

Portland AAUW November 2020 Newsletter

---

From: AAUW Portland Branch (portlandaauw@gmail.com)

To: ilgaross@yahoo.com

Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 02:09 PM PDT

---

[View this email in your browser](#)



## Rose City Reporter

### November 2020 Newsletter

If you would like a PDF version of the newsletter suitable for printing, click [here](#)

---



Hello Members – About 30 branch members participated in the October program titled ‘What Can I Do To Promote Racial Equality’ with guest speaker Nina Narelle. It was an impactful presentation that generated lots of conversation among the attendees and helped us focus on asking some important questions about our own organization.

Since November is an off-month in our branch program schedule, we asked Linda Loftin, our Program VP, to use this space to give us her thoughts about the October presentation and to give you some updates on what the national and state AAUW organizations are doing around this important topic.



## **We Are In A Moment**

### **Linda Loftin, Program VP**

This summer in Portland, as around the nation, citizens have begun to examine racism at the personal, cultural, and systemic levels. “We’re in a moment,” explained Nina Narelle, our Zoom speaker on October 13th. As we delve into the history of our country, we begin to understand the development of institutional racism that Black Lives protesters are marching against in the streets.

As a founding partner of [Future Work Design](#), Ms. Narelle and her team help guide organizations to redefine how they work together as groups. One of the lenses they use to examine this is the level of equity and inclusion present in the organization. She notes that “organizations today are built on systems, processes, and structures of the past.” It is our responsibility to examine these systems at a personal as well as societal level.

Ms. Narelle notes that so often organizations ask, “How can we increase diversity in our organization?” She posits that in order to begin the transformation towards more diverse, equitable and inclusive organizations, we should be asking, “Why are we so homogenous?” An examination of “how we got here”, can reveal how power structures were established and maintained throughout the history of the organization.

AAUW has also begun this process of examining “Why are we so homogenous?” Kim Churches, CEO of AAUW at the national level spoke about this process at the Summer Skills Leadership Camp in August, 2020. In the wake of the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, she acknowledged AAUW’s commitment to the “fight for justice and long-term and lasting change...against racism.” But she also conceded that we have “our work to do.” She committed to advancing the policies and systemic changes identified by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights in the “New Era of Public Safety: A Guide to Fair, Safe, and Effective Community Policing” and the “Vision for Justice”.

At the state level, AAUW of Oregon is focused on educating members about actively working against racism with a Zoom discussion series “Together on the Path to Anti-Racism”. Trish Garner, AAUW State Public Policy Chair, began this discussion at the Summer Skills Camp and recently announced the continuation of the series with a Zoom presentation on Wednesday, October 28th at 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Dr. Markisha Smith, Ed.D, Director of the Portland Office of Equity and Human Rights. Trish also noted that AAUW of Oregon is planning to provide a forum for branches to share anti-racist actions, books, discussion groups or speakers that will help expose and confront the complicated issue of racism in our society. (more information on these programs are below)

---



Katie Raetz  
Co-President



Susan Marthens  
Co-President

## Presidents' Message

Hello everyone!

I hope that you are all well and making the best of this crazy time. Our most recent Board meeting happened just recently on Zoom, October 7, 2020. (Any Branch member can attend the Board meetings. Board usually meets first Wednesday most months at 10 a.m. With advance notice of your attending, we can set it up with Nancy Cheverton to "let you in.")

I very much enjoy the conversation/discussion at these meetings. I want to share some highlights from this past meeting.

The Justice Department accepted our new Scholarship contract with PCC. The contract has been reworded to remove any barriers based on gender.

We are planning to rework our Strategic Plan based on States SP. They are addressing Technology, Leadership Development, and the AAUW Fund. This is currently a work in progress.

In an effort to engage our members more, it was suggested that the study / interest group contact person make a brief announcement at the beginning of the meeting. This came up because of the closer relationship that members may have with their groups than with the branch and board. It was felt that a message received in this setting may be heard differently, thereby increasing our members' response to supporting AAUW's mission. Topics can be opportunities for volunteering (in our return to normal) with STEM, openings on the Board, upcoming programs, etc.

If you have any questions or comments, please do let us know!

Katie Raetz, Co-President

Susan Marthens, Co-President

## National & State AAUW Updates

Trish Garner, a Portland AAUW Branch member and the AAUW of OR State Public Policy Chair has three updates for us this month.

First up.....



Trish reminds us to make sure to vote in what may be, for many of us, the most important election in our lifetime. To assist in your decisions, she has prepared a brief synopsis of state ballot measures 107, 108, 109, and 110. Details of each ballot measure can be found in this month's text-only [Rose City Reporter](#) starting on page 4.

Next up.....



### **AAUW of OR Series on "Together on the Path to Anti-Racism"**

Trish also reminds us that AAUW of OR will be presenting a continuing Zoom series about anti-racism. We kicked off the process of embarking on our collective and individual journeys at the Summer Skills Camp this summer, but as is inherently the

nature of journeys, we have more traveling to do. So, please join us as we travel  
“ *Together on the Path to Anti-Racism.*”

Our journey's next stop will be a Zoom presentation about “ *What Needs to Change*”  
on Wednesday, October 28 at 7:00 p.m. You should have received an email from  
AAUW of Oregon with a link to register for the event, but you can also register at the  
AAUW of Oregon website and then click on the [Events Calendar tab](#).

Our speaker will be Dr. Markisha Smith. EdD, Director of the Portland Office of Equity  
and Human Rights. Dr. Smith previously served as Director for the Office of  
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at the Oregon Department of Education. Her work is  
specifically focused on best practices in equity, diversity, and inclusion, culturally  
responsive practices and closing opportunity/access/belief gaps for historically and  
currently marginalized groups across the state. Markisha's previous experience also  
includes working as the Director of Undergraduate Teacher Education at Warner  
Pacific College, as an Assistant Professor at Western Oregon University and  
Northern Michigan University, and as a high school English teacher in  
Houston, Texas for nine years. She is a proud mother of two beautiful children,  
Cadence and Bryson.

We haven't set a date for November, but we are hoping to provide a forum for all our  
branches to present and talk about what they are doing, the books they are reading,  
discussion groups, speakers, etc. about the topic of anti-racism. Be thinking about  
what contribution your branch will be making.

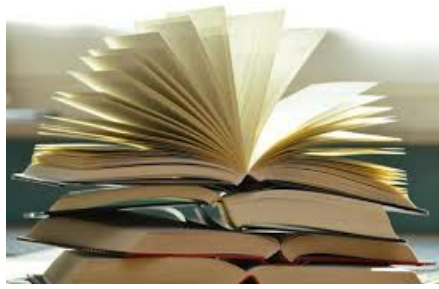
And finally.....

**Gossip regarding legislative Sessions** - In sum, at virtually every meeting of  
political coalitions and other persons keenly interested in what happens at the state  
legislature, we find ourselves speculating about when and how long the state  
legislature will be in session. There still seems to be some interest in another  
Special Session, but it's unclear whether it will be in November or December. It's  
also unclear about what the devastating impact of forest fires in Oregon will have to  
this timetable - not to mention how to help those communities which were affected.  
Although more related to COVID, there is also some discussion about the Regular  
2021 Session beginning at a time other than the usual February date. April is seen  
as a possibility.

In terms of what legally can be done regarding the holding of legislative sessions,  
Article IV, Section 10 of the Oregon Constitution provides that sessions in odd  
numbered years "may not exceed" 160 calendar days and even-numbered years  
"may not exceed" 35 days. This doesn't exactly prescribe the date a session must  
begin or whether it can be of shorter length. Of course, it also leaves the question  
open as to whether the 160 days must be 160 consecutive days.

So, now you are as “in the know” as anyone other than Senate and House leadership  
is, and even then, they may not know either!

???? Time on Your Hands ????



Are you worried now that the rains have come and you can't garden or take long walks? Out of ideas for books to read? This month, the **Modern Fiction** book group has some ideas for you. Here's what the members of the group will be reading in the next few months, and thought these might be of interest.

The Storyed Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin  
Dear James by Jon Hassler  
The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery

### Study and Interest Group Meeting information



Wimpy Walkers enjoying an outing - pre-COVID, of course

You can find a printable schedule for the branch Study and Interest Groups in the text only [Rose City Reporter](#). You can also check our website calendar for information and meeting dates at [www.aauwpdx.org](http://www.aauwpdx.org).

#### **Breakfast in Bridgetown** (open)

Second Thursday, 9 am, unless otherwise stated  
Group on hiatus

#### **Current Affairs** (open)

First Tuesdays, 1 pm

**Date: November 10 (notice date change)**

#### **Movie Mavens** (open)

Group on hiatus

Contact: Suzanne Fleming, 714-898-6456, [multiteach@aol.com](mailto:multiteach@aol.com) or  
Karn Hill, 503-206-8444, [karnhill2@gmail.com](mailto:karnhill2@gmail.com)

#### **Non-Fiction Book Group I**

Third Wednesdays, 10 am

Zoom meeting  
Contact: Sue Thomas, 503-427-0403, [sueonoak@comcast.net](mailto:sueonoak@comcast.net)

**Curtain Call** (open)

Group on hiatus  
Contact: Kathe Hart, 503-372-6338, [kathehart@hotmail.com](mailto:kathehart@hotmail.com)

**First Tuesday Reader's Theatre**

(open)  
Group on hiatus  
Contact: Judy Holt, 503-378-5602, [jholt58@gmail.com](mailto:jholt58@gmail.com)

**International Lunch Group** (open)

Group on hiatus  
Contact: Petie Padden, 503-235-0892, [petiepad@icloud.com](mailto:petiepad@icloud.com)

**Literary Comments and Criticism**

(open)  
Fourth Thursday, 11:30 am  
Date: No meeting in November  
Zoom meeting  
Contact: Petie Padden, 503-235-0892, [petiepad@icloud.com](mailto:petiepad@icloud.com)

**Mahjong** (open)

Beginning mahjong lessons  
Currently on hiatus  
Contact: Mary Shaw, 503-939-4589, [docsu@hotmail.com](mailto:docsu@hotmail.com)

**Modern Fiction**

Fourth Tuesdays, 11:30 AM  
Date: November 24  
Zoom meeting  
The Overstory by Richard Powers  
Contact: Nancy Thomas, 503-201-4420, [nmthomas@teleport.com](mailto:nmthomas@teleport.com)

Date: November 18  
Zoom meeting  
Pelosi by Holly Ball  
Contact: Kathe Hart, 503-372-6338, [kathehart@hotmail.com](mailto:kathehart@hotmail.com)

**Non-Fiction Book Group II** (open)

Third Fridays, 7pm  
Date: November 20  
Zoom meeting  
The Girl with Seven Names by Hyeonseoo Lee  
Contact: Kathe Hart, 503-372-6338, [kathehart@hotmail.com](mailto:kathehart@hotmail.com)

**Overbooked**

Second Tuesdays, 10 am  
Date: November 10  
Zoom meeting  
Edgar and Lucy by Victor Lodato  
Contact: Linda Stern, 503-232-5637, [lindamstern@comcast.net](mailto:lindamstern@comcast.net)

**Sleuth Sisters** (open)

Fourth Wednesdays, 12 noon  
Date: November 25  
Zoom meeting  
Trace Elements by Donna Leon  
Contact: Carla Huegli, 503-457-6145, [cshuegli27@gmail.com](mailto:cshuegli27@gmail.com)

**Wimpy Walker** (open)

First Saturday, 10:00 AM  
Group on hiatus  
Contact: Joyce Kligman, 503-309-3185, [joycekligman1@gmail.com](mailto:joycekligman1@gmail.com)



Welcome to Our Newest Members

Laurel Heifetz  
3393 SE Tibbetts



Portland, OR 97202  
503-310-0536  
[lheifetz@gmail.com](mailto:lheifetz@gmail.com)

### Corrected/Updated Member Information

#### **Address Change**

Alice Bartelt  
6690 SW Dover Street  
Portland, OR 97225

---

#### **AAUW Portland Branch Leaders 2020 -2021**

Co-President - Susan Marthens, Katie  
Raetz  
Past President - Sue Thomas  
Membership VP - Lisa Perrine  
Program VP - Linda Loftin  
Study Group VP - Linda Stern  
Finance VP - Joyce Kligman  
Recording Secretary - Michelle Walsh  
Corresponding Secretary - Petie Padden  
Director at Large - *Available*  
Bylaws Chair - Sue Trotter

AAUW Funds Chair - Judy Holt  
Scholarship Chair - Susan Marthens  
College/Univ. Relations - Barbara Spencer  
Communications Chair - Nancy Cheverton  
STEM - Ginny McQueen  
InterBranch Council - Katie Raetz  
Newsletter Editor - Joyce Kligman  
Historian - *Available*  
Photographer - *Available*  
Public Policy Chair - *Available*



---

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.

*Copyright © 2020 AAUW of Portland, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you are a member of the Portland OR AAUW Branch.

#### **Our mailing address is:**

AAUW of Portland  
101 SW Madison St #8136  
Portland, Oregon 97207

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?



You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

