

## Branch Newsletter

Volume 24, Number 4

December 2003

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AAUW promotes equity for women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change.

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.



## Holiday Tea

December 5  
4:00-6:00 PM

At the home of Shirley Wirth  
3994 NW Boxwood Drive

Shirley Wirth will again welcome us to her home for our annual Poinsettia Tea. Barbara Mykrantz and Betty Sleight will have poinsettias ready for those who ordered them.

At 5 PM, as part of our Women Making a Difference program theme, Marnie Noble will tell us about a person who inspired her to pursue her goals.

Members are asked to bring:

- ◆ at least a dozen cookies to share (extras may be taken home)
- ◆ a box in which to place your poinsettia(s)
- ◆ a complete copy of the November or December AAUW Newsletter from the web page if you wish your name to be entered in a drawing for a special prize
- ◆ a guest who might be a prospective member

Please come and enjoy a relaxing and purely social meeting.

Directions: Take Walnut Blvd. to Glenridge Drive. Proceed north on Glenridge and take a right on Boxwood. 3994 NW Boxwood is on the right-hand side of the street.



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## From Stef's Stylus

### AAUW: Women Making a Difference

December brings both the early darkness of ever shorter days and the pleasure of the company of friends. We have much to be thankful for this holiday season. We enjoy the fellowship (or is that sistership?) of our members at Gourmet Dinners, No-Host Luncheons, and As You Like It. We explore books and ideas in Great Decisions and Book Groups. We delight in stimulating conversation, usually accompanied by delicious food. AAUW members are indeed fortunate.



This December, I hope we will all take the time to honor the women who have encouraged and supported us through our lives. Frequently, the influence of those women does not become apparent until years later. Some of us are inspired by the women who blazed new trails for us to follow. While we may not know these women personally, we are still strengthened by their example.

We also honor our mentors by mentoring others. AAUW has had the opportunity to provide positive role models and support to women striving to change their lives with our "Yes, I Can!" Transitions conference last year at Linn Benton Community College. We are again co-sponsors, with the Albany Branch, of the conference, which is scheduled for February 7, 2004. We need as many members as possible to help with fundraising for the event, soliciting door prizes, and registration the day of the event. Please call me at 929-7988 if you would like to help or know of someone who might like to attend. Show your appreciation of the mentors in your life by "Playing it Forward" as a volunteer in this important AAUW community event.

As this year closes, I hope you will reflect on the accomplishments of women in your life, women in our community and women of the world. Also, take pride in the accomplishments of AAUW and in your contribution to the success of the Corvallis Branch. Wishing you a joyful Holiday Season and a peaceful New Year.

*Stefani McRae-Dickey*

President

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## KUDOS KUDOS KUDOS

The Corvallis Branch now boasts 99 members. Thanks, Membership Committee and all members who invited friends, neighbors, and acquaintances to join AAUW. The efforts of Rosemary, Dorothy and Jan have helped us grow and provided a warm welcome to our new members. Kudos to you all!

Under the banner of "Women Making a Difference" the Program Committee has presented an engaging variety of programs, with more to come. At each meeting a member has shared her heartfelt gratitude for her role model and inspiration, and told how this encouragement changed her life. This celebration of women has brought both tears and joy to all of us. Thank you for sharing your life with us. Thank you, Marilyn, Beverly, Marge and Carolyn for planning and coordinating our wonderful programs!

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## *Caring and Sharing*

(Contact Stefani McRae-Dickey at [mcraedic@peak.org](mailto:mcraedic@peak.org) with information)

**Bertha Houk**, one of our newer members, is at home recuperating from hip replacement surgery. We wish you a speedy recovery, Bertha.

**Carolyn Moore** and Bob Simmons had to cancel their month-long wedding trip. Bob had problems with his neck incision and needs many more weeks (or months) to recover well enough to travel. Perhaps in the Spring. . .

V.P. Membership  
Jan Rounds, 754-7730  
Rosemary Cunningham, 753-1319  
Dorothy Ruff

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## Getting Acquainted with New Members



Corvallis now has at least three “mayors” and our branch has two of them! (Well—actually—we have two *Maiers*.)

**Susan Maier** is our newest member, tho’ not new to Corvallis; she has been a resident here for 26 years. Susan’s undergraduate work was done at the University of Kansas, and she earned a masters degree at OSU.

A retired teacher, Susan has taught language arts in Hawaii and writing classes at Oregon State University, Linn Benton Community College, and Corvallis and Lebanon high schools. She was also a counseling and reading specialist. She has three grown sons *and* an 18-year-old cockapoo!

Hiking (she loves to be in the mountains and has climbed Mt. Whitney!!!), writing, gardening, and adventure are among Susan’s favorite activities. Susan, we welcome you, and look forward to getting to know you!

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**R.O. Maier** has the distinction of being the mother of Susan, our newest member. A retired librarian, with a bachelors degree from the University of Kansas, R.O. has masters degrees: Fort Hays State and Emporia State, both in Kansas. In addition to being a librarian, R.O. has also worked as a bacteriologist. (I wonder what kind of “bug” stories she has to tell?)

R.O. moved here from Idylwild Calif., and has lived in Ohio, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. She has a son in California and another son in Colorado.

Would it surprise you to learn that a favorite activity of this librarian is reading? R.O. also enjoys OSU’s “ALL” (The Academy for Lifelong Learning). We thank Patty Eberhardt for bringing R.O. to us.

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Someone who has lived in Siberia working with youth has got to be a warm (no pun intended) and giving person. **Barbara Poppy Olson** surely has interesting experiences to share about her three months in Siberia. Even though she didn’t speak their language, Barbara still loved working with teens there.

Among her accomplishments, Barbara is a certified alcohol and drug counselor. If that isn’t enough, she is also a hypnotherapist. This list goes on and on, so please ask her. She is a very interesting and knowledgeable person on subjects we would find fascinating and helpful.

Barbara is an OSU graduate, as is her daughter. Her son and daughter-in-law will be Beaver grads, too! She’s lived in this area for 16 years, but has previously graced Hawaii, California, and Washington with her presence. Thanks for joining AAUW, Barbara.

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## Our branch is now 99 members strong—and growing!

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### Additions to the yearbook:

**Maier, R.O.**  
4161 NW Tamarack  
[romaier1@juno.com](mailto:romaier1@juno.com)  
H-752-1480

**Maier, Susan**  
3973 NW Tamarack Dr.  
[susanmaier1@juno.com](mailto:susanmaier1@juno.com)  
H-754-0004

**Olson, Barbara Poppy**  
4141 Clem Rd.#29  
Blodgett, OR 97326  
H-453-4016

Barbara Mykrantz, 753-0188  
Betty Sleight, 929-3920

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## EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION POINSETTIA SALE

Many thanks to all of you who supported the AAUW Educational Foundation by donating money and/or ordering poinsettia plants for the holidays. These funds plus those from last January's Murder Mystery proceeds will enable us to donate \$2,000 to the Educational Foundation this year. We should all be very proud of this donation for women's scholarships, fellowships and grants.

The poinsettias will be at Shirley Wirth's home, 3994 NW Boxwood Drive for the Holiday Tea on Friday, Dec. 5, 2003, from 4-6 PM. Plan to attend, enjoy good company, and pick up your plants. **If you will not be able to pick up your order on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>**, please make arrangements either with a friend or with Barbara Mykrantz, 753-0188.



## EF NAMED GIFT HONOREE NOMINATIONS

The AAUW Educational Foundation raises money to fund scholarships, fellowships, and grants for women in various fields and for research projects. For every \$500 that we raise and send on to our national Educational Foundation, we can honor one of our members by submitting that \$500 gift to the Fund from our branch in her name, i.e., as a "named gift honoree".

Because we will be donating \$2,000 to the Educational Foundation this year, we are entitled to select 4 outstanding branch members as named gift honorees. The branch EF co-chairs would like nominations from the membership to help them choose these valued members for this year.

Please take the time to look over the membership book and give us your nominations of members whom you feel deserve this honor. Contact Barbara Mykrantz, 753-0188, e-mail [jbmykr@aol.com](mailto:jbmykr@aol.com) or Betty Sleight, 929-3920, e-mail [maryspeak@casco.net](mailto:maryspeak@casco.net). The honorees will be announced in the spring.



## THE OREGON CENTURY CLUB

The Oregon Century Club was established in 1988 to recognize major donors to the **AAUW Educational Foundation**. Its members are donors of \$100 - \$174. Those who donate more than \$175 belong to the Century Club Plus. Membership is on an annual basis and donations can be general or designated to a particular fund of the AAUW Educational Foundation, for example, the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund.

With year-end financial planning approaching, we hope you will consider this option for a tax deductible donation. You will be supporting fellowships and scholarships for women and girls. Please make checks payable to "AAUW Educational Foundation" and mail them to Nancy William, Treasurer, 1355 NW 19<sup>th</sup> St., Corvallis, 97330. If you have questions, call Betty Sleight, 929-3920 or e-mail [maryspeak@casco.net](mailto:maryspeak@casco.net).

## LAF Case Update: Lavalli v. Texas State University – San Marcos

At its June 2003 meeting, the LAF Board of Directors voted to support Kari Lavalli's case against Texas State University–San Marcos. They awarded Lavalli an initial \$10,000 to help her pursue the suit she filed in November 2002. She claims that the university retaliated against her by refusing to renew her employment contract after she expressed concerns about alleged discriminatory practices at the university.

Lavalli accepted a tenure track position in the university's biology department in the fall of 1998, and was placed in charge of the department's marine biology program. At her first review, the voting faculty in the department unanimously approved her for a contract renewal. In her second year, the faculty voted 15 to 1 to renew her contract and the tenure and promotions committee cited that she was a valuable asset to the department.

During this time, Lavalli became concerned about the lack of diversity in the department's hiring decisions. For instance, she noticed that interviewees for a directorship position were exclusively male, whereas those for a lower-grade position were exclusively female. Lavalli voiced her concerns to the department chair a short time before her third review, where the faculty narrowly approved her contract renewal by a 9 to 7 vote, despite her continued display of outstanding service, teaching, and scholarship.

In the middle of Lavalli's third year at the university, candidates for three positions in the department were exclusively male. Lavalli, troubled by this occurrence, again raised her concerns to the department chair. Later that school year, Lavalli met with the tenure and promotions committee for her fourth review, and the committee determined that she was undeniably exceeding the department's performance expectations. However, less than one month later, the faculty voted 10 to 4 to terminate Lavalli's contract.

The university has cited "noncollegiality" as the reason for her termination, a vague term that can be – and has been – often used to dismiss critics of an institution's inequitable practices. Lavalli believes that the university ultimately terminated her for questioning discriminatory hiring practices, and is using noncollegiality for lack of a viable excuse.



**(After World War II), “women had discovered what they could do, and I suspect in most cases it was more than they had thought likely. They had discovered also what they could not do, and it was less than they had feared. Women could and can afford to acknowledge it. It is no longer necessary for them to assert that they are the equals of men; they know it to be true.”**

Ellis Peters, author of the *Brother Cadfael* mysteries



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## Afternoon Literature Group

Meets on the second Tuesday at 2 p.m.

Louise Livesay, 753-4813

**Dec. 11**

**Fast Food Nation** by Eric Schlosser

Hostess: Gerry Custer  
6800 NW Concord Dr.

Reviewer: Louise Livesay

January '04 Book: **Middlemarch** by George Eliot

## Evening Literature Group

Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Nancy Tolin, 752-6656  
Mary Mill, 745-7961

**December 3**

**Hotel of the Saints** by Ursula Hegi

Hostess: Lois Malango  
1815 NW Garfield Avenue  
753-2904  
[malango@comcast.net](mailto:malango@comcast.net)

Reviewer: Nancy Tolin

**January 7**

**The Siege** by Helen Dunmore

Hostess: Mary Lou Russ  
3030 NW Thistle Place  
758-3400  
[mlrrrr@comcast.net](mailto:mlrrrr@comcast.net)

Reviewer: Shirley Wirth

## Gourmet Group

Gourmet Group will meet again on **Saturday, January 17, 2004, at 7:00 pm.**

We will continue our culinary travels by landing in Russia for this dinner. Look for all the details in the January Branch Newsletter.

It isn't too early to reserve a spot now. Please RSVP by the end of December, at the latest, to Carolyn Moore 758-0271 or [CrCAROLYN@aol.com](mailto:CrCAROLYN@aol.com).

Thanks from The Committee: Christine Cantee, Carolyn Moore, and Denise Nervik.

## No-Host Lunch

Holidays are here! Mark your calendars to attend the warm, yummy, and traditional December luncheon at Michael's Landing on **Wed. 12/17 @ 11:45**. This is a time to mingle with your AAUW friends and acquaintances and share good times.

Please e-mail [CrCAROLYN@aol.com](mailto:CrCAROLYN@aol.com) or [mcraedic@peak.org](mailto:mcraedic@peak.org) to reserve yourself a seat.

Reservations are required. Looking forward to seeing you for lunch!

## Holiday Tea

**December 5  
4-6 p.m.**

Shirley Wirth  
3994 NW Boxwood Drive

## As You Like It

Attention all you AYLI fans! Please circle Sunday, **March 7** on your calendars for our yearly trip to Ashland. *Comedy of Errors* is playing at the Angus Bowmer Theatre. More information will soon be forthcoming if you are on our emailing list.

—-from your Membership Committee

**“Ah, there’s nothing like tea in the afternoon. When the British Empire collapses, historians will find that it made but two invaluable contributions to civilization—this tea ritual and the detective novel.”**

Ayn Rand, *The Fountainhead* (1943)

## MURDER ON MAUI

EF and LAF Fundraiser  
Friday, January 30, 2004



Coming to a Bed and Breakfast near you, is a tropical wedding with **Murderous** results. Evil undercurrents abound when mama's boy, Roger tries to **Tie the Noose**, Uh, I mean knot with Jewel. Jewel is in a bit of a time warp, and still thinks it's 1969. Roger's mother Abigail Windsor is appalled at the prospect of being connected with the pig farming Hoggets, but what's a mother to do? Short of **Poison**, that is. Gert is back, and no-one is glad. Does she know about the **Bodies in the Closet**? Or did she put them there?

Come in your favorite Hawaiian outfit, or join the Bride's side of the aisle with tie-dye and love beads. Enjoy a tropical luau at the Pineapple Hotel in Maui, be entertained by **Mystery to Die For**, and exercise your powers of deduction by discovering the **Killer**.

Please print the ticket order form below and mail in early. **Murder on Maui** will be on Friday, January 30, 2004 at the Courtyard Inn Bed and Breakfast, 2435 Harrison Blvd at 6:30 p.m. Once enough tickets are sold for the Friday performance, we will offer the Saturday, January 31 performance also. Tickets are \$40 and include dinner, wine and entertainment. Proceeds go to the Legal Advocacy Fund and the Educational Fund.

Please publicize the event with all your friends and acquaintances. There will be a prize for the member who sells the most tickets. Tickets make great gifts for the Holidays also! Ask anyone who attended last year--We had a great evening of laughs while solving the mystery.

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### ***Murder on Maui Dinner Mystery***

### ***EF and LAF Fundraiser***

Courtyard Inn, 2435 Harrison Blvd

Friday, January 30, 2004

Number of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = Total \_\_\_\_\_

**Make your check payable to Corvallis AAUW.**

Mail your check and this form to:

Stefani McRae  
AAUW Murder Mystery Dinner  
754 Wyatt Lane, Philomath OR 97370

Deadline for purchase: January 9, 2004

***Seating is limited so purchase your tickets early!***

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DEC	Activity	Time	Location
3	Evening Lit Group	7:30 p.m.	Lois Malango, 1815 NW Garfield Ave.
5	Holiday Tea	4–6 p.m.	Shirley Wirth, 3994 NW Boxwood Drive
11	Afternoon Lit Group	2 p.m.	Gerry Custer, 6800 NW Concord Dr.
15	Newsletter Deadline		
17	No–Host Lunch	11:45 a.m.	Michael's Landing
JAN	Activity	Time	Location
7	Evening Lit Group	7:30 p.m.	Mary Lou Russ, 3030 NW Thistle Pl.
12	Board Meeting	12:30 – 2 p.m.	US Bank, corner of Ninth & Walnut
12	Branch Meeting		Good Samaritan Hospital Meeting Room
17	Gourmet Group	7:00 p.m.	RSVP Carolyn Moore, 758–0271