

Branch Newsletter

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"An Evening in Uzbekistan"

Speaker: Nancy Rosenberger, PhD

Thursday, November 16th
7 p.m.

Corvallis Caring Place
750 NW 23rd St.

A Fulbright scholar, OSU anthropology professor Nancy Rosenberger did research in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from January to June 2005. Uzbekistan is a post-Soviet republic that gained its independence in the early 1990's. As part of her research, she studied food and its importance in relation to politics and to the policies of a very authoritarian government.

Government forces killed many dissidents while Nancy was there. In this atmosphere, one has to be careful about research topics, but even the seemingly innocuous topic of food was able to tell Nancy a lot about both the way a country hangs together and the way it gets torn apart.

Come and hear a fascinating presentation about a country little known to many of us. The presentation will include photographs that will make you want to go to Central Asia once things improve politically!

Friends, spouses and the public are welcome to attend the program and to help us celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) and the 125th anniversary of AAUW. A special refreshment will be served! Donations for LAF should be made out to AAUW-LAF.

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President's Message

President
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Notes from Sue: Celebrations

I'm just returning from a couple of celebrations that were very significant for my family and me. First my husband and I celebrated the wedding of our elder daughter in Evanston, Illinois. It was a very happy occasion and a wonderful reunion of family, both old and new. It was emotional—in a good way! After that we attended my 50th High School Class Reunion in Centerville, Iowa. It was fun to connect with old friends after so many years and to see how our lives had developed. It was also emotional—we grieved for those who are no longer with us—but happy, too. As you might expect, I've arrived home exhausted—but ready to jump back into life as I've come to know it!

In November, AAUW celebrates the 125th Anniversary of our organization. We can celebrate with pride in our accomplishments. As it says in AAUW's Online Museum (www.aauw.org/museum/)--- "It all began with a meeting of 17 like-minded women who had defied society's standards by earning college degrees. What started out as the Association of Collegiate Alumnae in 1881 has grown into a powerful network of more than 100,000 women who have influenced—and at times even shaped—the debate over equity in education."

I invite you to visit the Online Museum. This museum features artifacts, images, and documents that are milestones in AAUW's history: the minutes of the first official meeting in 1882; the thank-you notes from Nobel Prize winner Marie Curie after AAUW presented her with funds to purchase one gram of radium; the reports that laid the foundation for AAUW's status as a leader in the educational equity arena.

These are our memories and memorabilia. These are our sisters in the fight for equity in education for women and girls. This is our story. Let us celebrate!

Interest Groups

Afternoon Literature Group

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m.
Carolyn Simmons, 758-0271, CrCAROLYN@aol.com

Tuesday, November 14th

The Winemaker's Daughter by Timothy Egan

Hostess: Charlotte Drost
1084 NW Charlemagne Place
Charlotte will lead the discussion.

No-Host Lunch

On the 3rd Thursday in November, plan to drop in for lunch at **lovino's** on the Riverfront. (126 SW 1st Street). Lunches are quite reasonable--and delicious. Drop in at **11:45 on Thurs., November 16th**, and enjoy fine food and fantastic friends. Hope to see you there! Contact Person: Carolyn Simmons 758-0271 CrCAROLYN@aol.com

Evening Literature Group

Meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Mary Gray, 752-5970
Shirley Wirth, 754-7186

November 1st

When the Emperor was Divine by Julie Otsuka
Reviewer – Ann Brodie with a Japanese friend as guest speaker

Hostess – Carol Sumner, 1525 NW 14th

Please RSVP Carol at 745-0696 or email cjsumner@comcast.net as it is important to know how many people to expect.

Wonderful Walkers

A new walking group is being formed! If you wish to walk on Friday mornings, call Diana Bernstein at 738-8292 or Stefani McRae-Dickey at 929-7988 for time and location.



Membership

V.P. Membership
Louise Livesay, 753-4813
Mary Mills, 745-7961
Nelwyn Price, 754-3612



New Member Coffee

Please reserve Nov. 4 at 10:00 a.m. on your calendar. Diana Bernstein has graciously opened her home for this morning coffee. All branch members are encouraged to come and get acquainted with new members. A special invitation to new members: **Betty Iverson, Holly Harris, Dorothy Miller, Donna Eckhardt, Jan Christensen, Ruthann Rhodes, Loretta G. D' Ambrosio, Kryn Freehling-Burton, Janice Abele, Marion Dickens, Gretchen Bencene, and Maxine Eckes.**

Diana's address is 10 NW Edgewood Drive in Corvallis. Come visit and enjoy some tasty treats!

Welcome New Members



Janice Abele is a native Oregonian. She was born in Eugene and has lived in Corvallis for 12 years. She holds a BA from OSU and is currently a broker with Prudential Real Estate Professionals. Janice and her husband, George, have one son, Nicholas. In her spare time, Janice enjoys genealogy, visiting art museums, reading and spending time with her family. Janice will be a dual member. She is also a member of the Tigard, OR branch.

Maxine Eckes has a BA in history and education from College of St Catherine and received her MA in theology from Notre Dame Univ. Her professional teaching career covered elementary through college level. She also held administrative duties. She has lived in Minneapolis, Claremont and Nevada, CA. Her husband, James Gau, is a marriage and family therapist. Maxine enjoys working with ALL, (OSU Academy for Lifelong Learning), bicycling, travel and reading. Maxine learned about AAUW through friends. She responded to the invitation written in the "Gazette Times" and came to our Sept. Brunch.

Gretchen Bencene is a retired CPA. She has a BS from OSU. She has been a resident of Corvallis for 27 years. She and her husband, Thomas, have 3 grown children, 3 grown step-children and 11 grandchildren! Gretchen enjoys reading, bridge and painting. Thanks to Laura Cleaves for inviting Gretchen to the Sept. brunch.

Marion Dickens has a long academic career. She received a BS from the Univ. of Colorado, a MS in psychiatric nursing from the Univ. of Texas and a PhD from the Univ. of New Mexico. She also has a certificate in Gerontology from Georgia State Univ. Her long career in nursing and health led her to Oregon where she taught at OHSU School of Nursing. She has lived in Georgia, Florida, Colorado, California, Washington, Texas, Arizona and Oregon. While in Klamath Falls, OR, she served on the Senior Citizens Advisory Council and the board for Hospice and Mental Health. Marion has been an active AAUW member. She held at least 4 positions on the board in Klamath Falls. She is also the author of, "Snippets on Healthy Aging". She graciously contributed this publication to AAUW as a way to earn funds for scholarships. Her move to Corvallis was to be near children and grandchildren.

Please extend a warm welcome to these new members.



ONWARD OREGON

A BLACK HOLE IN OREGON

VOTE NO ON MEASURE 41

This measure would cut state tax revenues by allowing taxpayers to use the more generous federal personal tax exemption instead of a state tax credit. For most taxpayers, that would mean about \$140 a year in tax savings per person. If passed, it would cut state revenues by more than \$400 million a year beginning in 2008.

This measure may seem reasonable, but in reality Measure 41 creates a black hole of cuts to Oregon's education, healthcare and public safety for the foreseeable future. Continuing to decrease funding for these essential state programs does not improve either Oregonians' quality of life or government accountability.

Economically, Oregon is just coming out of the devastating effects of the 2001-03 recession. The current General Fund budget does not restore funding in many cases where cuts were made to public education at all levels, to healthcare for seniors, the disabled, and families, and to essential public safety services. Ninety percent of the General Fund supports these programs, and the immediate cuts resulting from passage of Measure 41 would jolt the fragile economic status of the state.

Measure 41 is simply poor public policy. It promotes a future of mediocre or worse support for citizens while empowering special interests. Oregon should be a leader in the encouragement and development of educational opportunities and social programs with positive outcomes, not part of a movement to demonstrate the future effects of reducing vital government services. In addition, because state revenues would be affected by changes to the federal deduction, Oregon would be at the mercy of the U.S. Congress, which can change federal tax law without local approval.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon opposes Measure 41. The League is a non-partisan political organization which conducts research and studies issues, adopting positions based on member agreement. The League believes in representative government that provides its citizens with adequate education, healthcare, and public safety services. Measure 41 puts such programs in jeopardy.

PLEASE JOIN THE ONWARD OREGON AND THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IN VOTING "NO" ON MEASURE 41.

One last thing: Measure 41 comes from the pen of Bill Sizemore and is funded in large part by Nevada billionaire Loren Parks.

Thank you,

The All-Volunteer Team at [Onward Oregon](http://OnwardOregon.org)

www.OnwardOregon.org

Educational Foundation News: 2006-07 Online Directory of Fellowship and Grant Recipients is now available on the AAUW website.

The Directory highlights the recipients of the Foundation's five fellowship and grant programs--225 individuals who will receive over \$3.6 million in funding during the current academic year.

You can use the link below to view the outstanding women pursuing their educational goals, engaged in cutting-edge research and implementing community projects to strengthen opportunities for women and girls.

<http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellows_directory/index.cfm>http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellows_directory/index.cfm



Our **December 1st Holiday Tea** will again provide you an opportunity to buy poinsettia plants, thus decorating your home *and* supporting our AAUW Educational Foundation fundraiser at the same time. BUT with a difference this year: We'll not ask you to preorder or prepay.

Just come to Nancy Sanderson's home, 1165 NW 17th Street, Corvallis on December 1st, starting at 4 pm and choose the poinsettia plants you want. We've ordered 50 beautiful plants from Peoria Gardens. The tea concludes at 6 pm. The price of each plant is \$10. That day you can pay with either cash or check. If paying by check, make your check out to Corvallis AAUW. *As usual please bring a small plate of goodies to share, no more than a dozen or so.*

If you don't want poinsettias you can still make a tax-deductible donation to EF in any amount. Be sure to make that check out to AAUW Educational Foundation, and bring it with you, or send it to our treasurer Stefani McRae-Dickey, 974 Wyatt Lane, Philomath OR 97370 before December 31st. The Foundation provides scholarships and grants for women (Julia Mbutia is just such a recipient!) and supports various research projects concerning women and girls.

Getting to Know Julia

Our own International Educational Foundation (EF) fellowship recipient, Julia Mbutia (the M is "silent"), is settling in nicely at OSU. I thought it would be helpful if we highlighted something about Julia each month in our newsletter so we could get to know her. Here are the answers to questions I recently asked her:

What classes are you taking, and how are your classes going?

I am doing fine, apart from schoolwork, which is a bit overwhelming. This semester I am taking the following three classes: Calculus Analysis, Linear Algebra, and Probability. I am also doing recitation on College Algebra.

Have you ever been out of Kenya before and how is your experience so far?

I have never been out of my country; this is the first time. It's a tough decision to be away from one's loving family, but such decisions have to be made today in order to wake up to a better tomorrow.

Do you know yet if your family can join you here?

I have been in touch with my family, and we are still making plans for them to come here. Right now I am not very sure whether it's going to be possible, but I hope for the best.

More from Julia next month! (And if you have specific questions you'd like asked please let me know.) – Jan Rounds

Marilyn Roland, 752-5257



Happy 25th Birthday to LAF

The year 2006 marks the 25th anniversary of the Legal Advocacy Fund, one of the main projects of all AAUW branches in the United States. Corvallis Branch members will have an opportunity to financially support this cause at the November branch meeting when we will celebrate the LAF anniversary as well as the 125th anniversary of AAUW.

The following information explains very clearly the origins of the LAF and causes the fund supports. I hope you will take the time to learn more about the fund and how it assists women in higher education.

25 Years of Fighting for Women in Higher Education

In the late 1970's a group of women professors and coaches at Cornell University became fed up with the sex discrimination they were facing at the university. AAUW's Ithaca (NY) Branch rallied around the women providing them with financial support and volunteers as five of them began a law suit against the university, "Zahorik v. Cornell University". The branch sought fundraising assistance from the national AAUW. As a result, in the summer of 1981, the AAUW board voted to establish the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Elva Volbrecht was the past president of the Ithaca branch at the time and active in strategizing how the branch could work with the national AAUW organization in supporting the so-called Cornell 11. Today she is co-vice president of the Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista (CA) Branch and serves on the LAF committee of AAUW of California. She spoke with the LAF staff about her memories and hopes for LAF.

Q: It's been 25 years since the AAUW Board of Directors voted to fund the "Cornell 11" and establish the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. At that time you were a member of the AAUW Ithaca (NY) Branch, which played an integral part in this role. How does this make you feel?

A: When the Ithaca Branch asked AAUW about serving as a flow-through for funds for the Cornell 11, we had no idea that an ongoing corporation would be formed and would still exist 25 years later. We were just a small branch in a university community, but we knew we had to help these women who had decided to fight rather than accept the decisions that had so dramatically affected their lives. Now 25 years later, I am proud, pleased, and sad that our action has led to help for more than 100 litigants--sad because the fight continues over the very same issues.

Q: What were your feelings about Zahorik v. Cornell University when you first heard the details?

A: We understood that litigation would likely continue over an extended period and that our 11 sisters would need emotional and financial support. Hearing their stories made it impossible to ignore their request to provide a tax deductible way to raise funds....As we came to know the plaintiffs as individuals, we developed great admiration and concern for them. Once you know someone who has decided to take on an institution, you quickly understand the emotional toll that is exacted.

Q: Since the Cornell 11 case, how have things improved (or worsened) in the area of women's tenure at colleges and universities in the United States?

A: It is hard to believe that in the 22 years since Cornell settled with our 11 litigants we are still fighting the same issues: tenure denial, Title IX, sexual harassment, you name it. Institutions that should be leading the way on equity still have not learned to treat all staff members with dignity and respect.

Elva Volbrecht says: It is only when our hearts are touched that we are willing to support LAF and AAUW. Can I-can we--do anything but offer that support?



Diversity / Equity

Edie Lee
Edie.Lee@oregonstate.edu

Pay Equity for Women

AAUW discusses the results of wage discrimination on their website. Some of that discussion is summarized here.

AAUW has long fought to end wage discrimination. As early as 1922, AAUW's legislative program called for a reclassification of the U.S. Civil Service and for a repeal of salary restrictions in the Women's Bureau. In 1955, AAUW supported a bill introduced by Reps. Edith Green (D-OR) and Edith Rogers (R-MA) requiring "equal pay for work of comparable value requiring comparable skills." Congress enacted the Equal Pay Act (PL 88-38), a version of the 1955 bill, in 1963. AAUW's 2005-07 Public Policy Program states that AAUW is committed to supporting fairness in compensation, equitable access and advancement in employment, and vigorous enforcement of employment antidiscrimination statutes.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor statistics, women who work full time earn about 77 cents for every dollar men earn. Over the past 40 years, the real median earnings of women have fallen short by an estimated \$523,000.

Wage discrimination hurts the majority of American families. Families lose \$200 billion in income annually to the wage gap—an average loss of more than \$4,000 for each working family. In addition, wage discrimination lowers total lifetime earnings, thereby reducing women's benefits from Social Security and pension plans.

Wage inequalities are not simply a result of women's qualifications or choices. Wage discrimination persists despite women's increased educational attainment, greater level of experience in workforce, and decreased amount of time spent out of the workforce raising children according to a study by the Government Accounting Office.

Wage discrimination impacts the economic security of families today and directly affects retirement security as women look down the road. But despite the Equal Pay Act and many improvements in women's economic status over the past 40 years, wage discrimination still persists and is attributable in part to the Equal Pay Act's limited scope. AAUW supports legislation to promote pay equity in the 109th Congress which would include improvements to the Equal Pay Act.

Membership Directory Additions / Corrections

Mary Lee Seward
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Christine Cantey was not listed in the 2006-07 directory

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Business



Events Calendar

NOV	Activity	Time	Location
1	Evening Lit Group	7:30 p.m.	Carol Sumner, 1525 NW 14 th
13	Board Meeting	12:30 - 2:00 p.m.	US Bank (corner of 9th & Walnut)
14	Afternoon Lit Group	2:00 p.m.	Charlotte Drost, 1084 NW Charlemagne Pl
11	Profiles of Women	2:00 p.m.	754 Wyatt Lane, Philomath. Home of Stefani McRae-Dickey, 929-7988
15	Newsletter deadline		
16	Program: "An Evening in Uzbekistan" Speaker: Nancy Rosenberger, PhD"	7:00 p.m.	Corvallis Caring Place 750 NW 23rd St.
16	No-Host Lunch	11:45 a.m.	lovino's , 126 SW 1st Street
DEC	Activity	Time	Location
1	Holiday Tea & EF Poinsettia Sale	4-6 p.m.	Nancy Sanderson, 1165 NW 17 th St.