

Rose City Reporter

December 2020 – January 2021

Presidents' Message

We are writing this with the election results settled—well, mostly settled. By the time you read this much more will be clear to all of us, the country, and the world that has been watching the unfolding developments in the U.S. No matter one's political leanings (though a map of the Portland area would be mostly colored blue) we cannot help but believe that most of us experienced a lessening of tension and an air of positivity since the horns starting blaring and pots were being struck on Saturday morning, November 7th. Obviously, the political and governing scenes in our country will be shifting especially after Inauguration Day, January 20, 2021. What happens between now and then is also not yet determined; we will just have to be patient and hope for the best.

Why are we taking this time in our internal “news cycle” to get into politics? AAUW is not a political party nor a player in the realm of various policies, though the organization does have standards and views. The mission of AAUW is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. (Some websites include philanthropy.)

This struck us as the very soul of the winning goals of the President Elect and his Vice President Elect. To state from early on in the campaign that a woman would be selected as the VP. That happened—and not just any woman: a very well qualified, well educated, woman of colors (two at least), from immigrant parents, whose mission is to inspire girls and women of any age that it is possible to succeed in America. Both the Leaders Elect believe in science (i.e. research), education, equity for all races and all genders, and advocacy for judicial fairness.

End of political commentary.

However you celebrate the various holidays in the next few months, we hope you are in good health and joining with whomever you want and choose to share these events, whether in person, by Zoom, cards, or telephone calls—with appropriate COVID 19 guidelines in mind.

Susan Marthens and Katie Raetz, co-Presidents

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CONTINUING EDUCATION AAUW of Oregon

Many of us in our professional lives have taken/are taking continuing education courses (CE) to enhance our knowledge and careers and, in many cases, for needed credits. AAUW of Oregon is offering some continuing education classes to enhance your personal growth and leadership experience. Join us for any or all these sessions, no cost, no credit, and no boredom, but a great experience and a chance to network with members around the state. All sessions will be on Zoom. Watch for the monthly training emails from Events Coordinator, Nancy Brown, for the registration links for each session.

Monday, November 30, 7:00 p.m. Anti-Racism: Indigenous Peoples Eve Nañez, the Indigenous Event Coordinator, Reed College Multicultural Resource Center, will speak about the traumatic real origins of the Thanksgiving holiday in the United States, as distinct from the mythology celebrated in popular culture.

Tuesday, December 29, 7:00 p.m. Anti-Racism: The Discussion Continues Join Trish Garner and guest(s) for further insight into anti-racism.

Wednesday, January 27, time TBA Anti-racism Our theme continues with facilitator Trish Garner. Program to be announced.

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Annual Holiday AAUW Funds Drive

As you all know, we will not be gathering at the Mac Club for our annual Holiday Brunch. I am really going to miss seeing you all. This event is our primary AAUW Funds appeal for the year.

Please look in your mailbox in December for information and forms from our Portland Branch. AAUW Funds are supporting amazing women and we ask that you read the information and consider a donation to AAUW.

Looking forward to getting together in the future –

Judy Holt, Funds Chair

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STEM

Girls Engage Technology is restricted to on-line programming classes with Girl Scout troops. This is going surprisingly well. I have girls from FL, NC, PA, AK, as well as OR! I have 125 girls registered in small groups through the end of 2020. More planned for the spring.

Submitted by Barbara Miner

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Meet New Member Mary Pat Silveira

Mary Pat Silveira grew up in Nashville, Tennessee where she received her B.S. in Political Science. After graduating, she ventured (and it was a venture!) out to Berkeley, CA for graduate school, receiving first an MA in South Asian Studies and then a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations. From there she hopped over to the East Coast and began what became a 30-year career at the United Nations in New York and abroad. Some of the highlights of those years included initiating projects for sustainable development in developing countries, being in charge of the emergency operations in Mozambique in the mid-1980s during the civil war; serving as a peace keeper in Kosovo at the end of the '90s and early 2000, and leading groups of experts to the Balkan states and the countries of the former Soviet Union to help them on their paths toward sustainable development after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Many years were also spent working in the UN Secretariat in both New York and Geneva. When Mary Pat retired, she returned to Nashville. However, when her first grandchild was born in Portland in 2015, she headed back to the West Coast. Mary Pat has two (identical twin) sons, two daughters-in-law and almost four grandchildren (one due in January), all of whom live in this area. At the moment, Mary Pat is president of the Lake Oswego Branch of AAUW and North Central District Director. Her passions, other than her grandchildren, are human rights, inter-cultural dialogue and quilting.

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Welcome Back

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

Are you worried now that the rains have come, and you can't garden or dine outside? Out of ideas for books to read? This month, the Non-Fiction I book group has some ideas for you. Here's what the members of the group will be reading in the next few months.

The Ship of Dreams: The Sinking of the Titanic and the End of the Edwardian Era

By Gareth Russell

A Woman of No Importance by Sonia Purnell

Breath by James Nestor

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FEATURING

Modern Fiction Book Group

Our group continues to meet monthly in member's homes, although now we each meet from our own home logged in to zoom! We quickly check in with each other about "important" issues such as who's been to the hair salon, grocery deliveries and take-out options. Then we dive into a lively discussion about our book of the month. In November we read "The Overstory" by Richard Powers, a Pulitzer Prize winning novel in which the central characters are trees. A good choice for Fall season in the northwest. We would welcome a few new members so if you're interested, please contact Nancy Thomas at nmthomas@teleport.com.

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Study and Interest Groups

Breakfast in Bridgetown (open)

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

Current Affairs (open)

First Tuesdays, 1 pm
Date: December 8; January 12
Zoom meeting
Contact: Sue Thomas, 503-427-0403, sueonoak@comcast.net

Curtain Call (open)

Group on hiatus
Contact: Kathe Hart, 503-372-6338, kathehart@hotmail.com

First Tuesday Reader's Theatre (open)

Group on hiatus
Contact: Judy Holt, 503-378-5602, jholt58@gmail.com

International Lunch Group (open)

Group on hiatus
Contact: Petie Padden, 503-235-0892, petiepad@icloud.com

Literary Comments and Criticism (open)

Fourth Thursday, 11:30 am
Date: December 3 (*note date change*)
Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman
Date: January 28
The Road from Coorain by Jill Ker Conway
Zoom meeting
Contact: Petie Padden, 503-235-0892, petiepad@icloud.com

Mahjong (open)

Beginning mahjong lessons

Currently on hiatus

Contact: Mary Shaw, 503-939-4589, docsu@hotmail.com

Modern Fiction (open)

Fourth Tuesdays, 11:30 AM

Date: December 22

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin

Date: January 26

Dear James by Jon Hassler

Zoom meeting

Contact: Nancy Thomas, 503-201-4420, nmthomas@teleport.com

Movie Mavens (open)

Group on hiatus

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

Karn Hill, 503-206-8444, karnbhill2@gmail.com

Non-Fiction Book Group I

Third Wednesdays, 10 am

Date: December 16

Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope by Nicholas Kristof

Date: January 20

The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson

Zoom meeting

Contact: Kathe Hart, 503-372-6338, kathehart@hotmail.com

Non-Fiction Book Group II (open)

Third Fridays 7pm

Date: December 18

Amity and Prosperity by Eliza Griswold

Date: January 15

Weapons of Math Destruction by Cathy O'Neil

Zoom meeting

Contact: Kathe Hart, 503-372-6338, kathehart@hotmail.com

Overbooked

Second Tuesdays, 10 am

No December meeting

Date: January 12

People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks

Zoom meeting

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

Sleuth Sisters (open)

Fourth Wednesdays, 12 noon

Date: December 16 (*note date change*)

The Death of Mrs. Westaway by Ruth Ware

Date: January 27

Moving Targets by Warren C. Easley

Zoom meeting

Contact Carla Huegli, 503-457-6145 or cshuegli27@gmail.com

Wimpy Walkers (open)

First Saturdays, 10 am

Date: December 5

S. Portland to S. Waterfront Park Loop

Meet at SW Kelly Ave. & SW Curry St.

Date: January 2

Pearl District to Slabtown Loop

Meet at Union Station, 800 NW 6th Ave.

NOTE: Each walk limited to 6 walkers; RSVP required

Contact: Joyce Kligman, 503-309-3185 or joycekligman1@gmail.com