

Branch Newsletter

Volume 23, Number 5

January 2003

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Martha's Musings

What a treat it was to begin the holiday season with the Holiday Tea. We all enjoyed visiting and sampling delicious goodies in the festive atmosphere of Zel Brook's lovely home. Many thanks to Zel for so graciously welcoming us all. Thanks, too, to Barbara Mykrantz and Betty Sleight for obtaining the most beautiful poinsettias I have ever seen. This is such a nice way to raise money for the Educational Foundation. Your generous contributions have enabled the branch to send a \$1000.00 Educational Foundation contribution and a \$600.00 Legal Advocacy Fund contribution to National!



In November, Diana Bernstein, Rosemary Cunningham, Stefani McRae-Dickey, Irene Lilja, Judy Rudolph and I attended the AAUW of Oregon Fall Leadership training. The focus of the meeting was on recruiting, nurturing and retaining members. We are so pleased to now have 95 wonderful members in our branch! At the June 2003 AAUW Convention, Maine and Ohio are proposing changes to the bylaws, which would revise membership eligibility. The Maine proposal states:

- (1) Eligibility. A graduate holding an *associates*, baccalaureate or higher degree from a qualified educational institution, a degree from a foreign institution recognized by the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), or a foreign degree acceptable as a basis for admission by graduate schools at regionally accredited universities of the USA, *or any individual who is interested in and supports the goals of AAUW*, shall be eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership. (New language is in italics)

If the Maine proposal fails to pass, the bylaws committee will then bring forward the Ohio Partners proposal, which states: (Section c. is a new section)

c. AAUW PARTNERS

- 1. Individuals not eligible for Association individual membership who support the mission of AAUW and wish to participate in branch, state, and Association programs and projects.*
- 2. Partners shall enjoy all the rights, responsibilities, benefits, and privileges of individual members. They shall pay the same dues as individual members of the Association.*
- 3. Partners who become eligible for individual membership by completion of a baccalaureate degree shall become individual members.*

Adoption of either proposal will significantly impact AAUW membership. To express your support, concerns, or opposition, please e-mail AAUW of Oregon Membership VP, Becky Lowe Warren (beccalw@teleport.com). Your input is important!

My best wishes to all of you for a happy, healthy 2003!

Martha Jenkins

President

Adelante is here in 2003!

Start the new year by reading *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys. This is the story of Antoinette Cosway, a Creole heiress that was sent to England after an arranged marriage. The West Indies plantation that she grew up on was old and decaying, but it was home. This is the story of her life.

Membership Support Group

I now realize that when I joined AAUW three years ago, I became part of a powerful network of caring women. A few weeks ago, my father passed away in Brookings, Oregon. His sudden, unexpected death left my mother grief-stricken and vulnerable. No sooner had my husband Tom and I arrived in Brookings, than messages of prayers, sympathy, and offers to help came pouring in from my AAUW sisters. I'm very grateful for all your support and I will try to repay your kindness by being there for other members in time of need.

One way women bond with other women is through the sharing of mutual experiences. With this in mind, AAUW offers many opportunities to get involved on a personal level through stimulating interest groups. This fall many women expressed a desire to participate in cultural activities. Hence, the "As You Like It" interest group was loosely formed. There is no leader at this point, but if any member sees an opportunity for us to share a fun and worthwhile cultural experience, she should feel free to facilitate it and ask others for assistance.

The first "As You Like It" adventure is our Saturday trip to Ashland on March 15, organized by yours truly (Rosemary Cunningham) with invaluable help from Martha Jenkins. The trip offers first class tickets to a play and a comfortable chartered bus. It's open to all members, spouses and friends. Tickets have been purchased and are being given out at this time. For more information, look for the announcement in this newsletter. Without a doubt, friendships grow and blossom from sharing fun times such as these! Won't you please join us?

Getting Acquainted with a New Member

When **Jean Eidemiller** was asked why she joined AAUW, she replied, "I've been grateful since 1950 when I received an education loan from AAUW, the only source available at the time for married women." After earning her BA at the University of Redlands, California, Jean eventually obtained her Ph.D. at OSU in Early Childhood Education and Anthropology. She taught for over thirty years in California schools, but instead of retiring at that point, Jean traded her career in education to enter the field of real estate. Three years ago, Jean finally did retire, but only after spending sixteen years in the real estate profession.

Understandably, Jean is proud of her family: Katherine, a New Yorker, is a dancer/singer in musical comedy. Her son, Andy, is a senior manager for McDonald Douglas/Boeing, and has received outstanding awards in community service. Daughter Liz, lives in Sweet Home, Oregon, and is currently working for the Head Start Program. Jean also has four grandchildren of which two (Ben and Wendy) are professional ballet dancers.

Nowadays, Jean finds herself busier than ever with committee work for her political party, various community projects, and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. When she isn't doing volunteer work, Jean enjoys swimming, meditation, and reading. A philosophical Jean imparts, "I love life, but I don't fear death. Old age is a great adventure!" Now that election days are over, we're hoping that Jean will steer some of her boundless energy in the direction of our Corvallis branch. We have a variety of programs which could benefit from her talent and willingness to work with committees! Addresses for Your Directory:

Patty Eberhardt

2855 NW Bryant
Corvallis, OR 97330
752-5945
pattye27@earthlink.net

Bertha Houk

2647 NW Legacy
Corvallis, OR 97330
754-5018

Elise Love

P.O. Box 882
Corvallis, OR 97339
738-0773
EliseLove@attbi.com

Esmeralda Reyes-Allen*

200 NW 53rd #57B
Corvallis, OR 97330
757-2390
emeraldreyes@aol.com
*newest member

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

Named Gift Honorees

The Corvallis Branch of the American Association of University Women has selected two outstanding members, Rosemary Cunningham and Judy Rudolph, as named-gift honorees for the year 2002. For every \$500 gift the branch donates to the national AAUW Educational Foundation, the branch may designate an honoree, and in 2002 the Corvallis Branch has contributed \$1000.



Rosemary Cunningham, a native Oregonian, was a member of AAUW in Woodburn in the early 1970's and taught for 20 years in the Philomath School District. She has a BA in Language Arts from the University of Washington, and an MS in Educational Media from Western Oregon University. She and her husband, Tom, are retired and have a daughter and family in Corvallis and a son and family in Boise. She keeps busy with reading, attending plays and concerts, babysitting grandchildren, and traveling. She has done a superb job as Membership Vice President, becoming acquainted with new members and helping them blend into the organization. She also is active in both literature groups.

Judy Rudolph was born and reared in Cincinnati, Ohio, and has lived in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and as far south as Louisiana, before moving to Corvallis in 1976. She has a BA in English Lit from the University of Cincinnati, as well as a MA in Christian Education from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, and an MA in Speech Pathology from Indiana University. She has spent much of her life working as a speech pathologist, and in Oregon she worked first for the Eugene Hearing and Speech Center, and then from 1980-93, she worked in the Albany Public School District 8J. She also served on the Board of Greater Albany Education Association and was co-president from 1990-92. Her three children (and five grandchildren) live in Oregon, Minnesota, and Wyoming. She has been a member of the Corvallis Branch for nine years and did a wonderful job as Program Vice President and LAF Chair. She is presently co-chair of Local Arrangements for the 2003 AAUW of Oregon State Convention in Corvallis and is the current Great Decisions interest group chair. She also participates in literature, bridge, and gourmet groups.

Transitions Conference to be Held on February 15, 2003

Martha Jenkins, President

The Albany and Corvallis Branches will co-host a *Transitions* conference at Linn-Benton Community College on February 15, 2003. The goal of a *Transitions* conference is to reach out and encourage women returning to college. Conference participants receive information about careers, college admission and financial aid, as well as receive support as they plan to return to college. Nancy Brown, Albany Branch Educational Foundation chair, is coordinating the Conference. There are many ways to be involved, from working on publicity, registration, requesting donor donations or posting posters. If you would like to help, please call Nancy at 928-6779 or call Martha Jenkins at 758-4390. Marilyn Treiman has volunteered to work because this conference really speaks to what we are about in AAUW—educated women empowering, mentoring and networking with women who are seeking to further their education.

"Every Murderer is probably somebody's old friend."

Agatha Christie, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (1920)

Sue Borden
sue.borden@cmug.com

LAF Programs

LAF has four major programs to promote equity for women in higher education: Case Support, the LAF Network, the LAF Progress in Equity Award, and Campus Outreach. We'll look at two of these programs this month, and learn about the other two in next month's newsletter.

Case Support

Old habits and prejudices die hard; even with laws on the books that prohibit discrimination, women have had to seek equity through the judicial process. A winning lawsuit also sets precedent for the future. LAF has already provided more than \$750,000 to support 70 cases in which students, faculty, and staff challenged discriminatory practices involving denial of tenure or promotion, pay inequity, sexual harassment, and unequally proportioned resources for women's and men's athletics programs.

When the LAF board votes to accept a case, it does so with either funded or use of name status. Funded cases can use LAF resources to pay any legitimate legal expenses such as the costs for attorney, court or filing fees, discovery, technical costs, or travel costs for trial. Use of name status allows the plaintiff to use LAF's endorsement in her own fundraising efforts.

Progress in Equity Award

The annual Progress in Equity Award recognizes college and university programs that have resulted in significant progress toward equity for women on campus and in the community. PIE Award recipients receive public recognition within their communities, on campuses, and within AAUW, as well as a monetary stipend (currently up to \$10,000) to continue their work. The Women in Science Re-entry Program at the University of New Mexico's Los Alamos campus received the first PIE Award in 1987.

By recognizing, publicizing, and funding achievements by institutions of higher education, LAF encourages other campuses to improve the situation of women on their campuses. Programs considered for the Progress in Equity Award must be innovative and replicable by other institutions. The selection committee considers programs that have led to progress in one or more of the following areas: family leave, special programs for women, curbing sexual harassment, integration of women's athletics, recruitment of women in nontraditional fields, and tenure.

Caring and Sharing

(Contact Martha Jenkins at marthaj@peak.org with information)

We extend our sympathy to **Rosemary Cunningham** who lost her father on November 30th in Brookings, OR.

Sylvia Volk has moved. Her new address is:

Sylvia Volk
c/o Stacy Johnson
491 Ashland Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222

We will miss Sylvia's enthusiasm and good ideas.

Congratulations to **Julie Searcy** who, on December 3, was unanimously elected President of the Corvallis-OSU Symphony Society. The Society employs 18 people, including orchestra members and an administrative assistant, and oversees a \$100,000 budget.

Nanette Dupuy
752-3649

THREATS TO REPRODUCTIVE AND CIVIL RIGHTS INTENSIFY

The outcome of the 2002 elections, which resulted in a 51-49 Republican majority Senate, has put into effect a leadership that once again threatens basic civil rights and a woman's right to choose. Anti-choice leadership now control the White House, the House of Representatives, and the Senate, thereby giving anti-choice legislation greater potential for enactment. Further, the new Senate leadership supports confirmation of federal judges who could threaten civil and reproductive rights.

Reproductive choice: Enactment of the so-called "partial-birth" abortion bill is a priority of Senate leadership for early 2003. In addition, the Bush administration continues to withhold funds for the United Nations Population Fund, which works to expand access to maternal healthcare and family planning around the world.

Federal judicial nominations: President Bush has stated his intent to work with the new Senate leadership to push through federal judicial nominations, including confirmation of some of the most conservative and controversial nominees. For example, Judge Dennis Shedd, nominee to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, has shown a disturbing pattern of siding mainly with employers in discrimination suits on issues ranging from sexual harassment to race and age discrimination. Professor Michael McConnell, nominee to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, has called for a constitutional amendment to ban legal abortion and grant personhood status to embryos.

U.S. Congressional Delegation contact info.:

Sen Ron Wyden:
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-5244 Fax: 202-228-2717
Web Address: <http://www.senate.gov/~wyden/>

Sen, Gordon Smith
Washington DC Address
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1001
Phone: 202-224-3753 Fax: 202-228-3997
Web Address: <http://www.senate.gov/~gsmith/>
E-Mail Address: oregon@gsmith.senate.gov

Rep. Peter DiFazio
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-6416 Fax: 202-225-0032
Toll Free Number: 800-944-9603
Web Address: <http://www.house.gov/defazio/index.htm>
E-Mail Address: peter.defazio@mail.house.gov

Rep. Darlene Hooley
1130 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-5711 Fax: 202-225-5699
Web Address: <http://www.house.gov/hooley/>
E-Mail Address: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

ATTENTION AAUW MEMBERS!

Oregon Shakespeare Festival presents

Noel Coward's
Present Laughter

Saturday, March 15
1:30 pm
Angus Bowmer Theater

Our "As You Like It" interest group is chartering a bus to
Ashland for the day.
All AAUW members are invited!

Total price for ("A" section) seats and charter bus: \$75
Sign-up early as seating is limited to 25 people.

Present Laughter:

A sophisticated, witty play about the theater. It takes place entirely in the London Flat of Gary Essendine, a famous stage actor whose offstage life is filled with much more drama than anything ever produced on stage. Pursued by two determined women and a young man with a psychological fixation, he needs more than a little help from his friends to sort it all out. There is no profanity or nudity, but sexual situations are obvious and central to the plot.

Call Rosemary Cunningham for information: 753-1319 or
cunninghamrt@attbi.com



State Convention 2003

Education—Shaping the Future

Irene Lilja (752-2058) & Judy Rudolph (757-8510)
Local Arrangement Chairs

AAUW's national office in Washington, DC has just confirmed that RUTH SWEETSER, Chair of the national College/University Relations Committee will be the Leader on Loan to our state convention. Ruth resides in Lombard, Illinois and served as president of the 7,500 member-strong AAUW of Illinois from 1995-1998. Ruth's most recent accomplishments include an appointment by the Illinois governor to the Commission on the Status of Women in that state; the State Board of Education Superintendent appointed her to Careers All Learners Committee and to his personal advisory council. We look forward to Ruth's participation.



Thanks to MARY LEE SEWARD for designing the convention workbook cover—a very professional job.

CAROLYN MOORE is replacing Marge Bromley as Credentials Chair. Welcome aboard!

VAL KRAUSS has invited Rev. Beth Crawford, minister at Westminster House on campus, to lead our Sunday morning interfaith service.

Chair of Tree Planting, DENISE NERVIK, has arranged with the Corvallis School District to plant a red maple tree at Jefferson Elementary School. There will be a dedication later this spring.

URCHYL BOHARD, Registration Coordinator, will be calling members to sign up for registration shifts. You can call her to volunteer, too!

All members are invited to join in the fun. If you are a new branch member, working on the convention is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and learn what AAUW is all about. Call us for information on how you can become involved.



Interest Groups

Afternoon Literature Group

Meets on the second Tuesday at 2 p.m.
Val Krauss 766-8916

January 14
"The Violet Shyness of Their Eyes: Notes From Nepal" by
Barbara Scot

Host: Louise Livesay
2182 Myrtlewood Way

Reviewer: Diana Bernstein

Title for February: "This House of Sky" by Ivan Doig

No-Host Lunch

No January lunch has been scheduled. If you enjoy meeting for lunch, please call Martha Jenkins (758-4390) with a suggestion for a February location.

Evening Literature Group

Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Gail Garrison, 745 7396
Nancy Tolin, 752 6656

January 8
"Henry and Clara" by Thomas Mallon

Hostess: Lois Malango
1815 NW Garfield
753-2904
malango@attbi.com

Reviewers: Ann Brodie, Terri Didrickson

February 5
"Expecting Adam" by Martha Beck

Hostess: Shirley Wirth

JAN	Activity	Time	Location
8	Evening Lit Group	7:30 p.m.	Lois Malango 1815 NW Garfield
13	Board Meeting	12:30 –2 p.m.	US Bank, corner of Ninth and Walnut
14	Afternoon Lit Group	2:00 p.m.	Louise Livesay 2182 Myrtlewood Way
14	Deadline for Purchasing Murder Mystery Tickets		
15	Newsletter Deadline		
24	Vintage Murder Mystery Italian Dinner	6:30 p.m.	EF and LAF fund raiser at Courtyard Inn, 2435 Harrison Blvd . Cost is \$35 advance purchase only.

FEB	Activity	Time	Location
5	Evening Lit Group	7:30 p.m.	Shirley Wirth
15	Transitions Conference		Linn–Benton Community College

March 15	Play Trip to Ashland	Contact Rosemary Cunningham (cunninghamrt@attbi.com)	
April 25–27	2003 AAUW of OR Convention	Corvallis	