

The Advocate:

Albany, Oregon, Branch AAUW

Hello All:

2020 is here and it already a busy one.

We are looking forward to having Georgia Applegate, President of AAUW and Elena Rae, Central District Chair visit us at our March 7th Program/Business Meeting.

The State Conference should be exciting with it being a joint conference with Washington.

We still need someone to come forward and be our Treasurer next year. I am sure that Linda Webb-Bowen would be happy to show you the ropes.

Your Co-Presidents:
Barb and Vickie

Mission Statement: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.



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JANUARY 11TH –WOMEN’S RALLY

KAY BURT, HISTORIAN

Linn County Women’s Rally Celebrating the 19th Amendment on Saturday, Jan. 11.

It was entitled, “Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence,” and featured a variety of presentations—from musical entertainment, to slideshow, to sing-a-long tunes of suffragette songs, to three excellent speakers, and a skit that featured Theresa Johnson as Abigail Scott Duniway and Edie Orner as the Albany mayor’s wife. All was rounded out with a parade around the county courthouse block.

I would estimate 200 attendees, old, young and in between. Sponsors were Albany AAUW, The Linn Co. Women’s Rally, League of Women Voters of Linn County, and Albany First Christian Church.

- Photo 1: Looking to the future, a child makes a sign and joins the march.
- Photo 2: Edie Orner in period garb and part of the skit, “The Woman Question.”
- Photo 3: Linn Co. Women’s Rally Moderator Christine Webb leads the Linn County Women’s Rally annual ‘march around the square.’





Fay Stetz-Waters, Sr. Assistant Attorney General, Oregon DOJ, spoke about "The Civil in Civil Rights."



AAUW members participated in a humorous skit.

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

KARLENE MCDOWELL, SECRETARY

Kids, especially girls and young women, are being helped by the donations that YOU made during our Branch Fundraising Effort during September and October 2019!

At the January 14, 2020, Branch Board meeting, after considerable discussion, Board members voted unanimously to give \$1,000. to the Maker's Club at the Albany Library; to give \$1,200. for scholarships to women at LBCC; and to give \$350. to the SWARM Robotics Team. Our Branch has supported all three of these groups in the past, and we are grateful to our members for their contributions to continue our support.

We need to note that we gave \$250. earlier this year in September to the Maker's Club for specific needs that April Spisak requested for the coming year's programs. Also, it was the consensus of the Board that a further donation to SWARM could be made after we have a clearer picture of the Branch's budget in March. Kudos to our members and their generous donations to carry out our AAUW mission!



<p>Vision AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.</p> <p>Mission AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.</p> <p>Value Promise By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.</p> <p>Diversity In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.</p>
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Calendar of Events

Saturday, March 7, 10:30 am—2pm, First Presbyterian Church—Program and Business Meeting—Dignitaries will be visiting

Wednesday, April 15, 5:30—7pm, Calapooia Brewery—“Un-Happy Hour”

Saturday, May 16, noon—3pm, Cascade Grill, Membership Luncheon and Business Meeting.

NEWS: FEBRUARY 17 , 2020

Today, the Oregon House of Representatives unanimously passed House Concurrent Resolution 204, commemorating the centennial of Oregon’s ratification of the 19th Amendment, which extended voting rights to most women in the United States. Oregon extended suffrage to women in 1912, eight years ahead of the national passage of the 19th amendment.



“Together Women Make History” is the theme of our 2020 Convention and you won’t want to miss this combined event with Washington State!

APRIL 17-19, 2020

Christine Webb—Public Policy Chair—
Women’s Rally on January 11, 2020



WOMEN IN OREGON PRISONS

KARLENE MCDOWELL, SECRETARY

LEGISLATORS WANT TO HEAR WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU AND HOW YOU VOTE.

PLEASE WRITE OR EMAIL YOUR LEGISLATORS WHEN THERE IS SOMETHING THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU.

THEY ALSO LIKE TO HEAR WHEN THEY DID SOMETHING THAT YOU LIKED TOO.

On Saturday, February 8, 2020, our Branch sponsored a panel discussion on the past, present, and future of women in OR prisons. Over 40 people were in the audience at the Albany Library as Julia Yoshimoto from the Women's Justice Center in Portland, Rosa Howard-Mumford from Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility in Albany, and Jessica Kampf from Shelly's House in Salem discussed the history and the future of their project/facility. A Q&A session followed with panelists answering written questions from the audience. This event was organized by members of our Branch's Great Discussion group, and member Gladys Hardin was the moderator for the panel. Thank you to this group for the effort it took to organize and publicize this panel and to Delta Kappa Gamma (women educators' honorary) for contributing cookies and coffee. Those attending left with a greater understanding of the complex legal issues, the need for more funding for facilities, the opportunities that exist to help women in Oregon's prisons, and appreciation for the intelligence and commitment of these three women panelists working to help women in prison.



Everyone needs some sunshine from time to time! Please remember that Sue Stein has volunteered to coordinate our sending of sunshine cards to those members in need of some kind words because they are ill, hurt, or grieving. Please contact Sue at 541.791.7144 if you are aware of a need. Also, if you have extra cards, please consider giving them to Sue!



BOOK CLUB

GAIL GERDEMANN

This group usually meets the first Thursday of each month at 1pm.

Educated: a Memoir by Tana Westover (334p) Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag." In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged in her father's junkyard. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. As a way out, Tara began to educate herself, learning enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University. Her quest for knowledge would transform her taking her to Harvard and to Cambridge. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

Thursday, March 5th, 1:00pm

Hostess: Naomi Shand, 1806 NW Olivia Circle, 925-699-3774.

Discussion led by Judy Stanley

My Dear Hamilton A Novel of Eliza Schuyler Hamilton by Stephanie Dray (641p) Dray and Kamoie used thousands of letters and original sources to tell Eliza's story as the wronged wife at the center of a political sex scandal and also as a founding mother who shaped an American legacy in her own right. She meets Alexander Hamilton, Washington's penniless but passionate aide-de-camp, they fall in love, despite Hamilton's bastard birth and the uncertainties of war. From inaugural balls to bloody street riots, the Hamiltons are at the center of the political treachery of America's first sex scandal, which forces Eliza to struggle through heartbreak and betrayal to find forgiveness. When a duel destroys Eliza's hard-won peace, the grieving widow fights her husband's enemies to preserve Alexander's legacy. But long-buried secrets threaten everything Eliza believes about her marriage and her own legacy, she's left with one last battle--to understand the flawed man she married and imperfect union he could never have created without her..

Thursday, April 2nd, 1:00pm

Hostess: Gail Gerdemann, 6294 Nelson Pl. SW, 541-926-3436

Discussion led by Kathy Butler



GREAT DISCUSSIONS

GAIL GERDEMANN

WHAT WE DO:

AAUW

[https://
www.aauw.org/
what-we-do/
public-policy/two-
minute-activist/](https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/)

Take action on
issues impacting
women and girls
by joining
AAUW's Action
Network.

Also read about
what AAUW is
doing.



The group is currently doing a survey of 2020 political issues, one issue per meeting. Please contact Gail Gerdemann 541-926-3436 if you are not already a member of the group to make arrangements to get materials. This group usually meets Thursday afternoons at 1:30 pm (specific dates below).

Friday, February 21st, 1:30

Hostess: Lee Reeves, 1225 NE Lafayette St., 541-924-9089

Topic: Immigration and the 2020 election, Karlene is discussion leader

April and May meeting dates not yet determined. Topics will be Guns led by Gail Gerdemann and Health Care led by Edie Orner.

Meet your new webmistress: Heather Morijah! **Please take a look**, and let me know what else you'd like to see. I can update the page on the fly, but it is our responsibility as a group to keep it current and fresh by providing me with photos/updates/other content! (The Women's March photo at the top is kind of a placeholder till someone can provide a better photo of branch members involved in some kind of interesting activity. I just wanted to get rid of that blurry "Welcome to Albany" photo asap.) I would like to add that we're one of the oldest branches in the state, but am not sure of the accuracy of that statement. (Input?)

We have posted, on our Facebook page, a list of all the legislation we are currently supporting and opposing in this legislative session: [AAUW Albany Oregon](#). Check there for updates. They will be posted as we receive them.

STEM UPDATE

CAROL WOOD, STEM CHAIR

January 22nd STEM Committee members Carol Wood, Karlene McDowell, and Rita Powell met our Makers Club leader April Spizak for a 2019-2020 Makers Club update. Overall, 58% of the participants are girls while the tween program boasts 70% girls which are quite encouraging numbers. An all ages hands on tinkering day drew 93 participants with 62 of them girls. The LBCC Pipeline is also involved providing programs including a wearable tech presentation with 3 more in the works during the school year. Upcoming programs include explosives in February, a STEM scavenger hunt in March, LBCC in April, and SWARM demonstration in May.

April mentioned the loss of Library staff and hours due to budget cuts. This was the perfect opening to present April with our AAUW donation to the Makers' Club of \$1000. She was quite overwhelmed and the donation will provide for many Makers Club future activities. Many thanks to all Albany AAUW members who provided the funds for this!

One last note, the new Library director will start February 8th. We asked April if she could plan a "meet and greet" for the new director to meet our AAUW group so that is in the works.

Access Policy:

It is the policy of AAUW to provide reasonable accommodations for members with disabilities. For assistance, contact:

Vickie 541-995-7740. A forty-eight hours notice is requested.

The State AAUW newsletter, *Oregon News*, is sent via email to all members. Vickie Staffebach receives the newsletter and forwards the *Oregon News* to all branch members via email. If you do not use email, you will receive a copy of the newsletter by US mail.

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