

Rose City Reporter

MAY-JUNE 2021

HONORS VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

It's our **SECOND** virtual celebration to honor our Branch leaders during the pandemic, and we are planning something big!!

Please join us for our Honors Virtual Celebration to recognize the amazing work of our membership and to induct our newly elected leaders of 2021-2022:

Thursday, May 20th, 2021, 3:30-5:00

We will begin our business meeting at 3:30 and Ilga Ross will lead our induction ceremony for new leaders. Katie Raetz and Susan Marthens, Co-Presidents, will also recognize the work that our current Board members have accomplished during this extraordinary program year.

At 4:00, we will introduce our very special guests from **Freeland Spirits**, a women owned and run craft distillery who will tell us their amazing story and guide us to make a gin and a bourbon cocktail! Go to the link below if you would like to order a kit from Freeland Spirits before the event. As most of us are vaccinated now, you might want to consider ordering a kit with some of your friends and join us as a group!

www.freelandspirits.com/aauw

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Today the news is that everyone can be vaccinated starting April 19th. Is the end of the pandemic insight? Feels like it. At least here in Oregon.

I think often of what I have learned about myself and the world that I know during this time. People smarter than I could explain why this is such a time of introspection and self-examination.

I see much more clearly how my life has been shaped by white privilege. I am not sure what had the biggest impact - watching the video of George Floyd's murder, or all the facts of racial bias made very clear after his death.

Whatever it was I would love to be able to go back in time for a few "do overs." Since finding the two people that specifically come to mind is probably impossible, then what?

One talent I know I have is being able to read. I plan to read to young children in underserved Scott school. I have done this before and find it may be my best gift as a seasoned white woman. Smiling with black and brown children; showing up often and caring is my gift to the future.

I would love to hear what you are doing.

Katie Raetz, Co-President

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AAUW is asking Members to vote on the proposal to open membership to all regardless of degree status. Susan and I want to take this opportunity to address concerns that might arise as you consider how you will vote.

It will not affect the uniqueness of AAUW. Its uniqueness is its breadth of programming, research, policy, advocacy, fellowships and grants, and grassroots membership.

It will not change your branch's involvement in local scholarships or interest groups.

It will not change the mission of our branch. Mission is not determined by a degree, but by a belief in and a dedication to equality for women.

Although AAUW would like to attract younger members, this change may not attract a large number of younger members because numerous national studies show Millennial and Generation Z women and men prefer projects and not membership programs.

Susan Marthens, Co-President

Katie Raetz, Co-President

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AAUW CONDEMS ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE

AAUW of Oregon heartily agrees with the statement from AAUW National regarding violence and bias against Asian Americans. We support and appreciate the contributions of our many Oregonians of Asian descent.

"AAUW is saddened and angered by the senseless killings in Atlanta and stands with the AAPI community to demand an end to the anti-Asian racism and violence that has intensified in our nation over the past year.

The shootings that took the lives of eight individuals, including six women of Asian descent, are the latest tragic example of the increased anti-Asian discrimination we've seen since the beginning of the pandemic. This crime is also a reminder of the misogyny and sexism that remain pervasive in our culture and are so often intertwined with white supremacy.

Racism, hate and violence against women have no place in our society. On behalf of our 170,000 members and supporters, we call on our nation's leaders to forcefully address the toxic systemic racism and sexism that threaten the safety and well-being of our Asian-American community, especially women who are disproportionately vulnerable.

We vow to continue our work to advance deep cultural and policy change to ensure that all Americans are free of discrimination and oppression."

Kim Churches, AAUW CEO, March 19, 2021

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AAUW Open Membership Vote

AAUW's annual election will start on April 7. Included in the vote is a proposal to open membership, which requires a change to AAUW's national bylaws through member vote. A description of the proposed bylaws changes can be found [here](#).

HOW MIGHT THIS BYLAW CHANGE AFFECT MY BRANCH?

It will help protect the future of AAUW by opening up opportunities for funding. Because our current educational degree requirement can be deemed discriminatory and not in keeping with our mission, some foundations and corporations will not donate to our organization since it is counter to their criteria of equity. This disadvantage, along with the now 400-plus organizations competing with AAUW on women's equity issues for funding, greatly affects National's ability to get much needed funding. Declining membership, now at 50,000, only provides 15-20% of the annual budget. This is not enough to support branch and member services.

It will make it easier for your branch to recruit a more diverse membership, including those who did not have the opportunity to attend college 30, 40 or 50 years ago. In addition to possibly increasing membership, these new members may bring new energy and viewpoints critical to your branch's ability to meet the needs of your community through our mission.

It will also remove the embarrassing situations when you must tell someone they do not qualify, such as a government official, a non-profit leader or even a Tech Trek parent. Remember, Eleanor Roosevelt and Lily Ledbetter would not qualify for AAUW membership with our current educational requirement.

It will update the relevance and image of your branch as the world reckons with inequality and systemic racism, much of which disproportionately affects women.

It might open up more opportunities for collaboration. Having a limiting membership requirement can be considered discriminatory and off putting to other local like-minded groups. When speaking at community functions, it demeans the branch to say that not everyone can be a member.

It will no longer limit your membership by penalizing women who cannot attain a degree due to today's skyrocketing educational costs, childcare, elder care, transportation, working multiple jobs and language

barriers. Today, there are more alternatives to college degrees which have burdened women with two-thirds of the national college debt. With more careers open to women, i.e., firefighters, pilots, entrepreneurs, artists, politicians, manufacturers, retail managers, and more, your branch may have the potential for a variety of new members.

WHAT WON'T CHANGE IF THIS PASSES?

It will not affect AAUW's status as one of the leaders in graduate grants and fellowships. Due to the generosity of our members our fellowships and grants are fully endowed and will continue in perpetuity.

It will not affect the name – AAUW. Like the YWCA and NAACP, much of the original meanings are no longer accurate. For example, we are international, not just American. We have been open to individuals with associate degrees, not just degrees from universities, since 2005 and open to men since 1987.

It will not affect the honor of having earned a degree in times when so few women attained this achievement. Today, with women outpacing men in earning all degrees for decades, we can be proud that we were instrumental in breaking down the barriers for women who followed us.

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Status of AAUW of OR PRIORITY bills — and a Heartfelt Thank You to Those Who Filed Testimony

The report is good, but we haven't made it to the finish line yet. Rumors keep surfacing about a Republican walkout, although it's above my pay grade to be in on those discussions! At least in the Senate, all Republicans are voting "no" in Work Sessions for Democratic policy bills. [A Work Session takes place after a public hearing has been held, and it's when legislators meet in public and decide whether to move a bill forward by giving it a "do pass" or neutral recommendation, alternatively or sending it onto another Committee.]

Before continuing, I want to take a moment to give a special shout-out to all our members who wrote testimony in favor of our priority bills. Trust me, it is as a result of this kind of work that we get noticed in the legislature and can actually find ourselves at the table. On a personal level, it totally energizes me. We are the AAUW of OR Public Policy Team !!! Awesome !!

Corporate Board Diversity bill (House Bill 3110) - As of the time I am writing this Update, we appear to be moving forward. The bill is scheduled for a Work Session hearing in the House Rules Committee next Wednesday at 1:00. There are some proposed amendments to the bill as originally filed which include a change in the definition of "female," a reduction of penalties for failure to comply with the law and pushing out the effective date of the law in order to give corporations time to comply. Depending on the outcome of the hearing, I am hoping that the bill will be sent over to the House for a vote with a "do pass" recommendation. And then onward!

Age Discrimination Task Force Bill (House Bill 2938) - The House Business and Labor Committee conducted its Work Session regarding this bill and sent it onto the Ways and Means Committee with a "do pass" recommendation. This means that the bill will join a number of other task force bills and at the very end of the Session we will find out whether this one will successfully emerge. Of course, in the meantime we will be doing all we can to loosen this bill from the logjam and ensure it rises to the top.

Civics (Senate Bill 513) - We had concerns about this bill when it was initially filed as it provided that students had to "demonstrate proficiency" in civics prior to graduation. Since then, the bill

has been amended to require completion of at least one-half credit of civics out of the 24 total credits needed for graduation. This clarification has been helpful, and we are now fully supportive of the legislation. The bill survived a Senate Education Work Session with a unanimous "do pass" recommendation and it is heading to the Senate floor for a vote. A good sign!!

Stay healthy and enjoy!

Trish

*Trish Garner, J.D., M.S.W.
State Public Policy Chair
American Association of University Women of Oregon
(she / her / ella)
503-407-2341*

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PCC Scholarship Report

- Thanks to our members we raised \$4120 to support three branch PCC scholarships of \$1500 each.
- We supplemented donations with \$520 branch funds to meet the total commitment \$4590 for scholarships and administrative costs. The total donated amount includes a late donation of \$50 which will be applied to scholarships for the following year.
- Thirty-nine members donated with amounts ranging from \$25 to \$500.
- During the next month or so, the Scholarship Committee, consisting of Susan Marthens, Linda Stern and myself, will read student applications and recommend scholarship candidates for the upcoming 2021-2022 academic year. PCC will make the final decision on awardees.
- Many thanks to Judy Holt, our Funds Chair, for her continued creativity, dedication, and support.

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From the Membership Chair

This is a reminder to take the time to renew your AAUW membership to be able to participate in a number of very interesting programs being planned for the future. All of our activities this past year have been held as ZOOM meetings, including our board meetings, and that has been working well, for the most part, over the past year. The future meetings may include in-person meetings once again, perhaps beginning with the annual August picnic, depending on how things are going with the vaccination process and the status of COVID-19 prevalence at that point.

By now all of our members should have received an email from the national organization reminding all of us to renew our membership. The cost of renewal of your membership has increased slightly over this past year. The full dues amount is now \$93.00. It breaks down as the following: national dues are \$62.00; state level dues are \$16.00; and branch level dues are \$15.00. There is financial assistance available through our local branch for those needing help with these costs of membership. You can renew online on the national website or by mail if you so choose.

The preference for our branch is to have all renewals in by June. The deadline for renewals to have your name and information included in the new Directory for 2021 - 2022 is August 15th. We need you as a valued active member and also your continued support of our organization! Thanks for your attention to this important aspect of AAUW membership.

Lisa Perrine
Membership VP

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STUDY GROUPS

Breakfast in Bridgetown (open)

Second Thursdays, 9 am, unless otherwise stated

Group on hiatus

Current Affairs (open)

Second Tuesdays, 12 noon

Date: May 11

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 Thursdays, 11:30 am

Date: May 27

Trouble with Goats and Sheep by Joanna Cannon

Date: June 24

Book selection

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: May 25

Book selection

No meeting in June

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, karnhill2@gmail.com

Non-Fiction Book Group I

Third Wednesdays, 10 am

Date: May 19

Bending Toward Justice by Doug Jones

Date: June 16

Book selection

Zoom meeting

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

Non-Fiction Book Group II (open)

Third Fridays, 7pm

Date: May 21

21 Lessons for the 21st Century by Yuval Harari

Date: June 18

Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope by Nicholas Kristof

Zoom meeting

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

Overbooked

Second Tuesdays, 10 am

Date: May 11

The Nightwatchman by Louise Erdrich

No meeting in June

Zoom meeting

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

Sleuth Sisters (open)

Fourth Wednesdays, 12 noon

Date: May 26

Three Hours in Paris by Cara Black and book selection

No meeting in June

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

Wimpy Walkers (open)

First Saturdays, 10 am

Date: May 1, 10-11:30 am

Enjoy a May Day walk through Beverly Cleary's Neighborhood. The walk will be mostly flat on paved sidewalks.

Meet at NE 33rd Avenue and NE Hancock Street. Street parking nearby.

NOTE: Each walk limited to 6 walkers; RSVP required

Contact: Diane Winn, 714-470-4526 or dgwinn@uci.edu