

Branch Newsletter

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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.

Female Perspectives of World War II



6 p.m. Tuesday, March 16

**No-host dinner at Izzy's Pizza Restaurant, 2475 NW 9th Street, Corvallis
Featured speaker: Ruth Burns "Red Cross War Adventures"**

Do you remember victory gardens, fireside chats, food rationing, bobby sox, blackout curtains, and Rosie the Riveter—all part of the 1940's? Corvallis AAUW will travel back in time and learn about the choices and challenges that faced women in World War II at its 6 p.m. branch meeting on Tuesday, March 16. A no-host dinner will start the evening at Izzy's Pizza Restaurant, 2475 NW 9th Street, Corvallis.

Featured speaker will be branch member Ruth Burns who will relate her World War II experiences serving in the American Red Cross. Ruth was born in Montana and spent her early years in Montana, Idaho and eastern Oregon. She graduated from the University of Oregon with a BA in Business Administration and earned an MBA at Northwestern University. She left her career in Personnel Management to serve with the American Red Cross hospital service during World War II. During her three-year service she was stationed in army and navy hospitals in Australia, New Guinea and, after a brief stay in Manila following the end of the war, in an army hospital in Kure, Japan. After a year back in the United States she returned to Japan as a historian for the Army, preparing the basic manuscript for a volume covering the Operations of the Allied Intelligence Bureau, part of The Intelligence Series, documenting the history of World War II in the Southwest Pacific. During this period Ruth had an opportunity to travel extensively in Japan and spent a two-week leave in China. An adventurous highlight was a six-month leave that included a freighter trip from Yokohama to Bombay and the Persian Gulf, then traveling by land and air through the Middle East and Europe. Returning to the United States in 1951 she worked in Washington, D.C., doing research for the CIA. Ruth will have a great deal of fascinating information to share with the branch.

After Ruth's presentation there will be an open forum in which members may share memories and mementos of the World War II years. Members born after the war are free to tell WW II experiences of their parents or grandparents. Come prepared to share and reminisce. Joyce Carver suggests reading the book, "*The Keeper's Son*," by Homer Hickam about WW II prior to the meeting.

Members will also learn about the careers of Leona (Lee) Hoffman and Mildred Karlin, two female veterans of WW II who now reside at Samaritan Village in Corvallis. They were unavailable for our meeting, but their stories will be related by two of our members.

WW II certainly changed the lives of many women. Lori Hodgert will continue our theme "Women Making a Difference" by revealing a woman (or women) who made a significant contribution to her career.

President

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From Stef's Stylus

AAUW: Women Making a Difference

Thank you AAUW members for helping Measure 30 to pass in Benton County! Although the measure failed statewide, we showed our support for responsible government in Benton County.



Women's History Month is an opportunity to learn more about 'Women Making a Difference.' Some of the most commonplace tools were invented by women. **Bette Nesmith Graham** was a perfect example of necessity being the mother of invention. As a single mom in 1951, she supported her family by working as an executive secretary at the Texas Bank & Trust in Dallas. Unfortunately, her typing skills were not good and erasures made a mess of the document. She made a mixture containing a white tempera waterbase paint and used an artist's brush to correct her errors. Soon co-workers were borrowing her magic potion.

By 1956 she had a cottage business supplying bottles of her 'Mistake Out' to secretaries in the bank. She patented the product and by 1957 was selling it from her garage lab. After IBM rejected it, she created "The Liquid Paper Company." In 1968 Liquid Paper grossed more than \$1 million. When Bette Nesmith Graham died in 1980 she left a fortune of 50 million dollars, half to her son, Michael Nesmith (yes, the pop singer) and half to charity.

In the 1930's when **Hattie Alexander** began researching influenza meningitis, the disease was 100 percent fatal in infants and treatment almost useless for adults. Meningococcal disease, an inflammation of the meninges (the membranes which surround the brain and spinal cord), afflicts mostly children between three months and adolescence.

Hattie Alexander graduated from Goucher College and then worked for three years at the Maryland and U.S. Public Health Services. It was her work there that first interested her in bacteriology and that convinced Johns Hopkins University to allow her to enter their medical school. She was an outstanding medical student and interned at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center Babies' Hospital where she witnessed the fatalities from influenza meningitis almost daily. She worked with immunochemist Michael Heidelberger for several years without success in finding a cure.

Later, working independently, she applied her knowledge as a bacteriologist in addition to her training as a physician to isolate an antibody and then develop an antiserum. Deaths from the disease fell by 80 percent in the two years following her discovery. World-renowned for her research in bacterial genetics, she was also among the first to demonstrate the validity of the new theory that DNA influences genetic characteristics. She was an innovative teacher and director of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Centers Microbiology laboratory. Dr. Alexander was one of the first women to lead a national medical society when she was appointed president of the American Pediatric Society. She died in 1968.

If you find this fascinating, do a little research on "the Witch of Agnesi," (Hint: not a person, but a mathematical curve discussed by Maria Gaetana Agnesi), Emmy Noether, or Lise Meitner. Did you know that Hildegard von Bingen, in addition to being an Abbess and musician, was a scholar and wrote, centuries before Newton, that the sun was the center of the firmament and its gravitational pull holds the planets in orbit around it? There are many distinguished women whose contributions to society, science and mathematics are unsung.

Raise a toast to salute the many 'Women Making a Difference' this Women's History Month! To find out about six other fascinating women of science, see the Branch March [Women's History Month display](#) at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library.

Stefani McRae-Dickey

President

P.S. If you know the name of the women who discovered the first safe fungicide, nystatin, or the name of the woman whose work creating long molecule chains at low temperature made possible the invention of Kevlar, you will earn an entry into a drawing at our March meeting!

SOLD OUT!



Thanks to all of you for supporting our Murder Mystery fundraiser for the Educational Foundation (EF) and the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). We raised \$885 for EF and LAF. Because we sold out, we raised an additional \$218.47 which the Board voted to give to the Local Scholarship fund. Fifteen dollars of each \$40 ticket went to EF and LAF. If you purchased tickets, you may take \$15 per ticket as a charitable donation on your taxes. The Local Scholarship fund is not a 501(c)(3), so donations to it are not deductible.

Thank you to all our FABULOUS actors. **Kori McDonald** played the snobby and evil Abigail Windsor. The combination of snobbery and lust was hilarious! **Jan Rounds** returned as Gert Dopplehimer, the blackmailing, cigarette-smoking and gin-tipping aunt of the bride. Although Jan and Gert are as different as can be, Jan played Gert to the hilt! Her demise was met with cheers, after the laughter, that is. **Leon Roland** was Henry Hogget, the hippie father of the bride, just trying to hold the social event together. Hope none of you had any after effects from his Maui Wowie brownies. He was in every scene and played Henry beautifully, in spite of having a nasty cold! **Nancy Tolin** ad-libbed the role of Wanda Wedbetter, the wedding coordinator. For Wanda, a bride who punches the groom is "perfectly normal" and murder is just another unexpected mess that needs to be disposed of. A food cart is all she needs to keep the wedding on track. **Marilyn Roland** appeared as Muffy Tidewater, a gold digger with quick wits who snags the rebounding groom and \$100,000,000. The normally refined and ladylike Marilyn showed her seductive alter ego, to the delight of the audience.

A special thanks goes to the community members of our cast. They donated their time, experience, and acting talent to make Murder on Maui a success. **Rob Mead** played Roger Windsor, the mama's boy groom. He was great in the role, and had more imaginary ailments than a whole ward of hypochondriacs. **Jacob Tennessen** played Greg Pierson, IV, the conceited best man. He managed an affair with Abigail and pursued the bride with swaggering confidence. **Brenda Baxter** played the lovely but confused bride with great flair. She took the naturally frayed nerves of an anxious bride to new limits! Although much too young to remember the 70s, she played a perfect hippie bride.

Thanks also to the decorating committee, chaired by **Diana Bernstein** and **Martha Jenkins**. They created a fabulous tropical wedding fantasy with the help of **Joyce Carver**, **Carolyn Moore**, **Stefani McRae-Dickey** and **Nancy Tolin**.

Valley Catering provided dinner and would be happy to cater your wedding or anniversary celebration! They donated both the cost of using their liquor license and the corkage fee for our fine wine. This meant we had \$120 more for Local Scholarships. Thank you Valley Catering!!

Thank you all for supporting AAUW.

Stefani McRae-Dickey
Murder Mystery Chair

Sue Borden
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From AAUW's Executive Director...

Vigilance in Victory

This summer [2003] may well be remembered as one that brought both legal victories and new challenges significant to equity and higher education advocates.

First, battling legal and administrative challenges, Title IX stood strong and remains authoritative with respect to educational programming and activities. To quote Gerald Reynolds, assistant secretary for civil rights in the Department of Education: "After eight months of discussion and an extensive and inclusive fact-finding process, the Commission [on Opportunity in Athletics] found very broad support throughout the country for the goals and spirit of Title IX."

Then, a few weeks later the U. S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of affirmative action in limited circumstances—the first case of this kind heard by the Supreme Court in 25 years.

But these decisions, though significant for the individuals litigating the issues, may prove to be less influential than we would hope. The Supreme Court ruling was a split decision and gave very murky guidelines for using racial preferences in the admissions process, leaving open the question as to whether any university will feel truly safe in promoting diversity as a compelling interest. And Title IX opponents continue to post articles and raise issues about the legality of the law.

It is only a matter of time before we will be called upon to revisit the same issues under a different cover. We must remain vigilant in promoting equity on all levels of education and continue to foster new relationships and partners who see the value in promoting a diverse and equitable society.

Advocates for equity in education have long relied on the "preaching to the choir" method of advocacy—that is, we tend to partner with those people and organizations that are likely to have similar philosophies and strategies. It is time to reach beyond our comfort zone to find new champions who share our philosophies but might use different strategies for accomplishing similar goals.

...Jacqueline E. Woods



Bucks for Books: Remember to save your "used and loved" books to donate to the LAF book sale at the Branch Meeting on Saturday, April 17, at the Country Club. Plan to stock up for summer reading, too. All the proceeds will go to LAF.

March Women's History Month Display

Corvallis Branch members Rebekah Lancelin, Linda Lovett and Martha Jenkins have prepared a Women's History Month exhibit entitled **Women of Science** that will be on display during the month of March in the display case near the front entrance of the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. The scientists to be featured are:

Barbara McClintock – Geneticist

Helen Gilkey – Mycologist and botanical illustrator



Ellen Ochoa – Astronaut

Ellen Swallow Richards – Sanitary chemist



Grace M. Hopper – Computer scientist

Gertrude Elion – Pharmaceutical chemist

Do you know which of these women received a Nobel Prize? Do you know which woman was a professor at Oregon State University? Come see the display and learn more about these important and fascinating women.

Nominees Needed

The nominating committee consisting of Marilyn Roland, Judy Rudolph and Dorothy Ruff have the following to report:

- President Elect: TBA
- President: Stefani McRae-Dickey
- Program Vice-President: Cathy Phelps (one of four)
- Secretary: TBA

The committee is actively searching for nominees for the two unfilled positions. Election of new officers occurs at the April branch meeting.



Membership Info

Nancy Tolin has a new email: ntolin@comcast.net

Caring and Sharing

(Contact Stefani McRae-Dickey at mcraedic@peak.org with information)

We're wishing **Patty Eberhardt** a speedy recovery from her broken wrist. Do we get to sign your cast?? Hope you are cast-free soon.

Todd Allen, Esmeralda's husband, had foot surgery. We hope he's up and running soon.

Our condolences to **Rose Kraft**, on the recent loss of her husband Walter. Our thoughts are with you at this time.

Martha Jenkins met **Fitri Krisnawati**, a former student affiliate member, at a recent Indonesian dinner at OSU. Fitri will be graduating in May, and sends her regards to AAUW.

Afternoon Literature Group

Meets on the second Tuesday at 2 p.m.

Louise Livesay, 753-4813

March 9

Bella Tuscany by Frances Mayes

Hostess: Jan Rounds
3111 NW Norwood Pl.

Reviewer: Charlotte Drost

April 13

Living with Cannibals by Michele Slung

Hostess: Urchyl Borchard
7525 NW Mt. View Dr.

Reviewer: Val Krauss

Evening Literature Group

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

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

March 3

Botany of Desire by Michael Pollan

Hostess: Denise Nervik
2850 SW DeArmond Drive
752-2841
nervikd@cmug.com

Reviewer: Rosemary Cunningham

April 7

The Alienist by Caleb Carr

Hostess: Carol Nelson
5925 NW Rosemont Drive
745-7275
caroljnelson53@earthlink.net

Reviewer: Shirley Woods

Gourmet Group

Act now! There's still time! You have until Wed., March 3rd to reserve a space for you and a guest at our South American Dinner! Lots of fun, friends, and great food to be enjoyed. Hope you can make this one!

Saturday, March 13, 7:00 pm, at Christine Cantey's home. Recipe items will be sent out as soon as we have the final count of attending gourmet enthusiasts. Just phone or e-mail me, Carolyn Moore, 758-0271 or CrCAROLYN@aol.com (by March 3rd). We'd love to have you join us!



No-Host Lunch

The "Out to Lunch Bunch" continues to try out new or favorite eateries on the 3rd Thursday of each month. The next drop in lunch will be on **Thursday, March 18, 2004**, at **The Old World Deli** on 2nd Street, next to Pegasus Gallery at **11:45 a.m.**

They serve great lasagnas and sandwiches. Mark your calendar and just drop by for a bite of food, a bit of conversation, and a pleasurable little outing in the middle of the month!

Any questions? Call or e-mail me, Carolyn Moore, 758-0271 or CrCAROLYN@aol.com

MAR	Activity	Time	Location
3	Evening Lit Group	7:30 p.m.	Denise Nervik, 2850 SW DeArmond Dr.
8	Board Meeting	12:30 – 2 p.m.	US Bank, corner of Ninth & Walnut
9	Afternoon Lit Group	2 p.m.	Jan Rounds, 3111 NW Norwood Pl.
13	Gourmet Group	7 p.m.	Christine Cantey's residence. RSVP to CrCAROLYN@aol.com or 758-0271 by March 3
16	Branch Meeting	6 p.m.	Izzy's
18	No-Host Lunch	11:45 a.m.	Old World Deli on 2nd Street (south of the post office)
APR	Activity	Time	Location
7	Evening Lit Group	7:30 p.m.	Carol Nelson, 5925 NW Rosemont Drive
12	Board Meeting	12:30 – 2 p.m.	US Bank, corner of Ninth & Walnut
13	Afternoon Lit Group	2 p.m.	Urchyl Borchard, 7525 NW Mt. View Dr.
17	Branch Meeting		