

Branch Newsletter

Volume 29, Number 8

April, 2009

Inside this issue:

Educational Found.	2
Membership	2-3
Public Policy	4-5
Legal Advocacy	6
Interest Groups	7
Events Calendar	8

Branch Program

By Chris Smith
big5Komm@comcast.net



SMILE will make you smile!

Speaker: Eda Davis-Lowe, Program Director

Tuesday April 21, 2009 7:00 pm

Oregon State University, Education Hall, Room 107
14th Street and Jefferson, Corvallis

Program Dev. Vice President

Chris Smith

big5Komm@comcast.net

Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Nancy Neumann

753-1075

nrneumann@yahoo.com

Edie Lee

745-5109

edie.lee@lifetime.oregonstate.edu

Marion Dickens

753-1006

mardick4@msn.com

Treasurer

Sue Borden

752-6036

sueborden@cmug.com

Secretary

Hope Reenstjema

753-4807

hopefred@peak.org

Newsletter Editor

Martha Jenkins

758-4390

marthaj@peak.org

A recent story in the *Gazette-Times* featured an attractive photo of a mother and daughter from Corvallis learning together about DNA at a session organized by the OSU SMILE program. On Tuesday, April 21st, Eda Davis-Lowe, Director of the SMILE Program, will tell us more about this program that is changing the futures of girls and boys all over Oregon (and in Rhode Island, too!).

SMILE stands for Science & Math Investigative Learning Experiences. The SMILE Program is a partnership between Oregon State University and 14 Oregon school districts -- mostly rural -- to provide science and math enrichment for underrepresented and other educationally underserved students in grades 4-12.

Directions: Education Hall is on 14th St, close to Jefferson, on the northwest corner of the intersection. Enter the building on 14th St; signs will direct you to Room 107 on the ground floor. Parking should be available in the parking area across 14th St near Jefferson. You may park in any OSU parking lot after 5:00 pm. For more information, call Marilyn Treiman at 758-6337.

Educational Foundation

By Educational Foundation Chair
Diana Bernstein
dianatbernstein@yahoo.com

Congratulations to the 2009 Corvallis Branch Named Gift Honorees

Ann Mills and Carolyn Simmons



Each year, our branch honors a member for every \$500 donation that our branch sends to the AAUW Educational Foundation.

Ann Mills has been active with both the local scholarship committee and the bridge marathon over the last few years. Ann says, "I feel that giving local scholarships is one of the most important things we do locally, and the bridge marathon earns the money for them."

For several years, Carolyn

Simmons has organized us for lunch once a month, giving members an opportunity to meet with one another in a purely social venue. Carolyn has also been an active member of the afternoon book group and presently is coordinating that group. She says, "I feel proud to support and belong to AAUW. Providing scholarships so that females can be helped to acquire more education is a key part of our mission. Women are our future and education is the

key for unlocking new doors."

Both Ann and Carolyn will have their names included in the program for the EF banquet that is held Saturday night during the AAUW of Oregon Convention at the Seventh Mountain Resort in Bend on April 24-26. All of the previous Corvallis Branch honorees are listed in the front our directory.

Congratulations and thank you to Ann and Carolyn for all your efforts.



Membership

By Membership Co-Vice President
Marion Dickens
mardick4@msn.com

Did You Know?

Please check this issue for the Corvallis Branch Membership Form. You will notice that the cost of membership is the same as last year – no dues increase! Dues should be paid by July 1, 2009, which is the start of the new year. If you pay your dues by the May 16th Spring Luncheon, your name will be entered in a drawing for a free Asso-

ciation membership. This is a \$49.00 value.

\$46.00 of the National AAUW dues is tax deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes.

This is a change from past years, since the organization is now a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

If you know of a recent graduate, you may give

her a one year membership as a member-at-large at no cost to you. Simply logon to the Give a Grad a Gift web page, at <https://svc.aauw.org/join/gradgift.cfm> and fill out and submit the form. This is a \$49.00 value.



**2009 - 2010
Corvallis Branch AAUW Membership Form**



Note: The information you provide will be printed in the Branch Membership Directory unless you indicate otherwise.

Please complete this form and send with your payment to:

Edie Lee
7550 NW Mountain View
Corvallis, OR 97330

Member Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip +4 _____

Telephone: Home: _____ Work: _____

E-Mail: _____

University/College _____ Highest Degree _____ Field of Study _____

2009-2010 Dues Payment

\$77.00

Branch	\$17.00
State	\$11.00 (AAUW of Oregon dues include a one-year subscription to the <i>Oregon News</i> at \$1.00)
National	<u>\$49.00</u>
Total	\$77.00

If you are a Life Member, Student Affiliate Member or Member-at-Large, please contact Edie Lee (edie.lee@lifetime.oregonstate.edu) for dues information.

- I need a **print copy of the newsletter**, and enclose **\$10.00** for printing and postage. \$ _____
- **Contribution to the Local Scholarship Fund** - Provides tuition scholarships to older than average female students. (Contribution is *not* tax deductible) \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Make check payable to: Corvallis Branch AAUW

\$46 of the National AAUW dues is tax deductible as charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes. The total dues may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense. Checks written separately to AAUW Educational Foundation or AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund are tax deductible contributions.

Contributions

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) (Check written to LAF is tax deductible) \$ _____

LAF is the nation's largest legal fund focused solely on sex discrimination in higher education. Since 1981, LAF has helped students, faculty and administrators challenge discriminatory practices involving sexual harassment, denial of tenure and promotion, and inequality in women's athletic programs.

AAUW Educational Foundation (EF) (Check written to EF is tax deductible) \$ _____

EF provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

Public Policy

By Public Policy Chair
Marilyn Treiman
halamari1@juno.com

AAUW at the 2009 Session of the Oregon Legislature

Alice Bartelt, AAUW of Oregon Public Policy co-chair and Marcia Kelley, Legislative Coordinator, have been at the legislature almost daily to represent AAUW of Oregon, and have sent a report from which the following excerpts are taken:

Well, the 2009 session is now ready to focus on the budget for 2009/2011 as they have agreed on how to finalize the 2007/2009 budget with a combination of cuts and resources from the Federal stimulus money and other accounts.

As they deliberate, there are many options for wild rhetoric about what should be done. There are things that we as educated women can do to make sure what we say and believe are founded on facts.

First, government is not the enemy of the people. In many of our rural areas of the state, government keeps the fabric of the community together. Yes, we may have to tighten our belts a bit but we should not eliminate

government. From the file clerk to the manager, government wages spend just like private sector wages. In the economic downturn, we need to remember that.

We should not let our lawmakers rush to judgment without first ascertaining what the effects of the Federal stimulus money will mean to our communities and more importantly for the personal income taxes that fund so much of the state budget.

During the last cycle, there were efforts to make gains on funding education at the level that is needed. Some of that funding came in higher percentages than the funding of services for those who are reeling from loss of income and jobs. Students need to have good nutrition to learn so cuts to services that support nutrition and housing need attention just as much as teaching time.

There is also a lot of talk regarding health reform. We need to go forward because the cost of doing nothing on health reform is just higher health care costs. Next week we

should be able to share more on how this can be done and how it can be financed. Health care is necessary for a community to be viable.

Lastly, there has been a bill introduced that would change the "kicker". This bill is Senate Joint Resolution 29. The state sometimes collects more money in taxes than an economist predicts. It does not mean the state is being greedy, it means that the economist cannot predict with accuracy how much income people in Oregon might have two years from the date of his prediction. A prudent person would put unanticipated money in a savings account. In Oregon we send it back to the citizens and we don't have a viable cushion when the economy has a downturn. So as we are needing money for the next two years budget and needs are rising, the money has been spent on something else. Consider having a community conversation about how the money should be spent: in the community of Oregon or on someone's lifestyle. Remember the





AAUW

Public Policy (continued)

taxes are set, it is just that people made more money than anticipated. This bill was set to be heard in the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee on March 12th.

AAUW of Oregon has offered testimony on several bills as of March 10. On March 9, a bill was heard to increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (HB 2066). This would raise the percentage that Oregon's poorest taxpayers may take as a credit on their income taxes. Because our credit amount is only 6 percent, people that are below the poverty level pay taxes. This will would raise the credit to 18 percent and would keep folks from having to pay taxes on very little income.

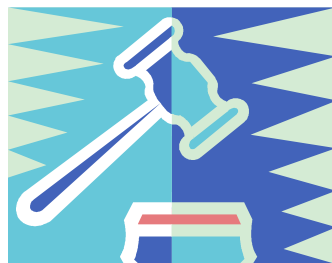
We also testified on House

Joint Resolutions 14 and 20. These involve tax expenditures, which are the deductions and tax credits that the state allows against income. These bills would require that each of these expenditures be reviewed periodically to determine if they are still serving the purpose for which they were adopted. AAUW supports such a review.

We offered testimony regarding HB 2741, which would dedicate all estate tax revenue, which amounts to about \$40 million per year, to a New Generation Fund. The interest from this fund would be split between pre-kindergarten programs and Oregon Opportunity Grants, which go to needy college students. AAUW, of course, supports this bill.

Finally, we testified about HB 2509, which updates the sexuality education statute to include "medically accurate" and "age appropriate" to the definition of appropriate education.

In the meantime, we are working with the Revenue Coalition; the Human Services Coalition; Safe, which is concerned with health care reform; the Women's Health and Wellness Alliance; the Paid Family Leave Coalition; and a good government group which works with the elections division. There is much happening at the legislature, but revenue is the most important issue at the moment.



Legal Advocacy Foundation

By Legal Advocacy Foundation Chair
Marilyn Roland
rolandm2@comcast.net

Pending LAF Cases

Jaureguito v. Feather River Community College, Their v. Feather River Community College, Wartluft v. Feather River Community College

The plaintiffs are still waiting for a date for a trial in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit

Mansourian, et al. v. Regents of the University of California, et al.

The plaintiffs are still waiting for a date for a trial in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit.

Potera-Haskins v. Gamble, Montana State University, et. al.

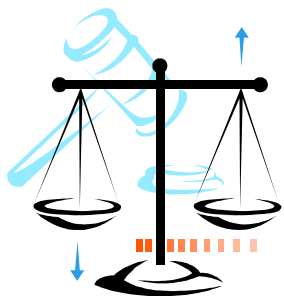
The trial date for the Title IX claims in this case has been rescheduled from October 2008 to June 2009.

Schuster v. Berea College

In August of 2008, the Kentucky Court of Appeals reversed the judgment entered in the lower court that favored Berea College. The appeals court held that the trial court had repeatedly denied Schuster use of critical discovery. Berea College challenged that decision, filing a motion for reconsideration.

In December 2008, The Kentucky Court of Appeals once again ruled in favor of

Schuster, denying Berea College's motion to reconsider and sustaining the court's prior opinion. Berea College is now petitioning the Kentucky Supreme Court for discretionary review of the primary appellate Court's decision. Schuster and her counsel will oppose this petition and, if the Supreme Court denies discretionary review, the case will return to the trial court for the appellate-mandated discovery.



Save Books, Other Media for the May Book Sale

All gently-used books and other media items are wanted for the May LAF Book Sale. Start saving them now and bring them with you to the May 16th Spring Luncheon!





AAUW Interest Groups

Gourmet Group

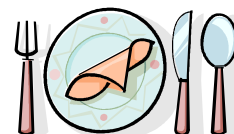
The final Gourmet Dinner of the season will take place on April 25th. and will be hosted by Brenda Rowley and Bob Combs. I think that those of you who have participated in

one of these dinners in the past will agree that the food is delicious and the conversation stimulating.

To make your reservation for the April dinner, please call

By Brenda Rowley

Denise Nervik at 752-8241
Your Gourmet Dinner Committee: Christine Cantey, Denise Nervik, and Brenda Rowley



No Host Lunch

Mark your calendar for Thursday, April 16th, 11:45 a.m. for lunch at McGrath's Fish House, 350 Circle Blvd. They have a great Soup/Salad Special and a \$6.99 Lunch Special,

as well as all the other regular offerings. Meet other members in a cozy, friendly atmosphere. It's always a pleasant outing. Hope you'll join us--to celebrate the end of another

tax season. . . or just to share laughs and lunch! Reservations are NOT necessary.

Contact Person: Carolyn Simmons, CrCAROLYN@aol.com, 758-0271.

By Carolyn Simmons



Afternoon Literature Group

On Tuesday, April 14th @ 2:00 p.m., we will meet at Marilyn Treiman's, 2215 NW Lynwood Circle, to discuss [The Defining Moment](#) by

Jonathan Alter. Bring any discussion topics, questions, or other relevant info. to share about the book or author. Should be interesting. . .

Contact Person: Carolyn Simmons, CrCAROLYN@aol.com, 758-0271.

By Carolyn Simmons



Evening Literature Group

The Evening Lit Group will meet Wednesday, April 1, to discuss [A Thousand Splendid Suns](#), by Khaled Hosseini.

Socializing starts at 7:15; the discussion will begin at 7:45. The meeting will be at the home of Shirley Wirth, 3994

Boxwood Drive. Please call her at 754-7186, or email her at shirleywirth@comcast.net if you plan to attend.

By Carol Sumner & Ann Brodie





EVENTS CALENDAR

APR	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
1	Evening Literature Group	7:15pm	Home of Shirley Wirth 3994 Boxwood Drive
13	Board Meeting	12:30pm	Corvallis-Benton Chamber Business Alliance, 420 NW 2nd St.
14	Afternoon Literature Group	2:00pm	Home of Marilyn Treiman 2215 NW Lynwood Circle
15	May Newsletter Articles due to Patti Cleveland		Email to pattic@peak.org
16	No-Host Lunch—McGrath's Fish House	11:45am	McGrath's Fish House 350 NW Circle Blvd
17	AAUW/League of Women Voters—Legislation Day		Contact Marilyn Treiman for details halamari1@juno.com
21	Branch Program—SMILE Program	7:00pm	Education Hall Room 107 OSU Campus
24-26	AAUW of Oregon Convention		Seventh Mountain Resort—Bend
25	Gourmet Dinner—Everyday Gourmet		Contact Brenda Rowley, 752-6779