

Rose City Reporter

NOVEMBER 2020

Dear 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

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.

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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

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PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

Hi Everyone -

'Tis the season to be political — so I thought it was high time that I added a public policy update to your email boxes.

1. **VOTE! And brief descriptions of the state ballot measures**
2. **AAUW of OR Series on “Together on the Path to Anti-Racism”**
3. **Gossip regarding legislative Sessions**

1. **VOTE! And brief descriptions of the state ballot measures**

Ballot Measure 107: Campaign Finance Limits, a Constitutional Amendment

This Ballot Measure doesn't set campaign contribution or expenditure limits, but authorizes the state legislature and local governments to enact laws and ordinance that can. Right now Oregon campaign finance laws allow unlimited contributions to candidates and ballot measures, and Oregon is only one of five states with no limits on campaign contributions. The Measure also authorizes the state legislature and local governments to require disclosure of election contributions and expenditures, and provide that political advertisements identify the people or entities that paid for them.

Ballot Measure 108: Taxes on Tobacco and Nicotine-containing goods

Cigarette taxes will increase from \$1.33 to \$3.33 per pack, the cigar tax from \$.50 to \$1 each, and a snuff container, to a minimum \$2.14. All other non-taxed nicotine-containing goods, such as e-cigarettes and vaping products, will be taxed at 65% of wholesale. All the monies generated from these taxes will go to the Oregon Health Authority to help those who receive medial assistance, including mental health services, but 10% will go to OHA for distribution to tribal, cultural and community-specific health providers and programs. The intended result of the measure is to discourage tobacco/nicotine use and raise revenue.

Ballot Measure 109: Oregon Psilocybin Services

Psilocybin is a hallucinogenic chemical obtained from certain types of fresh and dried mushrooms. Under this measure the use of psilocybin is allowed only when administered in supervised, licensed facilities by licensed psilocybin service facilitators to persons 21 or older. No

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private or non-supervised public use is authorized. Before this practice can take place, the Oregon Health Authority will establish an Oregon Psilocybin Advisory Board which over a two-year development period will study and report back to OHA on (a) the safety and efficacy of using psilocybin to treat mental health conditions, (b) the requirements, specifications, and guidelines for providing psilocybin services to clients, (c) required public health and safety standards, industry best practices, education and training. During the two-year development period, existing law regarding the manufacture, delivery and possession of psilocybin will not be affected by the measure. The measure also establishes a 15% point of sale tax on retail sales of psilocybin which will then be used as a source of funding for administering the program.

Ballot Measure 110: Drug Possession Offenses Decriminalized and Drug Addiction Treatment

This measure will decriminalize possession of illegal, controlled substances in Oregon, but the manufacture or sale will remain illegal. Instead of facing potential jail time and/or significant fines, persons possessing Schedule I through IV federally controlled substances will be committing a Class E violation which will result in a \$100 fine and/or completion of a health assessment at an addiction recovery center. This measure also creates a “Drug Treatment and Recovery Services Fund” financed by legislative appropriations and Oregon Marijuana Account allocations. An advisory council is created which will oversee and approve grants from the Fund which will be distributed to existing agencies or coordinated care organizations, which will in turn use them to create addiction recovery centers. The centers must provide immediate medical or other treatment 24 hours a day, health assessments, intervention plans, case management services, and peer support and outreach. Because part of the revenue for this Fund will come from the fund generated by taxes on the sale of marijuana, those who are currently receiving marijuana fund proceeds may receive less. These entities include the state school fund, the Oregon Healthy Authority, local governments, and state police, mental health / alcoholism / drug services programs.

2. AAUW of OR Series on “Together on the Path to Anti-Racism”

By popular demand — 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 last 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 [Zoom info TBA] about “*What Needs to Change?*” on Wednesday, October 28 at 7:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Dr. Markisha Smith. EdD, Director of the Portland Office of Equity and Human Rights. To give you more information about her, 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 please let me know by October 30th what you have or what you are planning to do about anti-racism so we can include your branch in our presentation. We may need to focus on one or two branches, but we also hope to provide a resource list to the entire membership.

3. 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!

Conclusion

On that elucidating point, it looks as if this Update will be ending. I will reiterate — **VOTE!!!** And don't forget to send me the info on your branch's activities regarding anti-racism.

Stay well and enjoy life as much as you can!!

Trish

Trish Garner
State Public Policy Chair, AAUW of OR

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New Member Information

Laurel Heifetz
3393 SE Tibbetts
Portland, OR 97202
503-310-0536
lheifetz@gmail.com

Address Change

Alice Bartelt
6690 SW Dover Street
Portland, OR 97225

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

Dear James by Jon Hassler

The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery

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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: November 10 (*notice date change*)

Zoom meeting

Contact: Sue Thomas, 503-427-0403, sueonoak@comcast.net

Curtain Call (open)

Group on hiatus

Contact: Kathe Hart, 503-372-6338, kathhart@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: No meeting in November

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

Fourth Tuesdays, 11:30 AM

Date: November 24

Zoom meeting

The Overstory by Richard Powers

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: November 18

Zoom meeting

Pelosi by Holly Ball

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

Non-Fiction Book Group II (open)

Third Fridays, 7pm

Date: November 20

Zoom meeting

The Girl with Seven Names by Hyeonseo Lee

Contact: Kathe Hart, 503-372-6338, kathhart@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

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

Wimpy Walker (open)

First Saturday, 10:00 AM

Group on hiatus

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