

Branch Newsletter

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December 2004

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AAUW promotes equity for all 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 3, 2004
4:00-6:00 PM**

At the home of Nancy Sanderson
1165 NW 17th Street

Nancy Sanderson will welcome us to her home for our annual Poinsettia Tea. Jane Ann Warkentin and Marge Bromley will have poinsettias ready for those who ordered them.

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 guest who might be a prospective member

Please come and enjoy a relaxing and purely social meeting.



Directions: Take Buchanan to 17th Street – turn onto it and go about half way down the block – Nancy's house is 1165 NW 17th Street – on the right side of the street.

**My tea is nearly ready and the sun has left the sky;
It's time to take the window to see Leerie going by;
For every night at tea-time and before you take your seat,
With lantern and with ladder he comes posting up the street.**

—Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894), Scottish author. *The Lamplighter* (l. 1-4).

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Program

"Busy, hectic, exhausting, stressful!" Do these words resonate with you as the holiday season approaches? For me, I'd like to add another: surprisingly, it's "thankful."

President's Message

Membership

I know it's a November word, but when I think of our Corvallis Branch, I am thankful—because of each one of you. I'm thankful for your kind words and support as I assume the Co-Presidency and for your on-going efforts to further the goals of AAUW. I'm thankful for Stefani's hard work and commitment to AAUW and her helpfulness to me.

Public Policy

Education Foundation
- Murder Mystery

Legal Advocacy Fund

I'm thankful to be a member of an organization that exists to empower women and girls. I am thankful to work with members who have such a willing spirit to pitch in. Oh, we have do lots of fun together through our interest groups, general meetings, and Board meetings (let's not stop that!). But that's not all.

News & Notes

-Caring & Sharing

Interest Groups

- Afternoon Lit Group
- Evening Lit Group
- Gourmet Group
- No-Host Lunch
- Mah Jongg
- Great Decisions

There's more to my thankfulness. I have made such dear, life-long friends in our AAUW branch. I'm grateful for that. It has been, and continues to be, inspiring to work with women who reach outside of themselves and are concerned about other women and girls in our community, state, and country. To our newest members, I look forward to getting to know each of you.

Calendar

AAUW-Corvallis Home

And as for those four words at the beginning of this article—well, I think Marilyn Roland has the right idea. She recently said that if you look at the word "stressed" from a different angle, for example, backwards, "stressed" becomes "desserts." (Yesssssss!)

So, as we work together we can "sweeten" our own lives and lessen our stress as we share the responsibilities of this organization. I'm thankful for all that all of you do on behalf of AAUW.

Here's to the sweetness of friendships—old and new!

Happy Holidays!

Jan Rounds
Co-President



Save on Books and Music...and Make Your Purchases Count



Every time you order books, music and more from online discounter, Amazon.com, through AAUW's website, a percentage of your sale goes to AAUW. Visit www.aauw.org, click on the partnership programs link at the bottom AAUW's home page, and follow to the Amazon.com link.



V.P. Membership
Diana Bernstein, 738-8292
Rosemary Cunningham, 753-1319
Dorothy Ruff, 929-4629



Getting Acquainted with New Members



Susan Ogden, who is new to AAUW, recently moved here from Miami, Florida via British Columbia, Brazil, Columbia, and Argentina. She has taught English and history in South America, worked in the insurance business, and most recently sold real estate in Miami. Presently Susan is overseeing the construction of their new Corvallis home. She enjoys bridge and tennis and is preparing to be a first-time grandmother to one of her two daughters.

As Susan wrote in her new member survey: I joined AAUW "in order to make friends and learn about the local community and find a place in it." Please welcome Susan. She has a place in AAUW!

Confessions of a Membership V.P.

After four wonderful years as Membership V.P., I'll be passing the torch in June. May I pass the fire of enthusiasm to you???? You will be gaining access to an elite group of women. Being a member of the board means that you forge friendships through being part of a team. You also help create stimulating programs, support worthwhile projects, welcome newcomers to AAUW, and have fun, fun, fun.

I literally jumped into this job as a fledgling member. At the time, I was slightly acquainted with two members and I had no past experience with AAUW. That impulsive decision was the best one I ever made! Of all the benefits I've received over the past four years, the most rewarding was becoming part of a women's support network. I seldom go into a grocery store or attend a local event without seeing the loving faces of friends – my friends. Some are older members that have been my mentors. Some are newer members that I helped recruit. All of us forming our own unique community within a community.

So if you get that phone call from the nominating committee asking you to give something of yourself to reap huge personal benefits, say YES! You won't regret it.

Membership Directory

Please add these members to your new AAUW directory:

June Beck
930 NW Conifer Bld.
Corvallis, OR 97330
juneted@peak.org
H-753-4202
MA – OSU
Education

Jean Evashevski
2505 SW Whiteside Dr.
Corvallis, OR 97333
jeanfee3@yahoo.com
H-753-0812
JD – U of Iowa
Law

New email address:

Irene Lilja
irenelilja@peak.org

The **Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003** was signed into law on December 8, 2003. The AAUW of Oregon Public Policy chair, Betty Haus, recently sent me a number of Medicare handouts from the following website: www.kff.org/medicare. According to Betty, the information on this Kaiser Hospital website, comes from a nationally recognized research group not affiliated with Kaiser medicine or industries. There is a wealth of information at this website. Information on prescription drug cards is presently being worked on by a committee of AARP, AMA and others. It will be available in its final state next summer.

There will be discussions at the **next legislative session** regarding changes in Oregon Health Insurance and what will be available to the uninsured, children, and families. If there are Branch members that would like a weekly update during session, Betty requests that you email her at beehaus@yahoo.com. She will place you on an email notification list.

Murder Mystery

The Altos

Like the Sopranos, only lower

Lissen up you gombahs. Somebody's gotta contract out on da Godfather— an' he's upset. So he's callin' a meetin' on Friday, January 28, 2005. Youze bettah be there or Vinnie "The Sledgehammer" is gonna pay your kneecaps a visit. The meetin' is at da Godfather's club at the Corvallis Inn, 1550 NW 9th Street at 6:30 pm. The Godfather is expectin' youze.

Now, da Godfather is a little short of cash, so you're gonna make a donation of \$40 for admission, advance purchase only. Valley Catering ("If we cook it, Youz gonna enjoy it") will provide a fabulous meal, and the Godfather, his Consiglieres, and his Associates will provide the mystery. Da Boss wants ta know who's moving in on his territory and who has a contract out on him. Da last guy that did that is sleepin' wit da fishes, buon' anima. You need to prove your loyalty by helpin' da Godfather find out who's tryin' to bring him down.

This is a fundraiser for the Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund, so please show your support by buying tickets to attend the Murder Mystery, publicizing the mystery with your friends and acquaintances, or by joining our little acting company. **The order form is on page 5 of the newsletter.**

Our goal is to raise money in the community, not just from AAUW members. If you would like to invite non-members, there is a combination invitation and order form available from Stefani McRae (929-7988; mcraedic@peak.org). Please take these to meetings of other service groups and organizations to which you belong. We have a slightly larger venue this time, so more people will be able to attend. Have a great time while supporting EF and LAF!

The Alto's Mafia Murder Mystery

Friday, January 28, 2005

6:30 p.m.

The Corvallis Inn

1550 NW 9th Street

Donation \$40

Includes Dinner, Wine and Murder Mystery. Proceeds to the EF and LAF.

Equity Issues

Equity issues in a University setting are of interest to me, since I have worked at several universities. I found AAUW's current research on tenure shows that we still have a long way to go to achieve equity. An excerpt from the October 19, 2004 news release follows:

In spite of tremendous educational advances, female professors continue to face potentially career-ending sex discrimination when seeking tenure, according to a new report released today by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Educational Foundation and the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

Tenure Denied: Cases of Sex Discrimination in Academia details the stories of women who took their fight for tenure to the courts and provides a personal look into the toll it takes on these women's lives and careers. It also illustrates the loss of excellent educators for the students to these destructive disputes. Ultimately, it demonstrates an unfortunate double standard between the values of diversity and respect that universities espouse and a reality of discriminatory practices for their own female professors.

"There is something wrong in academia – which is expected to set a high standard and example for other workplaces – when the example being set for our young people is one of inequality and discrimination," said Mary Ellen Smyth, president of the AAUW Educational Foundation. "And there is something dramatically wrong when female professors challenge discrimination and it results in irreparable damage to their careers."

Research shows that in an academic setting, women earn less, hold lower-ranking positions, and are less likely to have tenure. Of the faculty at colleges and universities offering four-year degrees, only 27 percent of those awarded tenure are women. While women make up more than one-half of instructors and lecturers and nearly one-half of assistant professors, they represent only one-third of associate professors and a mere one-fifth of full professors.

--Edie Lee



AAUW Murder Mystery Dinner



EF and LAF Fundraiser
Friday, January 28, 2005

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
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 14, 2005. **Seating is limited so purchase your tickets early!** For more information call 929-7988 or contact any AAUW member.

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions 2005 topics include:

- U.S. Intelligence
- Russia
- Outsourcing Jobs
- China
- Sudan's Crisis in Darfur
- Global Poverty Gap
- Global Water Issues

Come join us to become better informed about world-wide issues. We will begin meeting Wednesday, January 19, 2005 and will continue through Wednesday, March 23, 2005. We will meet each Wednesday in the lower level of The Regent on Good Samaritan drive from 1:30–3:00 p.m.

Please order your Great Decisions 2005 book by December 10th. Make your check for \$16.00 payable to Mary Gisler. This will cover the cost of the book and postage.

Send your check to:

Mary Gisler
1868 S.E. Powell's Road
Corvallis, OR 97333

If you have not signed up for this group but would like to belong, please call Mary at (541) 753–8792.

Foreign Films and Food – a new interest group

Exciting evenings are ahead in 2005 for those who enjoy foreign films and food, too! We will meet on two consecutive evenings (Friday and Saturday) on the third weekend of the month. The shows will be the same, the food will be similar.

Our first two evenings will be Friday, January 14, and Saturday, January 15. Sally Terman will be hostess (2964 NW Spurry Place). Call after the first of the month (752–9010) to reserve your seat for the show either night. Only eight seats are available, so RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST! Dessert will be ready at 6:15 p.m.; the show will start at 7:00 p.m.

The local video rental outlets don't have advanced reservations for films so we won't know the title of the film in advance. However, they will all be contemporary and will have English subtitles. Come join us for a fun-filled evening of film, food, and friends!

Afternoon Literature Group

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m.

Louise Livesay, 753-4813

December 14

My Antonia by Willa Cather

Hostess: Muriel Lawrence

930 NW Oakdell Pl.

Call Muriel if you cannot come: 752-6172

Reviewer: Gerry Custer

Evening Literature Group

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

Mary Mills, 745-7961

Shirley Wirth, 754-7186

December 1st

By the River Piedra, I sat down and wept by Paul Coelho

Hostess: Ann Brodie

3145 NW Seneca Place

Reviewer: Pam Turner



Gourmet Group

We had 17 guests at our first Gourmet Dinner of the year. A special "THANK YOU" to Marilyn and Leon Roland for offering their wonderful home for this event. The theme was Colonial Williamsburg (early American) and the Pumpkin Soup through the Apple Slump held everyone's taste buds at attention! Oh, and have you ever tried Welsh Rabbit? Well, we did!!

Our next dinner will be on **Saturday, January 22, 2005** at the home of Denise and John Nervik. The theme is At the Table of the Raj, which will (of course) focus on foods from India. There is plenty of time until that event, but we thought you'd like to get it on your 2005 calendar, as soon as you have yours available. The deadline for signing up for this dinner is not until January 9th, but the sooner you make your reservation, there will be one thing less you'll have to remember to do later!

To reserve for this dinner, please contact Carolyn Simmons, 758-0271, or e-mail CrCAROLYN@aol.com. There will be another reminder about the dinner in the January Newsletter, so if you want time to think about it, that'll work out fine.

The other dinners for this AAUW year will be March 12, Nectar and Ambrosia (ancient Greece); and May 21, Dining with William Shakespeare (Renaissance England).

This exciting and interesting information is made available to you from your AAUW Gourmet Committee: Christine Cantey, Denise Nervik, Carolyn Simmons. *As always, Bon Appetit!*

No-Host Lunch

Chopstick lovers met at the New China Buffet for a fantastic Buffet Lunch in November. The restaurant is new and clean and the food was delicious.

Be sure to mark your calendar for our **Annual Holiday Lunch at Michael's Landing!!**

Reservations are set for **Thursday, December 16, at 11:45 a.m.** Be sure to call in your reservation to: Carolyn Simmons at 758-0271 or by e-mail: CrCAROLYN@aol.com by December 12th.

This is such a special get-together, one that you should not miss! See you at the Landing!

DEC	Activity	Time	Location
1	Evening Lit Group	7:30 p.m.	Ann Brodie 3145 NW Seneca Pl.
3	Holiday Tea	4 – 6 p.m.	Nancy Sanderson 1165 NW 17th Street
14	Afternoon Lit Group	2 p.m.	Murial Lawrence 930 NE Oakdell Pl.
15	Newsletter deadline		
16	No-Host Lunch	11:45 a.m.	Michael's Landing -- Reservations needed by the 12th; call Carolyn at 758-0271
JAN	Activity	Time	Location
10	Board Meeting	12:30 – 2 p.m.	US Bank, corner of 9th & Walnut
14 & 15	Foreign Films & Food	6:15 p.m.	Sally Terman 2964 NW Spurry Pl.
15	Newsletter deadline		
19	Great Decisions	1:30 – 3 p.m.	The Regent Good Samaritan Drive
22	Gourmet Group		Denise Nervik
28	Murder Mystery Dinner	6:30 p.m.	The Corvallis Inn 1550 NW 9th Street