

Branch Newsletter

Volume 26, Number 4

December 2005

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Holiday Tea

December 9, 2005

4 to 6 p.m.

Home of Shirley Wirth, 3994 NW
Boxwood Dr.



Shirley Wirth has graciously opened her beautiful home for our holiday tea on Dec. 9th, at which time poinsettias from the Educational Foundation fundraiser can be picked up.

Please bring a dozen or so cookies (or some other goody) to share. Shirley encourages you to bring your special treats in a covered container so that you can take some assorted cookies home with you. The cookies we bring will be arranged on special cookie plates before being served.

As soon as I take my pretty poinsettia plant home, it feels like the holiday season has started. I hope you feel this way, too.

Marge Bromley
Co-chair, AAUW Educational Foundation

NOTICE

The January Board meeting will be held on January 2nd, at the home of Jan Rounds; 3111 NW Norwood Place; same time (12:30). Please note this date and location change.

President

Jan Rounds
754-7730

donjan@peak.org

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President's Message

President
Jan Rounds, 754-7730



Jan's Jottings

"Life's short! Eat dessert first!" That popular saying reminds me of our upcoming AAUW Holiday Tea, on Dec. 9th. Oh, all those darling, sweet little morsels lining up on Shirley Wirth's table—I can picture them now! Start baking, ladies; those of us with a sweet tooth are counting on you!!!

There is another saying, a *bit* older, that starts in a similar way. Written by Swiss philosopher Henri Amiel on December 16, 1868, these words often close the Sunday services each week at my church. They are perfect for this holiday season:

"Life is short, and we have not too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. Oh, be swift to love. Make haste to be kind."

What a beautiful thought! Now, think of one person in our AAUW branch who embodies this saying. —Are you having a hard time limiting your mental list to just one? I am. To all of you who so generously share your time and your willing hearts to work on behalf of women and girls (you know who you are!)—Thank you! Our branch is full of kind, welcoming, and gracious souls. You gladden *my* heart!

Happy Holidays,

Jan Rounds
President



Educational Foundation

Marge Bromley, 757-7722
Dorothy Ruff, 929-4629



2005 EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING

As in past years, we offered poinsettias for sale for the holiday season, as an Educational Foundation fundraiser. Peoria Gardens was our supplier and it had 8 1/2" plants in colors of red, pink and white, for which we charged \$10 each. Since the Foundation provides scholarships and grants for women and supports various research projects concerning women and girls, members certainly didn't mind paying a little more for the beautiful plants.

To summarize the sale, our income from plants was \$430, expenses \$253.70, leaving a profit of \$176.30. In addition, our members contributed outright a total of \$195 for the Foundation, for a total amount for EF of \$371.30. A big "thank you" to all members who bought plants and/or made contributions!!



Membership

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



Linda O'Hara has held AAUW memberships in Prineville, McMinnville and Salem. She became aware of the Corvallis Branch, while being involved, at the state level. She received her BS degree in mathematics from OSU and her MS in information systems from Univ. of Oregon. For 20 years she worked in the private sector as a programmer and analyst. She is currently teaching at OSU and Chemeketa Community College. She describes herself as an avid sports fan. She also enjoys exercise, travel and time spent with family and friends. With her busy schedule, she finds time to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and Henderson House. The latter is a shelter for victims of domestic violence in Yamhill County. Linda says, "I continue to be an AAUW member because of its purpose and mission. I also appreciate the effectiveness in which this purpose is carried out." She finds AAUW a good way to connect with like-minded people.

Sue Kunda has a BS in elementary education from Montana State Univ. She is currently working on a MLS through, Emporia State Univ. She has 2 children; Christopher is 21 and Kerri is 18. Her only pet is a snake that her neighbor chased into her garage! Sue refers to herself as an "Air Force Brat." This has enabled her to live in Newfoundland, Canada, Texas, Florida, Wisconsin, Virginia, Philippine Islands, Montana, Alaska, Washington, and Oregon. What wonderful stories and experiences she must have to share. She has a busy schedule, but, enjoys rubber stamping, reading, studying and learning. Rosie Cunningham encouraged her to join AAUW.

Ellen Copeland graduated from Hillsdale College in Hillsdale MI. with a BA in sociology and an elementary credential. She taught school in northern California, Frasier, Michigan and Sonoma County, California. While living in Colorado, she worked with the US Antarctic Program. Her position required deployment to the Antarctic on 5 occasions. She is currently working in the math department at OSU in an administrative position. She has many interests and enjoys reading, hiking, movies, going to concerts, plays and lectures. She supports her creative friends in their artistic endeavors. She says, "I enjoy trying anything new, (within reason) of course". Ellen's mother was a member of AAUW for many years. We are glad she followed in her footsteps.

New Members Welcomed at Coffee



New members, **Eneida Hallenborg**, **Sue Kunda**, **Kelly Volkmann**, **Jody Parker**, **Janet Jarvis**, and **Hazel Scharfer** were welcomed at our New Member Coffee on Nov. 12th. After a fun time visiting and partaking of some tasty treats, our President, Jan Rounds, led a short orientation session for new members. This was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn what the Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund provide for women and to get acquainted with the goals of our Corvallis Branch of AAUW. Many thanks to Diana Bernstein for making us feel so welcome in her lovely home.

Caring and Sharing

(Contact Jan Rounds at donjan@peak.org with information)

Our sympathy and love go to the family and friends of **Mary Gisler** on her untimely passing. Mary was a special lady and will be greatly missed.

Crystal Campaign- Let's Sparkle by Raising \$100,000 to Celebrate 100 Years of AAUW in Oregon

AAUW of Oregon is co-sponsoring Association's new research about sexual harassment on college campuses, "Building a Harassment Free Campus." Just as a crystal is clear and transparent, so should colleges be clear and transparent on the topic of sexual harassment on campus. Too often, sexual harassment and abuse, even when reported, is discounted.

At a community college in central California several years ago, two female students were assaulted while returning to their vehicles in campus parking lot after night classes. The college decided not to alert their students to this risk, with the result that a student, unaware of the problem and walking alone, was raped after a night class. Administrators were more concerned about the college's image than the students' safety.

Without documentation of sexual harassment on campus, administrations find it easy to whitewash the seriousness of the issue. This study will give students and administrators alike the tools to fight sexual harassment. AAUW of Oregon will be listed on the title page of the report as a sponsor of the research along with the Educational Foundation. Moreover, AAUW of OR will be funding the cost of staff and materials used to train students, administrators and faculty at the college/university level.

Please show your crystal hard resolve to eliminate harassment on college campuses. Bring the transparency of a crystal to the subject of sexual harassment. Please use the **enclosed form** to make your donation, or go online at <https://svc.aauw.org/contribute/ef.cfml>

Make your donation count!
Get it to Association before December 15, 2005.

Crystal Campaign Invitation to a "Virtual Tea"

You may dress in your finest, or "come as you are"
to this fundraiser tea party at your very own bar.
No tickets to sell; no pastries to bake;
no hours to work; no schedules to make!



Invite a friend with whom you might share
the message of our "project" that proves we care
about harassment of women in classrooms today.
For this cause in AAUW, we're willing to pay;
books and training for colleges nation-wide,
so "harassment-free" will be everyone's guide.

While your tea brews, and you take your first swig,
please open your checkbook and make it count big.
The success of this project depends upon you;
an impact on equity, the entire nation through.

Recognize a colleague, loved-one or friend,
With tribute or memorial; acknowledgements we send!
Special donor recognition **pin**
will be given to those donors of \$100-\$1000 that come in.

Crystals, silver, gold.....they will all pass away;
positive societal change should be here to stay!



Edie Lee
Edie.Lee@oregonstate.edu

Celebrations of the Holiday Season

It's now the holiday season, which is generally thought of as extending from Thanksgiving through the New Year. Many celebrations occur during this time, including Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Winter Solstice. Here is some background about the two lesser known holidays, Kwanzaa and Winter Solstice.

Kwanzaa is an African-American cultural festival beginning on December 26 and ending on January 1. The festival was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga. Dr. Karenga's goal was to establish a holiday that would facilitate African-American goals of building a strong family, learning about African-American history, and developing unity.

While developing the new holiday, Dr. Karenga studied many African festivals and found many of them to be harvest related. Because of this, he named the celebration Kwanzaa from the Swahili word meaning "first fruits." Karenga identified seven principles, the *Nguzo Saba*, of the African-American culture and incorporated them into Kwanzaa. The principles are *Umoja* (unity), *Kujichagulia* (self-determination), *Ujima* (collective work and responsibility), *Ujamaa* (cooperative economics), *Nia* (purpose), *Kuumba* (creativity), and *Imani* (faith).

Before the Kwanzaa celebration begins, a straw mat (*Mkeka*) is placed on a table. A *Kinara* (seven-candle candle holder) and *Mshumaa* (the seven candles) are placed on the *Mkeka* along with *Muhindi* (ears of corn) and the *Kikombe Cha Umoja* (unity cup). The seven candles include three red ones placed on the right, three green ones placed on the left, and a black one placed in the center. The black candle represents the African-American people, the red candles represent their struggles, and the green ones represent their vision for the future.

Each day of Kwanzaa focuses upon one of the seven principles. After a candle-lighting ceremony, participants discuss what the principle means to them. Gifts are also exchanged during this time. A *Karamu* (feast) featuring traditional food, a ceremony honoring ancestors, music, and dancing is held on December 31.

Winter Solstice, or *Yule*, is held on or around December 22nd. It marks the shortest day of the year (in the Northern Hemisphere) and is an important holiday to those who follow the old ways. To the ancients, it appeared as if the Sun and Moon stopped in their flights across the sky—this is the longest night of the year and was a time of both anticipation and rejoicing at the Sun's rebirth out of the Goddess. The Sun's representation as the male divinity, or celestial ruler, predates Christianity. As with other rituals and celebrations, the Church felt that by assimilating this holiday into the Christian beliefs, it would help convert those who still followed the *Olde Way*.

The *Yule Log*, candles, mistletoe and other icons of the Christmas season are borrowed from the Solstice celebration. While mostly viewed as decorative in nature today, these items had deep symbolic significance to the elder faith.

The Yule Log - By lighting a fire, the ancients were acknowledging the return of the sun, warmth and light, which was marked by the lengthening of days and the promise of the coming spring. In pagan belief, for good luck, the Log should be lit on the eve of Winter Solstice on the first try and must burn for twelve hours.

Mistletoe - The "kissing bush" is one of a group of evergreens such as holly, rosemary, pine and yew. Since these and other coniferous plants flourished during the winter months, they became symbols that life continued its cycle even in the coldest and shortest of days.

Candles - As with most belief systems, the use of candles by the ancients symbolized light, focused the spirit and marked the belief that those beings of light, warmth and new life, God and Goddess, would again turn the Great Wheel and the spring would come again.



Jody Parker
jparker@pacifier.com

Support in Rejection of “Clarification” of Title IX

In March, the US Department of Education released a so-called “clarification” for showing compliance with the law (Title IX) that could jeopardize the number of athletic opportunities available to women on campus. AAUW has been working with coalition partners as the co-chair of the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education and has undertaken a variety of strategies to urge the Dept of Education to rescind its damaging and unnecessary clarification. On October 11, six former members of a 2003 Title IX commission appointed by former Education Secretary Rod Paige sent a letter to colleges and universities urging them to ignore the Department’s March 2005 “clarification.” AAUW believes high schools and colleges must provide fair and equitable opportunities for participation in athletics for all students.

Recommended Action: Urge your members of congress to protect Title IX and ask Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings to withdraw the Title IX clarification.

Murder Mystery Update

Dear AAUW Members,

Due the deteriorating health of my parents, I have been making unscheduled trips to California to care for them. As many of you know, my Dad is blind and has congestive heart failure. My mom has recently developed some serious symptoms which her doctors have not yet accurately diagnosed. As a result, I may be called to take care of them at a moment’s notice.

Because of this situation, I am cancelling our Murder Mystery for February, 2006, with the plan that it will return in winter of 2007, and be a biennial event after that. My apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Fifteen dollars of each ticket price went to AAUW foundations. You may continue your support by donating an additional \$15 to EF, LAF or Local Scholarships for each ticket you would have purchased. You may mail your donation to Nancy William or use a credit card online at <https://svc.aauw.org/contribute/ef.cfm> This is a secure site.

Regretfully,

Stefani McRae-Dickey
Murder Mystery Director

Directory Additions

Kunda, Sue 3121 Richard Place Philomath, 97370 suekunda@hotmail.com H - 929-2695 BS - Montana State U Elementary Education	Scharfer, Hazel 4937 SW Hollyhock Circle 97333 H - 738-2637 BS - Southern Oregon U Education	Edwards, Barbara P. O. Box 1719 97339 H - 754-0956 W - 737-5179 PhD - Penn State U English/Math (By the way, Barbara is Hazel's daughter.)
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Address Changes

Price, Nelwyn 4670 NW Rosemarie Pl	Volkman, Kelly 1127 NW 18th Street	William, Nancy 920 NW Elizabeth Dr.
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Interest Groups



Afternoon Literature Group

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

Carolyn Simmons, 758-0271
CrCAROLYN@aol.com

December 13

Selected Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway

Hostess: Carolyn Simmons
1302 NW Souza Place
Corvallis Tel. 758-0271
(For questions or further information, contact Carolyn S.)
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 7

Balzac & the Little Chinese Seamstress – Dai Sijie

Hostess – Pam Turner
3017 NW Snowberry Place
754-2342

Reviewer – Mary Mills



Great Books Discussion Group

The Great Books Discussions group needs a leader or co-leaders. If you are able to help lead the group for two months (January to February or February to March), please call Urchyl Bohard at 745-5949.



Gourmet Group

The first Gourmet Dinner of the year took place on Nov. 18th. Reservations for our German Bavarian fare, representative of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, filled up quickly. Space for these special meals is limited, so, while the **second dinner, scheduled for Jan. 28th** is over two months away, you are encouraged to decide soon if you would like to partake in this San Antonio, Tex-Mex meal.

The Gourmet Dinners are open to all who enjoy preparing and eating good food in good company. Singles as well as couples are welcome.

To make a reservation for the Jan. dinner, call Brenda Rowley at 752-6779.

Thanks from your committee co-chairs: Christine Cantey, Denise Nervik and Brenda Rowley



No-Host Lunch

We enjoyed a "whale of a lunch" at McGrath's Fish House on Thurs. 11/17/05. (Sorry, I got the pun disease from my mother!) If you haven't dropped in for lunch yet this year, there's still time. . .

Please **do** plan to join us for our Annual Special December Lunch, which will once again be held at Michael's Landing, downtown on 2nd Street, along the River. For this lunch, please **reserve a spot with me by Mon. 12/12/05** for our **"Third Thursday Lunch" to be held on 12/15/05 at 11:45 at Michael's Landing.** This way I can confirm our reservation a couple days ahead.

If you have a special Holiday Custom and/or Recipe to share, please plan to share it/them with us, your wonderful AAUW Corvallis Branch Members. This annual gathering is always a warm and wonderful way to share lunch, laugh, and relax during this often too hectic Winter Holiday Season.

To reserve, contact me, Carolyn Simmons,
CrCAROLYN@aol.com, 758-0271, by 12/12/05.



Events Calendar

DEC	Activity	Time	Location
7	Evening Lit Group	7:30 p.m.	Pam Turner, 3017 NW Snowberry Pl.
9	Christmas Poinsettia Tea	4 to 6 p.m.	Shirley Wirth, 3994 NW Boxwood Dr.
13	Afternoon Lit Group	2:00 p.m.	Carolyn Simmons, 1302 NW Souza Pl.
15	No-Host Lunch	11:45 a.m.	Michael's Landing, Reservations due 12/12 Contact Carolyn Simmons, 758-0271
15	Newsletter deadline		
JAN	Activity	Time	Location
2	Board Meeting	12:30 p.m.	Jan Rounds, 3111 NW Norwood Place
15	Newsletter deadline		
28	Gourmet Group		Contact Brenda Rowley, 752-6779



Crystal Campaign Invitation to "Tea"

The Legal Advocacy Fund

Name _____ Branch credited Corvallis

Address _____ Zip _____

Gift Amount _____

Gifts of \$50 – \$99 are recognized in Oregon's Golden Circle Club; gifts of \$100 or more in Oregon's Golden Scale Club. A pin will be given to donors contributing \$100 or greater.

For each \$25 gift, a friend or a loved one may be honored.

This gift is a **memorial** to _____
(deceased)

This gift is a **tribute** to _____ (living)

If you wish an acknowledgment sent:

Name _____
(this information is essential!)

Address _____
(use reverse side, or separate sheet of paper for additional names & addresses)

Credit my gift to this Fund. (check one) Oregon Crystal Campaign (3110) Unrestricted LAF Support (3999)

**Make checks payable to AAUW LAF
Please contribute by December 15, 2005**

Bring to the Holiday Tea or send to Oregon LAF Liaison
Linda O'Hara
1580 SW Ashley Dr., McMinnville 97128

Contributions are tax-deductible as charitable contributions for federal and state tax purposes.