

# Rose City Reporter

**FEBRUARY 2021**

## **Branch Program: Are You Ready for Your Vaccination Doses?**

In record time, several vaccines have been produced, approved, delivered world-wide, and have begun to be injected into people's arms. When you are called for your first shot do you have all the information you need?

Please plan on attending our February program with [\*Dr. Lancioni\*](#), a physician-scientist at Oregon Health and Sciences University where she will update us on testing, vaccines, distribution, etc. In addition to her clinical work, she oversees a translational immunology laboratory focusing on the vulnerability of young children to serious infectious diseases.

**When: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 @ 10:00am**

**Where: In the comfort of your own home via Zoom**

**Guest Speaker: Christina Lancioni, MD**

Questions related to coronavirus testing, the vaccines, and distribution are welcomed. Please send your questions to Linda Loftin, [linloftin06@gmail.com](mailto:linloftin06@gmail.com), no later than January 29<sup>th</sup> so they can be forwarded to Dr. Lancioni.

With good information, not only will we feel more secure about our own vaccinations, we will also be better prepared to disseminate accurate information to our friends, families and colleagues.

*We are asking that branch members register for this meeting. In the coming days, you will receive an invitation to register for the Zoom meeting. When you receive that email, just click on the Register Now button, enter your name and email address and click on the submit button. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information on how to join the program meeting.*

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## **Presidents' Message**

I am writing this article the day after our Capitol was stormed by terrorists. I have spent the morning reading opinion pieces from news sources I trust to be truthful because right now truth and honesty seem more important than ever.

I look at my fellow citizens of Oregon, a state my family has lived in for five generations, and ask, "how can I make a difference?"

I do believe the mission of AAUW is something to lean on right now. Advancing equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. I am a firm believer that when you educate a woman, you educate a family.

Thank you AAUW for this opportunity!

*Katie Raetz, co-President*

Another voice...I echo Katie's comments and commend her for her perspective, her family's history in Oregon, her willingness to serve her country in the military, and her willingness to give back—again—by supporting the AAUW mission.

I have lived and traveled in many parts of the world with exposure to a lack of equity for women and girls. While the situation in our country is much better – mostly – in comparison, more can be done. Which is one reason I joined and have become involved in AAUW.

Which brings me to a topic we discussed at our monthly board meeting: "how to make a difference," "giving back," and "being involved strengthens a member's interest in and commitment to AAUW."

I am learning in my new role in the branch that it is fun to be doing something, I know more and more interesting women, I am learning so much, and I feel good about contributing—to the AAUW mission and to supporting the continued existence of AAUW Portland Branch. Like a democracy, an organization of high values takes work by all, not just a few. You can make a difference, too, by joining us in the opportunities AAUW provides.

*Susan Marthens, co-President*

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## **An Important Message on Open Membership and a Call to Action from the National AAUW**

As we reflect on the state of our country and the deep-rooted beliefs that perpetuate an unequal society, we must consider the role and impact of AAUW and its members in upholding our core values. In pursuing our vision of equity for all, we need to recognize and eliminate the barriers we put on ourselves and on our organization that prevent us from truly achieving our goals.

This spring, the AAUW membership will vote on an important proposal to amend the AAUW bylaws to open membership and eliminate the degree requirement to join AAUW. The national AAUW Board of Directors strongly supports the proposal, along with dozens of member leaders across the country. We believe this is an essential step toward making AAUW a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with our mission, values and the needs of women today. Our full statement on the issue appears below this email.

Now through February 5, 2021, you can provide thoughts and comments on the proposed changes to the AAUW bylaws as well as proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities. To learn more about the proposed changes and submit your feedback, please visit the [election page on on the AAUW website](#).

We encourage your participation and look forward to hearing your thoughts. Please join us on **Tuesday, January 19, at 4:00 p.m. ET** for an interactive town hall on open membership. [Please RSVP](#) to attend.

Best regards,

Julia T. Brown, Es.  
Board Chair

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## **AAUW Board of Directors Statement on Open Membership**

“The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW’s bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to educational attainment for all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do.

Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that, while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW’s inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

**Members can comment on the proposed amendment from January 11 through February 5, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ET. Voting will open on April 7 and close May 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ET.**

We encourage respectful debate, which has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community. Please send any [comments](#) to let the Board know of your thoughts on this proposal and exercise your vote this spring.”

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## **And A Message of Support for Open Membership from Katie and Susan**

When considering the inequality in our country, we frequently feel helpless. We do the things to make a difference: we frequent businesses owned by people of color. We eat at Black owned restaurants.

Changing the requirements for belonging to our organization will open it to women who never were able to get a degree either because they could not attend college at all or could not finish. Many are women of color. In addition, there are hundreds, thousands, probably millions of women of all ages whose life experiences (e.g., working, organizing, volunteering, raising a family, living and/or traveling abroad) provide a rich source of knowledge—for them individually and potentially to AAUW.

Getting rid of the degree requirement will give them a seat at our table.

Katie and Susan

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## **AAUW of Oregon Board Statement on the Events of January 6, 2021 In Washington, DC**

We express our profound shock and disappointment about the events that took place on January 6, 2021, in Washington, DC and elsewhere. We also affirm our commitment to our democratic principles. Our country's democracy is undeniably imperfect, but it represents a worthy ideal. Violence in the name of a political point of view should not be tolerated.

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## **AAUW of Oregon Continuing Education**

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 at 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.

**Tuesday, January 19 @ 7:00 p.m.** Mission-related Programs for Your Branch Learn from three program pros about how strong mission-related programming promotes your branch and enhances members' experiences. Linda Loftin, Portland; Linda Lybecker, Hillsboro-Forest Grove; and Pat Squire, Lake Oswego, will talk about different approaches to programming.

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

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## **STEM – A Thank You from Saturday Academy**

December 21, 2020

Katie Raetz  
Portland Branch President  
AAUW  
P.O. Box 8136  
Portland, OR 97207

Dear Katie,

Thank you for your recent grant of \$500 in support of tuition assistance for underserved girls to participate in our summer camps. At Saturday Academy we are committed to increasing our impact with underserved youth by providing free or reduced tuition in the amount of \$100,000 annually. Students gain access to quality hands-on STEM classes, camps and workshops. With your support, we can now continue this momentum.

Just like many things in 2020, Saturday Academy looks different. We made the decision to move all of our classes, camps, and internships to a virtual, online-only format. We are also going to be shifting into a period of innovation over our Winter-Spring term in FY21. We hope to have exciting new programming to share with you at our spring Discovery Event on March 11, 2021, and we will be back to our open enrollment classes and camps this Summer.

We cannot thank you enough for your steadfast support of the students in our shared community. Please let me know if you have any questions about our tuition assistance program.

Sincerely,

Laura Elmore  
Chief Development and Marketing Officer

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## **Portland Branch Legacy: Providing Scholarships for Higher Education**

### **The Past**

Since the early years of the Portland Branch, our mission has supported the higher education of women as a pathway to personal and economic success. Branch support has taken different forms over the years with scholarships as the foundation of our assistance. Initially strong advocacy and fundraising efforts provided scholarships for women at the University of Oregon.

### **The Present**

The branch scholarship is now offered at Portland Community College based on an agreement between AAUW Portland Branch and the Portland Community College (PCC) Foundation. The number of awards, ranging from 1 to 3, and scholarship amount, ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500, depends on the generosity of our members during our scholarship fundraising activities. Prior to 2020, the scholarship was awarded to women but based on United States Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights settled agreement in 2020 with Portland Community College, gender preference cannot be an award criterion. This conforms with AAUW policy which allows males to become members.

Based on the new criteria to be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must:

- Have returned to school
- Be a resident of the Portland Metro Area
- Have completed at least 24 PCC credits by the end of Winter Term and have a minimum grade point average of 3.0
- Are planning to pursue a baccalaureate degree at a four-year college or university
- Preference given to those applicants enrolled in a program in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math)

In addition to completing the PCC scholarship application, qualified applicants are asked to complete the following additional question:

- *The American Association of University Women (AAUW), officially founded in 1881, is a non-profit organization with a mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Its vision is equity for all. Please write a short essay on how your educational and career goals support the mission and vision for AAUW.*

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PCC identifies potential awardees and members of the Scholarship Committee read and rate name-blind applications. Our Branch ranking of applications is then submitted to the PCC Foundation for input in making final awards.

### **The Future**

In March we will introduce you to our three 2020 winners so you can hear in their own words what the Portland Branch scholarship means to them. Hearing from our winners will be a highlight for Branch members and hopefully, an incentive to support our March fundraising scholarship efforts. Your past, present and future generosity has made the dream of higher education a reality for our scholarship winners.

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### **Thank you, Portland Branch members, for your generosity!**

It has been a strange year indeed. We did not have the opportunity to gather together for the annual Holiday Funds brunch in December due to Covid. So, we decided since we couldn't ask in person, we would send out a request. Mainly, we wanted members to know how our donations are used.

The Portland Branch responded with donations of \$3315 in support of AAUW Funds. Thank you, too, Diane Winn for composing the informative brochures that were included in the request.

Here's hoping we can join together in the holidays of 2021.

Judy Holt, Funds Chair

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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)

Second Tuesdays, 12 noon

Date: February 9

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: February 25

Once Upon a River by Diane Setterfield

Zoom meeting

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

### **Mahjong** (open)

Beginning mahjong lessons

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Currently on hiatus

Contact: Mary Shaw, 503-939-4589, [docsu@hotmail.com](mailto:docsu@hotmail.com)

### **Modern Fiction** (open)

Fourth Tuesdays, 11:30 AM

Date: February 23

The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery

Zoom meeting

Contact: Nancy Thomas, 503-201-4420, [nmthomas@teleport.com](mailto:nmthomas@teleport.com)

### **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

Date: February 17

How to Hide an Empire by Daniel Immerwahr

Zoom meeting

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

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

Third Fridays, 7 pm

Date: February 19

Lost City of the Monkey God by Douglas Preston

Zoom meeting

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

### **Overbooked**

Second Tuesdays, 10 am

Date: February 9

News of the World by Paulette Jiles

Zoom meeting

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Contact: Linda Stern, 503-232-5637, [lindamstern@comcast.net](mailto:lindamstern@comcast.net)

### **Sleuth Sisters** (open)

Fourth Wednesdays, 12 noon

Date: February 24

Foul Matters by Martha Graham

Zoom meeting

Contact Carla Huegli, 503-457-6145 or [cshuegli27@gmail.com](mailto:cshuegli27@gmail.com)

### **Wimpy Walkers** (open)

First Saturdays, 10 am

Date: February 6, 10 am – 11:30 am

Ladd's Addition Neighborhood – This National Register Historic District is Oregon's oldest planned community. The walk will be mostly flat on paved sidewalks. Meet at SE 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. and SE Harrison Street. Street parking available nearby.

**NOTE: Walk limited to 6 walkers; Masks and RSVP required**

Contact: Diane Winn, 714-470-4526, [dgwinn@uci.edu](mailto:dgwinn@uci.edu)

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## **MEMBER INFORMATION**

**Ellen Rice** has a new address:  
11552 SW Lesser Road #202  
Portland, OR 97219