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From the PNMC Office

Please note that for the **January e-Bulletins**, we will shift publication dates back by one week in order to accommodate for the New Year's holiday. The first issue for 2024 will go out on January 8 and the second on January 22. Please submit announcements one week prior to each publication date.

Please mark your calendars and save the date! The 2024 Conference Communication Council will be **Saturday, February 10**, via Zoom.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES



Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship

Comforter Bash! Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, Boise, ID and the LDS Stake in Eagle Idaho shared a day of knotting comforters for MCC. Approximately 150 women attended and completed 24 comforters. LDS women took home an additional 18 comforters to finish the binding and knot with family and friends. The LDS women hosted and shared a formidable grazing table. An LDS physician closed his practice for the afternoon and brought all of his staff to the Bash. Next year, the HPMF women want to invite more women's groups from local churches for a truly ecumenical event.

Zion Mennonite Church

All are invited to participate in the 2023 **Sing Your Own Messiah** at Zion Mennonite Church in Hubbard, OR, on **Saturday, December 16 at 4pm**. Refreshments will be served following the gathering.

Drift Creek Camp

Save the date! Former DCC directors, Ron and Jeanne Sears, will lead a spirituality retreat **January 19-21, 2024**. The focus will be "A Way of Life – *Intentions for Going on the Road with Jesus Come Away, Rest awhile, and You Will Recover Your Life*". Participants will be invited to reflect at the "hinge" month of 2024. We will look back on 2023, noticing what was life-giving and what was life-draining. Where are we weary? Where are we refreshed? We will consider the new year of 2024. What spiritual life rhythms might be a trellis to hold your values and intentions? Jeanne and Ron are trained Spiritual Directors and offer personal and group retreats at [The Seasons Retreat](#) in Eureka, IL. More details coming soon!

MENNONITE CHURCH USA

Mennonite Central Committee

West Coast Bike Ride - Save the Date: August 4-9, 2024

After taking a few years off, the much-loved tradition of **West Coast bike rides** to raise money for MCC will resume in 2024. The ride will be based in Albany, OR, where participants will enjoy 4 days of loop rides in the beautiful Willamette River Valley, returning to Albany each evening. All skill levels of bike riders, children, and eBikes are welcome. Adult registration is \$500. Contact Bruce Kuhns (kuhns.bruce@gmail.com) for more details.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA

Eastern Mennonite Seminary

[Shalom Academy 2024](#): "Pursuing Community in a Divisive World," an in-person and partially online conference, **Jan. 8-10, 2024**

Keynote speakers and workshops give fresh perspectives on justice-inspired shalom, and new-this-year excursions provide for relaxation and recreation with friends both old and new. [Register here.](#)

Mennonite Disaster Service

Calling all volunteers! You can be a part of **bringing hope to communities** affected by disaster by volunteering for a week or more. Click [here](#) to see all the ways to volunteer with MDS. Site include projects in Maryland, Virginia, Florida, Louisiana, Texas & Kentucky!



Sister Care

Two Sister Care seminars were held in Thailand in October hosted by Christine and Tom Poovong, Mennonite Church Canada mission workers. Forty-two women participated in the Isaan region of northeast Thailand and 25 women in Cha-Am on the southern peninsula. The Isaan group included 20 women who traveled 8-10 hours from Laos. Both workshops were taught by **Carolyn Heggen**, psychotherapist specializing in trauma healing, and **Rhoda Keener**, Sister Care director for Mennonite Women USA. Prior to the events, Christine translated the Sister Care manual into Thai; then interpreted throughout the two seminars. She is pictured at the mic leading music.

Women participated enthusiastically in singing, prayer, individual and small group activities, drama, and group discussions. After working on her life story in the timeline exercise, one participant said, "I came here with a heavy heart. Thank God I came to this seminar. God is still healing me, one layer at a time."

The seminars were funded through a grant from the Schowalter Foundation and individual donations for Sister Care International, Mennonite Women USA. Carolyn is a member of Albany Mennonite Church, OR, Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference, and Rhoda is a member of Hebron Mennonite Church, Hagerstown, Maryland, Atlantic Coast Conference.

West Coast Mennonite Central Committee, *By Rocio Claros, Communication Coordinator WC MCC*

West Coast Mennonite Central Committee's most recent partnership is with **Dinuba Unified School District**. Dinuba is a small rural agricultural community about 15 minutes from the West Coast Mennonite Central Committee's office in Reedley, CA. The partnership centers on three different schools in the district: Dinuba High School, Sierra Vista High School, and Ronald Regan Academy, each serving a large population of low-income first-generation students in grades 9 – 12.

Youth Program Coordinator Claudia Gaitan and Transformative Justice Coordinator Mario Flores will partner with each school and lead the **ELLAS (Engaging in Life Skills, Leadership, Advancement, & Success)** and **ELLOS (Engaging in Life Skills, Leadership, & Opportunities for Success)** programs by mentoring young men and women through biweekly sessions over six-week cycles.

"The goal is to help students attend school regularly and walk alongside them in various challenges they may face. The ELLAS curriculum aims to help students develop personal empowerment abilities through experiential activities and discussions by implementing **JARS** (journaling, affirmations, personal rules, and setting goals, skills," said Gaitan.

Flores shared the ELLOS sessions are centered around the time-honored concept of rites of passage for young men to further personal development and societal contribution. "We are delving into the profound meanings and applications of the following core values: Courage, Loyalty, Industry, Resiliency, Resolution, Personal Responsibility, Self-Reliance, Integrity, Sacrifice, and Love. I aim to engage the young men in thoughtful discussions, activities, and reflections that will help them internalize these principles. This will aid their personal growth and positively impact their academic and social endeavors," said Flores.

Each session takes place during the students' lunch period. Leaders will begin a new cycle after the six weeks in hopes that more students will participate. Eight female students currently participate in ELLAS, and twelve male students participate in ELLOS. Students already involved are welcome to continue in the following cycles. Through this program, students will receive a stipend upon completion and the opportunity to engage in educational field trips.

Although the program only began this fall, Gaitan and Flores have received positive student feedback. WC MCC continues to look forward to building long-lasting relationships with students and school staff. Please continue to pray for our staff – **may the seeds planted bear fruit in time.**

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Dec 4 (submissions due by 10/27)
Dec 18 (submissions due by 12/11)
Jan 8 (submissions due by 1/2)
Jan 22 (submissions due by 1/15)

If you would like to contribute, please send a **brief announcement** in Spanish & English with website links to brenda@pnmc.org. Our goal is to provide a valuable resource, not an In-Box jammer. If space is tight, we may omit announcements that are not as pertinent to PNMC. Announcements will run ONE time only, unless specified otherwise. *We welcome your feedback!*

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