

Women and Homelessness in Portland: Kenton Women’s Village and Other Programs for Homeless Women

Wednesday, October 11, 10am-11:30am
Community Room, University Park Condos
1500 SW Park Ave, Portland
Speaker: Margi Dechenne



Margi Dechenne is the Program Manager of Catholic Charities Housing Transitions, a program that provides permanent housing and ongoing case management to homeless, non-parenting women. In addition to Housing Transitions, Margi also supervises Martha and Mary Home, a shared living house for formerly homeless women over sixty, and the new Kenton Women’s Village.

Kenton Women’s Village is a pilot project in North Portland that provides 14 women who experienced homelessness with a safe, private place to sleep and a meaningful chance to regain permanent housing. In this self-governing community, each woman has her own pod and access to a common kitchen, bathroom with showers, and community garden. Catholic Charities provides oversight and ongoing support.

Margi will share with us the exciting and rewarding process of working with a wide range of partners (government agencies, nonprofits, businesses, educational institutions, the local community, and homeless individuals) to design and build this first-of-its kind model homeless village. She will also discuss the ongoing support that is provided to the women and other programs of Catholic Charities to address homelessness in our city.

University Park Condos can easily be reached by public transportation. Metered parking is nearby. Please use the directory by the gate for the access code for Fleming (Suzanne).

**AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN**

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A Message from Our Co-Presidents

Dear Members,

Now that the dust – or as the case may be, the ash – has settled, it is time to welcome in another exciting AAUW year! It's a great time to renew long-time AAUW friendships and engage in bringing the AAUW mission of advancing equity for women and girls closer to reality.

Our Fall Brunch and General Meeting was a great success! AAUW President Kathi Dew talked about where National and State AAUW are heading. It sounds as if there is a wealth of upcoming activities. National priorities include college/university relations, STEM and research. AAUW of OR continues to press for progress in public policy. Kathi also encouraged us to attend the 2018 Oregon Convention in Hillsboro.

The screening of the movie "Black Girl in Suburbia" was fascinating. Thank you Diane Winn for telling us about it! We heard about what it meant to black girls who grew up in Portland's predominately white communities. All of us left with a greater awareness of the challenges of race, which continue today.

In her capacity as College and University Relations Representative, Barbara Spencer got a great Start Smart workshop off the ground at Portland State University on Saturday, September 9th. A number of students were eager to hear about how to gain confidence in negotiating skills. As a result of the workshop, we hope these women can increase their potential to earn higher salaries and better benefits packages, not to mention being better able to pay off student loans.

The Portland Branch's Agenda continues to be full. Make sure that October 11, 10:00-11:30 a.m. is on your calendar. We will be hearing from Margi Dechenne, Catholic Charities Housing Transitions Program Manager, about Kenton Village and Programs for Homeless Women. It is an important topic that impacts all of us. Hope to see you there!

We look forward to engaging with you in another year of stimulating and FUN activities. Don't forget to bring your non-AAUW friends to our events – and tell them all about the benefits of being an AAUW member.

Co-Presidents, Ilga Ross and Trish Garner

A Five-Year Retrospective Look: AAUW Portland Branch and Portland State University

Since 2012, the Portland Branch has served as the AAUW liaison for Portland State University (PSU), an AAUW college and university member. In its role as liaison, the Portland Branch has worked to bring the AAUW mission, values and programs to PSU students, faculty and administrators. What are some examples of collaboration over the last five years?

Elect Her, in collaboration with the Center for Women's Leadership, the Women's Resource Center and Student Affairs, has been offered to female students to train them in leadership skills for running for student government offices, as well as future election races.

Start Smart was contracted between AAUW and the Student Career Center, permitting salary and benefit negotiation training on campus. Portland Branch trainers facilitate the workshop for New Leadership Oregon (NLO) participants, a summer program for female college students at Oregon universities from across the state and for other groups of PSU women students.

Portland Branch has provided a \$400 scholarship to an NLO graduate to attend AAUW's *National College Women's Student Leadership Conference (NCWSSL)* in Washington, DC.

PSU's Center for Parents with Children has presented their research on women students and children at a monthly program for Portland Branch.

Portland Branch has donated \$400 to PSU's Center for Parents with Children.

Portland Branch has observed Women's History Month by participating in special programs with PSU students and AAUW members.

Portland Branch has received an Oregon AAUW grant of \$500 to co-sponsor the Brenda Tracy event on campus and worked with student groups and faculty to plan and run the day's activities.

Portland Branch has signed up PSU students as AAUW e-student affiliation membership (available free to all undergraduate students regardless of gender).

Portland Branch has implemented Give a Grad a Gift (free AAUW membership) for New Leadership Oregon college graduates.

A Portland Branch member serves as a board member for PSU's Center for Women's Leadership.

The strategic plan for College and University Relations lays out the 2017-2018 year-long strategy for this on-going collaboration. For more information, please see the AAUW Portland website at: <http://www.aauwpx.org/>. To learn how you might participate in this program activity, contact Barbara Spencer, C/U Liaison, @baspen013@earthlink.net.

Interested in a New Interest Group?

Joining an AAUW Portland interest group is a great way to socialize and get to know other members who share your interests. Groups typically meet from September through May.

Many of our existing groups still have openings (see page 5 and look for “open” next to the title), and several members have indicated an interest in expanding the number of groups. A few of the suggested new groups are:

Bridge	Portland Center Stage on Thursday
Matinees	Emerging issues for collective action
Mahjong	Monthly lunches at various restaurants
Pinochle	Additional focused book groups
Wine tastings	Photography
Exploring Portland	Computing

If you are interested in any of these suggestions or have an idea for a new group, e-mail carla.huegli@yahoo.com. Please remember to include your name and phone number.

STATE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The State Public Policy Committee is in the process of identifying issues that AAUW of Oregon will be pursuing in the 2017 Short Legislative Session and 2018 Long Session. Right now they include: paid family and medical leave; child care (either a tax credit or ways to counteract the high cost); strengthening of state laws that deal with sexual harassment and bullying in schools, in particular requiring the collection of data regarding harassment allegations; and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) – at least to restore the funding that was lost as a result of the 2017 budget process.

Please let Trish Garner (garner37@mac.com) know if you have any other suggestions about possible legislation. Also, contact Trish if you have an interest in joining the Portland Branch’s Public Policy Committee. We have lots to do – and in particular, getting the word out to the community that Pay Equity is now the law of Oregon.

Study and Interest Groups October, 2017

Interest groups that are not at capacity welcome new members. They are indicated by an "(open)" below. Call the contact person for more information and to RSVP. And to start a new group, just contact Carla Huegli, 503-456145 or carla.huegli@yahoo.com.

Art Enjoyment is inactive.

Breakfast in Bridgetown (open)

Second Thursdays, 9:00 am, unless otherwise stated

Date: October 12

Zell's Café, 1300 SE Morrison

RSVP to: Suzanne Fleming, 714-898-6456 or multiteach@aol.com

Classics: Past, Present and Future (open)

Third Thursdays, 6:30 pm, at Willamette View,

12705 SE River Road, 3rd floor meeting room

Date: October 26

Mrs. Sherlock Holmes by Brad Ricca

Hostess/Leader: Maxine McComas

Contact: Ann Hudson, 503-335-3463 or HUDSONADV@aol.com

Curtain Call (open)

Date: October 12, 7:30 pm, at the Newmark Theatre

Paul Taylor Dance Company

Contact: Linda Stern, 503-232-5637 or lindamstern@comcast.net

First Tuesday Reader's Theater (open)

Coffee 10:00, performance at 10:30

October 3

I Ought to be in Pictures by Neil Simon

Contact: Judy Holt, 503-387-5602 or jholt58@gmail.com

AAUW Happy Hour (open)

A time to relax, chat and nibble

Fourth Thursday except for holiday event(s)

Date: October 20, 4 pm

Patton Maryland, 5101 N. Interstate

Contact: Barbara Alberty, 503-222-2423 or blalberty@comcast.net

Literary Comments and Criticism I

Third Tuesdays, 12 noon

Date: October 17

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger

Discussion Leader/Hostess: Julie Donaldson

Literary Comments and Criticisms II

Fourth Thursdays, 11:30 am

Date: October 26

Four Seasons in Rome by Anthony Doerr

Hostess: Kate Skelton

Literary Comments and Criticisms III

Second Tuesdays, 9:30 am

Date: October 9

Eventide by Kent Haruf

Hostess: Julie Donaldson

Modern Fiction

Fourth Tuesdays, 11:30 am

Date: October 24

The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion

Hostess: Carla Huegli

Movie Mavens (open)

Monthly meetings to select and discuss movies

Second Fridays, 1:30 pm

Dates: October 13

Hostess: Suzanne Fleming

Contact: Suzanne Fleming, 714-898-6456/

multiteach@aol.com or Karn Hill, 503-206-8444/

karnhill@gmail.com

Non-Fiction Book Group I (open)

Third Wednesdays, 10:00 am, at Elephant's Deli

Date: October 18

The Language of Food by Dan Jurafsky

Contact: Kathe Hart, 503-372-6338 or

kathehart@hotmail.com

Non-Fiction Book Group II (open)

Third Fridays, 7 pm, at Joyce Lew's, 1436 SW Park Ave, #503

Date: October 20

The Bully Pulpit by Doris Kearns Goodwin (p. 450 to end))

Contact: Kathe Hart, 503-372-6338 or

kathehart@hotmail.com

Sleuth Sisters

Fourth Wednesdays, lunch & discussion

Date: October 25, 1:00 pm at Ernesto's

Clutch of Constables by Ngaio Marsh

Contact: Jane Lancaster, 503-284-1670

Wimpy Walkers (open)

First Friday or Saturday, 3-4 miles with breakfast/lunch

Date: Friday, October 6, 10 am

Walking tour of Lake Oswego's Gallery without Walls; meet

at Peet's Coffee, 345 1st St. #111, Lake Oswego; lunch to follow.

RSVP to: Judy Holt, 503-387-5602 or jholt58@gmail.com

NOTE: Members interested in Breakfast in Bridgetown and Wimpy Walkers **must RSVP** prior to the event.

2017-18 PCC Scholarship Recipients

Our two new PCC scholarship recipients for this year are Rekik Mengstu and Margo Gonzalez Brooks.

Rekik Mengstu is a second-year student and hopes to transfer to PSU to get her degree in software engineering. Eventually, she hopes to work for Intel or Microsoft and create software on phones that will broaden educational access to women in developing countries. As Rekik wrote in her letter of thanks to the Branch, “I am from Ethiopia and came to the United States for the first time a year ago. I live with my mom, who raised me as a single mother . . . and I work on campus to pay for my tuition and school materials.”

Margo Gonzalez Brooks is also a second year student, who is majoring in microelectronics. She worked temporarily at Intel and fell in love with the work. After receiving her education, she hopes to work in the high tech semiconductor arena. Margo has overcome many obstacles, since she is “an Arizona Native American woman who lived in an adobe home with a wooden stove as the only source of heat . . . If the thankful feeling within me were to be described in physical terms, it would be tears of joy, a pounding heart, and a smile on my face . . . Thank you for your investment in my dreams.”

In It for Life? Make it Official

Empower generations to come through your lifetime membership in AAUW! Join us or upgrade your existing membership today and receive a letter of recognition, a certificate, and a lapel pin that you can wear proudly knowing that you’ve put your values into action. Lifetime membership in AAUW is a one-time, fully tax-deductible gift of \$980*. Become a life member today!

*Now is the best time to become a paid life member. National AAUW paid life membership is 20 times the annual dues. Next year, dues will increase from \$49 to \$59, resulting in a \$200 increase in paid life membership. After the dues increase, paid life membership will increase to \$1180.

AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND & TITLE IX

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund is just one of the funds under the AAUW Funds umbrella. It has been crucial to the success of many gender discrimination cases since 1981. The case support program provides financial and organizational backing for plaintiffs who are challenging gender discrimination in education and the workplace.

In 2015, LAF began supporting the case of *Burhans v. Yale*. Susan Burhans had filed suit against Yale University in 2012, alleging sex discrimination and unlawful retaliation under Title IX. During her 10 years as Yale's security education coordinator, she had tried repeatedly to notify Yale's administration of potential Title IX violations stemming from the university's sexual assault complaint procedures and to help student survivors access justice. Rather than address her concerns, the administration ignored her warnings, retaliated against her, and eventually terminated her position. This case is significant because to fulfill Title IX's promise of equity in education, educators and administrators must step forward to keep students safe. The fact that Title IX helps protect students from campus sexual assault means little if administrators face retaliation for trying to enforce that protection. This case was settled favorably in 2017.

Secretary of Education DeVos recently announced that her department would be reviewing Title IX regulations and guidance, with the stated intent to rescind a 2011 Dear Colleague letter on Title IX and sexual violence. In her speech, DeVos noted many situations in which schools have failed to adhere to the law. AAUW believes the appropriate response to this assertion is to enforce Title IX, not to undermine it. We stand with survivors and remain committed to protecting and defending Title IX. Calls from survivors, students, and advocates for full enforcement of Title IX and your support of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund can make a difference.

Word of the Month

hegira

Meaning: noun, a journey especially when undertaken to escape from a dangerous or undesirable situation; exodus

Origin: the *Hegira*, flight of Muhammad from Mecca in AD 622, from Medieval Latin, from Arabic *hijra*, laterally, departure.

First use: 1753

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE: AAUW Portland Branch's Annual Holiday Luncheon and Fundraiser

Saturday, December 2nd, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Multnomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon Street, Portland

Become a STEM volunteer

Girls Engage Technology (GET) is a Saturday Academy class designed to provide positive programming and engineering experiences to young girls in order to increase their confidence and interest in technology. Last year, our branch selected GET as our STEM project. AAUW volunteers serve as the "adult supervisors" for the classes and need no technical knowledge, only a desire to help girls learn. The classes are in great demand but can only be offered with sufficient volunteer help. Please consider becoming a volunteer. Contact Lisa Perrine, 503-648-1691/lperrine65@comcast.net or Sue Thomas, 503-427-0403/sueonoak@comcast.net for more information and to volunteer.

SAVE THE DATES:

The 2018 AAUW State Convention

Friday-Sunday, April 20-22, 2018

Hillsboro/Tanasbourne Embassy Suites

AAUW OR Lobby Day

Friday, February 9, 2018

Member Update/Information

Welcome to our new member:

Michelle Walsh

1500 SW Park Ave, #101

Portland, OR 97201

503-577-5678

michelledwalsh@aol.com

AAUW Program Schedule 2017-18

October 11 - Women and Homelessness in Portland

November 11 - Joint meeting with Lake Oswego Branch

December 2 - Holiday Luncheon and Fundraiser

February 9 - AAUW of Oregon Lobby Day

April 20-22 - AAUW of Oregon State Convention in Hillsboro



Visit us on the web:

National:

www.aauw.org

Oregon:

<http://aauw-or.aauw.net/>

Portland:

www.aauwpdx.org

“members only” password: pdxaauw

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME



The Rose City Reporter is a publication of the Portland Branch of AAUW, a non-profit organization, published eight times a year (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec./Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May/June) as a membership service.

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

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 or disability.