



April 2019-2020

The Advocate:

Albany, Oregon, Branch AAUW

Hello All:

We hope that this newsletter is finding you in good health. What an amazing few weeks as we change our lives to deal with COVID-19. We are learning new terms, like “social distancing”, and who could have foreseen that toilet paper would become scarce.

You have probably already heard that there will not be a Joint Convention in April. Our delegates will still be voting on issues via email for the State.

Please watch your emails because we will let you know of any major changes as they happen. This is also our last newsletter for the year!

Your Co-Presidents:
Barb and Vickie

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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

UnHappy Hour.....	2
Election Results.....	2
Dues are Due.....	3
May 15 Luncheon.....	3
State Conference.....	4
February 8 Program....	5
Book Club.....	6
Great Discussions.....	7
STEM Update.....	8

APRIL 15TH—UNHAPPY HOUR

HEATHER MORIJAH, C/U REPRESENTATIVE

The April 15 *Unhappy Hour* event at Calapooia Brewing is pending due to the statewide closure of restaurants and bars "effective March 17 for at least four weeks," per Governor Kate Brown's 3/16/20 press release. Four weeks from March 17 is Tuesday, April 14, the day before the event. I will remain cautiously optimistic and plan to market the event via our Facebook page and to colleagues at LBCC as April 15 nears and new mandates are issued. Please watch your email the week of April 13 for an update.

Unhappy Hour is a way to mark Equal Pay Day, the symbolic day on which women's pay "catches up" to men's from the previous year. This year, "All women's Equal Pay Day" is March 31. This date varies for women of color, mothers, and so on:

February 11, 2020: Asian American women's Equal Pay Day
March 31, 2020: All women's Equal Pay Day
April 9, 2020: White women's Equal Pay Day
June 4, 2020: Moms Equal Pay Day
August 13, 2020: Black women's Equal Pay Day
October 1, 2020: Native women's Equal Pay Day
October 29, 2020: Latinas' Equal Pay Day

As you can see, Latinas are paid the least of any women, and Asian American women are paid the most. The National Committee on Pay Equity, of whose board of directors AAUW is a member, is the main online source of information at <https://www.pay-equity.org/index.html>. AAUW's information on Equal Pay can be found at <https://www.aauw.org/fairpay/>. More articles can be found at <https://www.aauw.org/tag/equal-pay/>.

ALBANY BRANCH ELECTION RESULTS

Appointments begin July 2, 2020 and end June 30, 2022

Co-Presidents: Vickie Staffelbach and Theresa Johnson

Secretary: Karlene McDowell

Treasurer: Naomi Shand

Thank you to those willing to serve and those outgoing officers.



DUES ARE DUE!

LINDA WEBB-BOWEN, TREASURER

We will be paying our dues of \$85 (\$10 Branch, \$16 State, and \$59 National of which \$56 is tax deductible) using the MPP, Membership Payment Program. This is a secure online-dues remittance procedure. National has required all branches to enroll. This process is easy! There are no passwords or login required: just click and renew.

I will send you a message (invoice) saying that it is time to renew with a secure link online. You may write a check; however, using the MPP is preferable as it involves less paperwork and will keep me out of the public U.S. Bank lobby! You will pay your National, State, and Branch dues with one click! National will reimburse the State for its portion and us for our portion. I will send you your email invoice toward the end of April.

MAY 16 MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

KARLENE McDOWELL, SECRETARY

This annual luncheon, which is always the final member meeting of the AAUW year, may or may not take place this year because of the COVID-19 crisis. Our scheduled speaker is Eric Ikenouye, the new Director of Albany Libraries, plus we will meet and hear from some of our LBCC scholarship winners. If restaurants are allowed to be open by May, then we will be there. If not, perhaps we can be creative in some other way at some other time. Just watch your emails for updates.

And stay home, take your temperature twice a day, wash your hands often for 20 seconds, work in your garden or patio pots, read good books, watch some worthwhile programs on TV, do FaceTime with family and friends, help others as you are able, catch up on your “to do” list . . . gosh, all that sounds exhausting!



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.

Mission

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

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.

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.



Calendar of Events

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

Saturday, May 16, noon—
3pm, Cascade Grill, Mem-
bership Luncheon and
Business Meeting.

NEWS: COVID-19

Link to latest news
from the CDC
(Centers for Disease
Control and
Prevention).

[https://
www.cdc.gov/](https://www.cdc.gov/)

LATEST BOARD NEWS:

KARLENE McDOWELL, SECRETARY

At the March 16 Albany AAUW Board Meeting, the board voted to give an additional \$650.00 to the **SWARM Robotics Team**. We took a careful look at our current budget, as we said we would do, and decided we were in a good position to make an additional donation to the team. So, our total to SWARM for the 2019-2020 budget year is now \$1,000. Thanks to the generous donations from our branch members in our fall fundraising campaign, our branch has also donated \$1,250. to Maker's Club at the Albany Library and \$1,200. for four scholarships to deserving young women at LBCC. WOW . . . just think about the positive reinforcement that our dollars are giving to young women.

At this same Board Meeting, board members voted on the **Named Gift Honoree** (NGH) for 2020. OR AAUW notified our Branch that we could name one person for this honor, which recognizes a person who has supported the mission of AAUW in a variety of ways. Board members selected **Fay Stetz-Waters**, Director of Civil Rights in the OR Department of Justice. As many of you know, Fay has been very visible in Albany and Linn County as a Circuit Judge and Equity Associate at OSU and also was a speaker at the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote that our Branch co-sponsored on January 11. She has spoken at many meetings and in many locations in our area, always emphasizing the importance of women in the workplace, in the schoolrooms, in college classrooms, and certainly in politics. She certainly deserves our recognition.

LINK TO OUR SHARED GOOGLE DRIVE

HEATHER MORIAH, C/U REPRESENTATIVE

[ALBANY AAUW SHARED GOOGLE DRIVE](#)

Just a reminder that you can not only find a wealth of documents here, you can also upload your own docs, photos, etc.

Please don't forget to bring food items for the Linn-Benton Community College Lunch Box. Students will continue to need food even if they are taking classes online. Please bring your items to our meetings and we will get them to LBLB.

Thank you.

2020 LBCC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

HEATHER MORIJAH, C/U REPRESENTATIVE

**LEGISLATORS WANT TO
HEAR WHAT IS IM-
PORTANT TO YOU AND
HOW YOU VOTE.**

**PLEASE WRITE OR EMAIL
YOUR LEGISLATORS
WHEN THERE IS SOME-
THING THAT IS
IMPORTANT TO YOU.**

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



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!

AAUW sisters,

On behalf of LBCC, thank you again for your never-ending generosity towards our students who struggle financially, especially without access to federal financial aid. We received six scholarship applications. Barb, Tania and I reviewed them yesterday and selected four scholarship awardees to receive \$300 each.

Samantha Garcia Aguilera has a 3.56 GPA and is majoring in Human Development & Family Services. She has earned 89 credits and plans to transfer to OSU with her Associate of Science degree. Samantha says:

For my post-graduation plans, I would like to continue my education by attaining my Masters in Social Work or Counseling. Before that, I would like to get experience in my field of work. As a Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS) major with a focus in Human Services, there are many job opportunities out there for me. A specific field of work that piques my interest in social work or case coordination for youth correctional facilities. Post-graduation, I see myself working in one of these areas of work. The reason why these two jobs interest me is that they emphasize helping individuals find the resources they need in order to make their goals and basic needs met. As someone who has benefited from social services, it is important for me to be able to give back to my community by taking what I learn in school and life experiences and apply it to those in need. And as someone who has dealt with addiction within my family members, I think it is important to give people a second chance in redirecting their lives, and for me, that is what a case coordinator role is. Post-graduation, I see myself working within my community to improve the lives of those who may be less fortunate.

Karla Real Gonzalez has a 3.11 GPA and is working towards a BS in Civil Engineering. She plans to transfer to OSU or PSU with her LBCC degree. She's earned 52 credits and has this to say:

I intend to use this scholarship to cover tuition cost. [I have had] numerous setbacks in my education. I want to continue and achieve my goals, which may take longer than many other students. I'm still determined. It is difficult obtaining scholarships with my situation. There's always a fear of not being able to afford going to school for the next term. This scholarship would help decrease that worry.

Brenda Diaz Martinez has a 2.89 GPA and is earning an Associates in Visual Communication. She's completed 26 credits. She moved across Oregon to attend LBCC and lives on her own in Albany. Brenda will use the scholarship to help pay tuition so she can continue to stay on track to completion by taking 15 credits per term.

Benigna Flores has a 3.1 GPA. She has completed 35 credits towards an AAS in Child & Family Studies. She says:

After I graduate, I will continue to work with the children in my church better equipped to teach them and care for them. I will seek employment in a private bilingual school, where my Spanish language background will be especially useful. If this type of position is not available, I will still be well equipped to work in an English-speaking school setting.

We will notify scholarship winners by the end of the week. I'm not sure I remember how we issued the funds; please advise, and thank you all so much!

Heather, Barb and Tania

BOOK CLUB

GAIL GERDEMANN

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



Educated: a Memoir by Tara 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: Linda Allen, 1859 Valley View Dr., 541-926-9538
- Discussion led by Kris McLoughlin

Little Fires Everywhere, A Novel Celeste Ng (338p) . In the Shaker Heights suburb everything is planned, and no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren – an enigmatic artist and single mother – who arrives with her teenaged daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town--and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past.. Little Fires Everywhere explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood – and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster. Book Nominations for 2020-21

- Thursday, May 7th, 1:00pm
- Hostess: Gail Gerdemann, 6294 Nelson Pl. SW, 541-926-3436
- Discussion led by Tanya Morgenstern

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 afternoons at 1:30 pm (specific dates below).

Friday, April 24th, 1:30

Hostess: Karlene McDowell, 3266 Fir Oaks Dr. SW, 541-981-2158

Topics: Election 2020 Issues -- Healthcare (led by Edie) and Gun Safety (led by Gail)

Friday, May 29th, 1:30

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

Topic: Gun Safety and Control -- a deeper dive (led by Gail)

Continued from Page 6

Women Talking by Mirian Toews (216p) One evening, eight Mennonite women climb into a hay loft to conduct a secret meeting. For the past two years, each of these women, and more than a hundred other girls in their colony, has been repeatedly violated in the night by demons coming to punish them for their sins. Now that the women have learned they were in fact drugged and attacked by a group of men from their own community, they are determined to protect themselves and their daughters from future harm. While the men of the colony are off in the city, these women—all illiterate, without any knowledge of the world outside their community and unable even to speak the language of the country they live in—have very little time to make a choice: Should they stay in the only world they've ever known or should they dare to escape? Based on real events and told through the “minutes” of the women’s all-female symposium, Toews’s masterful novel uses wry, politically engaged humor to relate this tale of women claiming their own power to decide. Voting and planning for 2020-21

- Thursday, June 4th, 1:00pm
- Hostess: Karlene McDowell, 3266 Fir Oaks Dr. SW, 541-981-2158
- Discussion led by Susan Dahlen

MARCH 7TH MEETING RECAP

VICKIE STAFFELBACH, CO-PRESIDENT

Saturday, March 7th was a fantastic program that honored the 100th anniversary of Women's Right to Vote. We also had several State Officers in attendance, including President Georgia Applegate and Central District Chair Elena Rae. Pat Squire, Nancy Brown and Sue Klumph.

Here are some photos from the event.



L to R above: Theresa Johnson does introductions, the attendees, Elena Rae, Central District Chair.

L to R bottom: Idomitable Spirit Readers Theater, Rebecca Fromherz, sings Eggen? Na Andro Lontana



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 Staffelbach 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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