbkm-umc.org/umw/assembly_2006.cfm)

### **2008**

April 4-6

Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting,  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Remember, we **want to hear** what's going on in **your** local and district UMW!

Please write to me at [kattoy@verizon.net](mailto:kattoy@verizon.net) or Kat Teraji, 780 West Eighth St., Gilroy, CA 95020.

**To subscribe to "ATCE," send a donation (suggested \$4.00) payable to CA-NV Conference UMW and mail it to the address above. Please help us keep costs down by making whatever donation the Lord inspires you to give.**

Doris Young, Communications Coordinator for the Delta District, is in the process of reworking our website. We plan to post more photos in the future featuring UMW activities. In the future, you will have the option of downloading or reading the newsletter online if you choose.