

Branch Newsletter

Volume 28, Number 1

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In This Issue

[Program](#)

[President's Message](#)

[Membership](#)

[LAF](#)

News & Notes

[Interest Groups](#)

- Afternoon Lit Group
- Evening Lit Group
- No Host Lunch
- Gourmet Group

[Calendar](#)

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



Welcome Back Brunch Saturday, September 15, 2007 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

**Martha Room
First United Methodist Church**

Join new and returning AAUW members at the annual Welcome Back Brunch. Feel free to bring guests and invite them to join AAUW. Enjoy each other's company, learn about and sign up for one or more of the Interest Groups. Find out about this year's programs and receive your Corvallis AAUW Yearbook.

As a special treat we will have entertainment. Windswept, a woodwind trio (2 flutes and clarinet) from the Corvallis Community Band will play preceding the brunch. Please bring your favorite "brunch" dish to share. Tea and coffee will be served.

The First United Methodist Church is located at 1165 NW Monroe. Parking lots are adjacent the Church. The parking lot at 11th and Jackson is closest to the Church. Use the entrance closest to the parking lot at 11th Street. To avoid stairs, there is a ramp on the west side of the parking lot that leads directly into the Martha Room.

President

Edie Lee
745-5109

Edie.Lee@lifetime.oregonstate.edu

Program Development VP

SueAnn Bottoms
753-4618

sueannbo@gmail.com

Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Pam Duren
929-3710

pam.duren@comcast.net

Dianne Jackson
738-0885

diquilter@comcast.net

Marion Dickens
753-1006

mardick4@msn.com

Treasurer

Sue Borden
752-6036

sueborden@cmuq.com

Secretary

Janice Abele
753-5432

jlabele@aol.com

Newsletter Editor

Martha Jenkins
758-4390

marthaj@peak.org



President's Message

President
Edie Lee, 745-5109
Edie.Lee@lifetime.oregonstate.edu



Edie's Editorial: Catching up from the summer

Hi from your new Branch President. I'd like to welcome you to a new and exciting year for the Corvallis Branch of AAUW. A lot has happened over the summer and I'd like to catch you up on summer events and what we on the Board are planning for this coming year.

Our annual "Welcome Back Brunch" is scheduled for September 15 and is one of the highlights of the year. You will be able to visit with friends old and new, sample some goodies, and sign up for various interest groups. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our new AAUW Oregon State University (OSU) University Representative is Donna Champeau. Donna is the first director of the new Office of Women's Advancement and Gender Equity and is an award-winning OSU faculty member with extensive teaching and research experience in women's studies and public health. Donna will present a program at a Corvallis Branch meeting this year. We look forward to welcoming her.

I attended an AAUW State Leadership Retreat in Coos Bay this summer. The emphasis at the Retreat was on planning programs that are related to the AAUW theme: "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security". Many of our programs this year are related to education and are presented by OSU professors. The potential for greater collaboration with OSU and the opportunity to be more of a presence on the OSU campus will be valuable to both our local branch and the university community.

Our "Christmas in May" collection for orphans in Kenya was a huge success! Please see the article in this newsletter for details.

I want to thank all our new and returning board members for saying "Yes" when they were asked to volunteer. The position of President-Elect is still vacant and it would be wonderful to have someone fill that position. There are also many opportunities to help even if you are not a member of the board. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September Brunch listing dates when help is needed. We would appreciate your participation, and you will get to know other members better by being more involved.

I hope that your summer has been fun and eventful, and that you are ready for the adventures of a new year. I hope to see you at some of this year's programs.

Edie Lee
President



Membership

V.P. Membership
Pam Duren, 929-3710
Dianne Jackson, 738-0885
Marion Dickens, 753-1006

Membership

The membership committee for this year is comprised of Pam Duren, Dianne Jackson and Marion Dickens. This is a new job for all of us in this branch. Marion has lots of experience from her former branch and she will be writing the introductions of new members for the newsletter. Dianne will handle the information aspects and Pam will do the rest. I want to thank Mary Mills, Louise Livesay and Nelwyn Price for showing me (Pam) the ropes and leaving things in such good order. Mary has made everything look very easy which I hope is true.

We are starting this year with 86 renewing members at this time, down from last year's 92 members. In 2007, we ended the year with 102 members. Because our goal is to increase our membership to 100 or more, we are going to need each member's help. As we recruit prospective members, keep in mind that the qualifications for membership have broadened to include associate and equivalent degrees from a qualified educational institution.

We are particularly looking for new members to carry the torch as we look to the future. If each member could recruit one new member, think of how that would vitalize our group. Not only do we offer a variety of interest groups, but we also have great programs, speakers and lots of fun!

The membership committee looks forward to working with all of you to make our year a success. We would encourage you to bring a prospective member to our "Welcome Back Brunch" on Sept. 15th.

Member Updates

Janice Abele has a new email address: jlabele@aol.com

Edie Lee's email address is: Edie.Lee@lifetime.oregonstate.edu

Beverly Arthur has a new email address: beverlya@peak.org

Sherlyn Dahl's email address is: sherlyn.dahl@co.benton.or.us

Anne-Lise Olsen has a new address: 2665 NW Garryanna Dr. Apt 5, Corvallis, OR 97330

Linda O'Hara has a new email address: linda.ohara@viclink.com

Gretchen Bencene
25488 Wonderly Ln
Philomath 97370-9507
(h) 929-5598
gbencene@peak.org
BS-OSU
Business

Barbara Ashman
1830 NW 17th St.
Corvallis
7382627
Sac State Univ.
MS - Psychology
barbashman@exchangenet.net





Legal Advocacy Fund

Marilyn Roland, branch chairperson



Corvallis Branch is Number 10 in giving to LAF

...with \$777.50 in the branch per capita category in Oregon for the year 2006. It's great to be in the Top Ten! I wonder if we can make it again!

We had a very successful LAF book sale at the May luncheon at Corvallis Country Club.

We netted \$356.50.

AAUW member sales \$292.00

Book Bin sales \$53.00

Browsers sales \$11.50

Again congratulations to all of the members who generously contributed books and media articles and to those who made purchases at the meeting. The remaining articles were donated to the Friends of the Library for their February book sale.

LAF Highlighted at AAUW Convention: 25 Years of Progress and Precedents

The LAF Anniversary Dinner on Sunday, July 1, was very exciting. Laura Leedy Gansler and Clara Bingham received the 2007 Speaking Out for Justice Award. Gansler promised that, following in the footsteps of her mother and aunts, she and Bingham would be AAUW members by the end of the week. LAF-supported plaintiff Claire Shuster followed with a moving yet humorous speech that demonstrated her commitment to Berea College's mission and her passion for equity for all women. It was truly a night to remember and a fitting way to celebrate this benchmark. LAF's movie night featuring "North Country", the film based on the book written by Gansler and Bingham, was shown to a standing-room-only house on June 30.

2007 Progress in Equity Award Winner Announced!

At the 2007 AAUW convention in Phoenix, LAF announced the 2007 Progress in Equity Award winner--the Women in Transition (WIT) program at Charter Oak State College of New Britain, Connecticut. The WIT program provides higher education opportunities for low-income, underemployed single mothers to make the transition from low-paid work to a college degree through distance education without cost or barriers of time and place. The WIT program has enabled underserved women to realize their dream of earning a college degree, empowering them to achieve a goal they had considered unattainable. On a related note, AAUW members were instrumental in the founding of Charter Oak State College. Many years ago AAUW of Connecticut prepared a booklet for nontraditional women students, and members of the Naugatuck Branch helped women who wanted to go back to college. These AAUW members saw that there was a great need for an institution to accommodate such women and undertook an intensive lobbying effort in the state legislature. In 1973, the school's charter was authorized. The WIT program will officially receive the PIE Award at a reception this fall.

--Marilyn Roland

Corvallis Branch LAF Liaison



News & Notes

Christmas in May" News

You may recall we had a special fundraising event this spring to help bring joy to the lives of impoverished children in Kenya. Juliana Mbutia put me in contact with the orphanage. Our efforts toward helping those orphans was/is greatly appreciated, as you will see from the e-mails I received from the Yatima Our Lady of Mercy orphanage in Othaya, Kenya. The first is the response from my initial inquiry of how and when to wire the money. Their July 14th e-mail was to confirm they had received the money. (We sent \$400; the Western Union fee was \$28. So, the total money involved was \$428.)

Thanks to all who donated. (Can you feel the love?)

Jan Rounds

June 19, 2007

Receive much greetings from Yatima our lady of Mercy group. I gratefully acknowledge deep appreciation of all your efforts towards these less fortunate children, indeed miserable.

I confirm that they have never received any gifts of any kind and this will be a great excitement more so because regardless of the distance, you are nearer than none other.

Be assured that whatever you send will be spent wholly on our children. I am sure they will feel loved, wanted, valued and their lives will be renewed. Thanks for joining hands with us.

Leah Wambui Gatheru

July 14, 2007

Receive much greetings. We would like to confirm receipt of the money for xmas gifts for our children. We intend to hold the party on 15.08.2007 during the school holidays. This is because we have taken most of our orphans to boarding schools, both primary and secondary schools. Too, this day is the feast of "ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY IN HEAVEN." As our matron, we like celebrating her feast.

We promise to let you know how the party was soon afterwards. We shall still give you our xmas plans for the next season.

Yatima group is in short of words for your heart-felt concern for our children.

We sincerely thank all concerned whole heartedly and we pray for God's blessings in your lives. Be assured you will be part of us on the said date and an intention too during the mass on the feast day.

May God bless you mightily and protect all of you always.

The money will be wholly spent on our children, no doubt. Once more thank you.

Leah Gatheru

Interest Groups



Afternoon Literature Group

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m.

Carolyn Simmons, 758-0271
CrCAROLYN@aol.com

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

The Storyteller's Daughter by Saira Shah

Hostess: Marilyn Roland, 4099 NW Live Oak Place
Reviewer: Carolyn Simmons

We will be choosing hostesses and reviewers for November - March. If you can help with either, but can't make the meeting, please let me know. New members are welcome.



Evening Literature Group

Meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
NOTE Special Time for Sept. 5th

Connie Anderson caroadkill@proaxis.com
Maxine Eckes m.eckes@comcast.net

September 5th

It will be a salad potluck, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Dianne Jackson, 6484 NW Sisters Place - 738-0885
diquilter@comcast.net

The Constant Princess – reviewed by Jan Tallis
Please call or email Dianne if you plan to attend

Directions to Dianne's home:

Travel north on Highland Ave. until you come to Lewisburg Dr. Turn left onto Lewisburg and continue for .3 mile then turn right onto Burgundy Dr. (the only way that you can turn - the sign is small!). Continue on Burgundy until you come to a cul de sac (.2 mile) where you will be forced to turn right in order to stay on Burgundy. Follow this road up and around for .6 mi. to Sisters Place where you will turn left (again the only way you can turn). Follow Sisters until you come to the cul de sac at the end (.3 mi.) where you will see a gravel road and a sign saying "Private Road - authorized vehicles only". You are authorized! so continue on this for about .1 mi. until you come to the driveway on the left. There should be enough parking at the top of it so continue up to the front of the house. -Dianne



No-Host Lunch

Drop in for lunch at **11:45 a.m.** on the Third Thursday of any month. Check your bulletin for details.

In September, we'll kick-off another year of good food and good friends on **Thursday, September, 20, 2007**, at **McGrath's Fish House** (Hwy. 99 and Circle Blvd. / K-Mart Shopping Center). Come join us for a bite, visit with your old AAUW friends and maybe meet some new ones. No reservations necessary.

New members are welcome.

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



Events Calendar

SEPT	Activity	Time	Location
5	Evening Lit Group	7:30 p.m.	
11	Afternoon Lit Group	2:00 p.m.	Marilyn Roland, 4099 NW Live Oak Place
13	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	US Bank (corner of 9 th and Walnut)
15	Welcome Back Brunch	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	First United Methodist Church Martha Room
15	Newsletter deadline		
20	No-Host Lunch	11:45 a.m.	McGrath's Fish House

Corvallis AAUW Receives Thanks for Local Scholarships

Each year, Corvallis AAUW awards scholarships to two girls so that they will be able to attend Oregon State University's *Expeditions* (third and fourth graders) and *Adventures in Learning* (fifth and sixth graders) summer camps for talented and gifted students. The funds for the scholarships come from your generous donations to the local scholarship fund. The following letters show how much the scholarships meant to these students.

Our *Expeditions* student wrote:

Thank you for the donation money. I can't believe anybody would want to donate some money for day camp. I wanted to thank you so much. I am taking chemistry, doll design, and design your own dream house. If it wasn't for you I would not have been in this program. In chemistry, we were growing crystals. We voted which crystal garden was the best and I won! Two weeks ago I didn't really like chemistry but because of you I love it now.

Our *Adventures in Learning* student wrote:

I would like to thank you for the great summer you gave me. Without your generosity summer would be meaningless for me. I have learned so much from my classes. My favorite class is forensic science. We have learned about different types of fingerprints and how to tell them apart. Our current case is about counterfeit money and how you can tell what type of pen a letter was written in. I am looking forward to coming again next year. Thank you very much.