

# The Advocate:

Albany, Oregon, Branch AAUW

Hello All:

Another new and exciting year in AAUW and the Albany Branch. Our Programs Committee has developed some items of interest in a new virtual reality and we are hoping that by May we can have meetings and events in person.

Please be sure to watch your emails for possible unscheduled events or any changes to upcoming events. We also forward information from the State AAUW.

The last page of this newsletter is our 20-21 Budget for you to review. We can discuss at our September 17th Business Meeting (see page 3)

Your Co-Presidents:  
Vickie and Theresa

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



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## OUR FIRST 2020-2021 MEETING

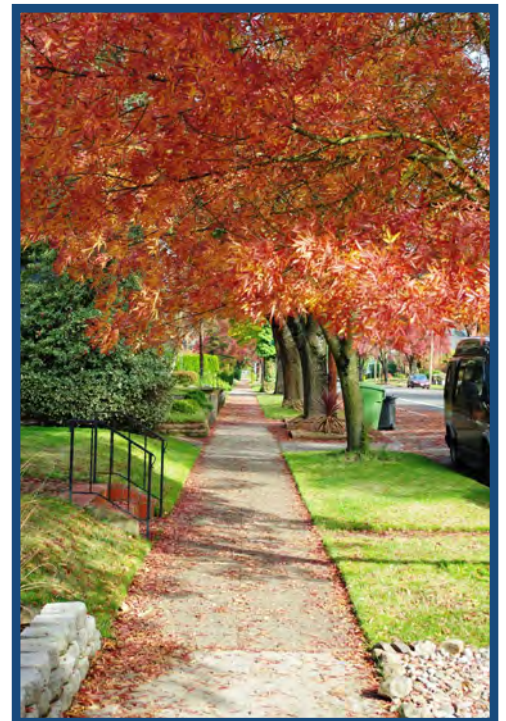
**KARLENE MCDOWELL, SECRETARY**

I hope you read my email about our meetings for the coming year and put **Thursday, September 17, 7:00 p.m.** on your calendar! Our guest speaker will be Eric Ikenouye, who is our new Director of Albany Libraries. He is certainly having an interesting and challenging first year, and he will be talking about that, along with his vision for our libraries and his plans for reopening to the public.

Please join us on ZOOM to listen to him and to ask him questions. Heather Morijah will send you an email several days before September 17 with the link to our meeting. After our speaker has concluded his remarks, we will have our business meeting. It will be wonderful to see everyone without masks — we may not be meeting in person but at least we can really see one another!



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.



# STATE SUMMER SKILLS CAMP

## VICKIE STAFFELBACH, CO-PRESIDENT

The Oregon AAUW Summer Skills Camp was a success.

The meetings were recorded and are available for you to watch them at: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJOb-EcZjf55EiP\\_r8upeYQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJOb-EcZjf55EiP_r8upeYQ)

There are currently 9 sessions available. Not sure what happened to #4.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### KARLENE MCDOWELL, SECRETARY

- **September 17**, Thursday, 7:00 p.m., on Zoom; Speaker: Eric Ikenouye, the new Director of Albany Libraries; Business Meeting to follow
- **November 17**, Tuesday, 11:30 a.m., on Zoom; Panel Discussion by LBCC students with Heather Morijah; Business Meeting to follow
- **March 9**, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., on Zoom; Speaker: Angel Harris, Immediate Past President of the Corvallis-Albany NAACP; Business Meeting to follow
- **May 15**, Saturday, Noon Membership Luncheon at Cascade Grill (if allowed); Speakers TBA; Business Meeting to follow



**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.



## SO WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THE LAST 5 MONTHS?

Karlene asked this question in our last newsletter. Here are some of the responses we received:

Naomi Shand, Treasurer:

The social isolation due to the pandemic has certainly been awful but I can't help but think how much technology has helped alleviate some of the issues. Facebook has kept us in touch with people we may have visited, email the same, Zoom has replaced in-person group meetings, online ordering, and curbside pickup have helped us keep our homes stocked.

But for me, technology has given me the gift of a pastime that I had thought was lost. When I moved to Oregon, I had to leave my volunteer position with a historical society. I reconnected with them by email early in the pandemic and lamented the many free hours I had. They creatively found a way for me to engage with them even at a distance. They have a collection of photos from the 1950s donated by a news photographer. The photos are completely unlabeled and mostly only vaguely dated. They can send me the images through email. The local newspaper is available online. My job is to try to locate the photo in the newspaper and thus identify the people, place, and event. So for me, it is like a treasure hunt. I have to scan through old newspapers page by page trying to locate these images. I can't help myself from pausing and reading the headlines and stories from back then. And I love to inspect the old photos for items that are no longer in everyday use. When I successfully locate one in the paper and can make an identification, I think the whole neighborhood can hear my screams of delight!

Karlene McDowell, Secretary:

One challenge stands out among several this pandemic has brought to me: learning to drive an all-electric car. Don and I took possession of our 2020 Chevrolet Bolt in mid-March, just as the lockdown took hold in Oregon. It's not that the driving part is different from a gas powered vehicle. As one salesman said, "It's like driving 13 laptops!" The different screens with all of the icons, all of the options that are possible, the bluetooth connections . . . the distractions are endless. So, I have opted to forget about most of those to stick with the basics: starting and stopping, adjusting the mirrors, using Cruise, changing the seat adjustment, opening the trunk. Forget Siri — she can mind her own business!

Vickie Staffelbach, Co-President:

So I wasn't able to quarantine or stay home. I work for the City of Corvallis and we had to keep working. I also took a second job at Walmart because they wouldn't hire me in the past—but now they are desperate.

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## BOOK CLUB

### GAIL GERDEMANN

This group usually meets the first Thursday of each month at 1:30pm.

**Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens (370p) For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life--until the unthinkable happens.

#### Wednesday, September 16th, 1:30

- Hostess: Linda Allen's driveway, 1859 Valley View Dr., 541-926-9538
- Chairs provided, we will be socially distant and wear masks
- Bad weather plan: Gail will send out note and Zoom link the day before
- Discussion led by Judy Scott

**The Giver of Stars** by Jojo Moyes (alternate: *The Book Women of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Richardson) Alice Wright marries American Bennett Van Cleve hoping to escape her stifling life in England, but small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically. The leader, and Alice's greatest ally, is Margery, a smart-talking, self-sufficient woman who's never asked a man's permission for anything. They will be joined by three other singular women who become known as the Horseback Librarians of Kentucky. What happens to them--and to the men they love--becomes a classic drama of loyalty, justice, humanity and passion. Though they face all kinds of dangers, they're committed to their job --bringing books to people who have never had any, sharing the gift of learning that will change their lives.

#### Thursday, October 1st, 1:30

Continued on page 8



## SO WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THE LAST 5 MONTHS?

Continued from page 4

One thing about working through /COVID-19 is I have been keeping current on all of the Phases and changes/mandates, etc. I have also interviewed for a couple of new jobs during this time. Hopefully my more recent interview results in an offer.

And as if that wasn't enough—I fell through a rotted wooden board on my front deck, so I am replacing all of the wood planks with a composite. Since I cannot afford to pay someone else to do it, I am taking this as a challenge and learning how to Do It Myself. Borrowed some tools, and now I am quite proficient at sawing, drilling and making joists. Not going to change my day job for this but I am feeling very accomplished and proud. I have several other home repairs needed—so this weekend I will be trying to replace two light ballasts for the first time.

Do you have a story to tell? Please send Vickie Staffelbach your Summer of COVID-19 events.

### NEW MEMBER AND SECOND COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVE

#### TANIA MENDEZ

I'm originally from Eastern Oregon, I moved to the mid-valley area to begin my college education at OSU. After graduation, I was offered a position at LBCC. I have now been working for LB for over two years. During my free time, I enjoy watching movies, playing tennis and spending time with my loved ones. I am happy to be a part of AAUW and look forward to meeting all of you.



## GREAT DISCUSSIONS

### GAIL GERDEMANN

The group is currently exploring various aspects of Public Health and related policy. 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).

#### **Tuesday, October 13th, 1:30**

Hostess: Jan Heaton's covered patio, 2706 SE Columbus, 541-926-4356

Topics: Food as a Public Health issue, led by Tanya Morgenstern

#### **Monday, November 9th, 1:30**

Hostess: Zoom meeting, link sent out by Gail day before meeting

Topic: Guns as a Public Health issue, led by Gail Gerdemann

## AAUW NATIONAL

### FIVE-STAR PROGRAM

Congratulations to the dozens of branches that have achieved three or more stars in our Five-Star Recognition Program. We're now keeping a running list of the awardees on the [Five-Star page](#), along with the instructions for how to apply and track your progress. Check it out! Kudos to the **Ashland (Oregon)**, State College (Pennsylvania) and Seattle (Washington) branches on achieving all five stars!

This article was taken from the 8/27/20 email from National.



## BOOK CLUB ...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

### GAIL GERDEMAN

#### Contact Us:

#### AAUW National

Phone:800.326.2289  
10-5 Mon-Fri ET  
AAUW.ORG

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#### Albany, OR, Branch

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##### College/Univ . Rep.

Tania Mendez  
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- Hostess: TBA, weather permitting may be outdoors, socially distanced in masks
- Bad weather plan: Gail will send out note and Zoom link the day before
- Discussion led by Gail Gerdemann

**The Testaments** by Margaret Atwood (419p) More than fifteen years after the events of *The Handmaid's Tale*, the theocratic regime of the Republic of Gilead maintains its grip on power, but there are signs it is beginning to rot from within. At this crucial moment, the lives of three radically different women converge, with potentially explosive results. Two have grown up as part of the first generation to come of age in the new order. The testimonies of these two young women are joined by a third: Aunt Lydia. Her complex past and uncertain future unfold in surprising and pivotal ways.

#### Thursday, November 5th, 1:30

- On Zoom, link will be sent out day before meeting
- Discussion led by Karlene McDowell

#### Access Policy:

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

*Vickie 541-520-6029. A forty-eight hours notice is requested.*

***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!***

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.



**AAUW ALBANY BRANCH  
2020-2021 BUDGET**

INCOME	BUDGETED	ACTUAL	BALANCE
A. DUES	\$270.00		
B. FUNDRAISERS/DONATIONS	\$2000.00		
C.			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2270.00</b>		

EXPENSES	BUDGETED	SPENT	BALANCE
1 NEWSLETTER	\$0.00		
2 MEMBERSHIP BOOK	60.00		
3 POSTAGE	10.00		
4 OR CONVENTION	600.00		
5 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS	0.00		
6 MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT	100.00		
7 LBCC MEMBERSHIP DUES	0.00		
8 MISSION-BASED PROJECTS	1,000.00		
9 SCHOLARSHIPS	1,000.00		
10 PROGRAMS	300.00		
11 MISCELLANEOUS	100.00		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3170.00</b>		

Difference to/from operations account \$(700.00)

Balance in Operations Account: \$2398.77