

Branch Newsletter

Mission

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

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Branch Program

Coordinator: Jan Rounds



You're Invited to a Holiday Tea and Poinsettia Sale

Friday, November 30th, 2007

4 to 6 pm

Shirley Wirth's home
3994 NW Boxwood Dr.
Corvallis, 754-7186

Come join us for a fun afternoon of goodies and poinsettias. Please bring a small plate of munchies to share (a dozen or so, no more).

The **\$10 poinsettias** will be there for you to purchase. Most of the 6 1/2" plants will be red, with several pinks and a few white ones. Cash or checks are fine. Checks should be made out to Corvallis AAUW.

The profit from your poinsettia purchase will benefit AAUW's Educational Foundation (EF).

Don't want poinsettias? We'll gladly accept EF donations!

Straight EF donation checks should be made out to *AAUW Educational Founda-tion.*

See you on the 30th!

Directions: Take Walnut Blvd. to Glenridge Drive. Proceed north on Glenridge and take a right on Boxwood. 3994 NW Boxwood is on the right-hand side of the street.



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
739-0885
diqulter@comcast.net
Marion Dickens
753-1006
mardick4@msn.com

Treasurer

Sue Borden
752-6036
sueborden@cmug.com

Secretary

Janice Abele
753-5432
jlabele@aol.com

Newsletter Editor

Martha Jenkins
758-4390
marthaj@peak.org

President's Message

Edie's Notes—The Personal Touch: Priceless

By President
Edie Lee

edie.lee@lifetime.oregonstate.edu



“Rather than spending a lot of money, you can give the gift of time. Take time to talk with your friends and relatives; offer to help with some chores or projects; use your creativity to make something personalized for the recipient.”
-Edie Lee

The Holiday Season is upon us once again, the stores are filled with holiday gifts, and people are scurrying about looking for the latest toy or high-tech gadget. The emphasis is on spending lots of money to show that you care. Many of us are involved in this madcap spending spree, but there is an alternative. Rather than spending a lot of money, you can give the gift of time. Take time to talk with your friends and relatives; offer to help with some chores or projects; use your creativity to make something personalized for the recipient. Your time and interest will be appreciated more than the glitzy gift that you were planning to buy.

In the same way, your gift of time and creativity to AAUW events and projects is much appreciated by the membership. Although your participation may not be obvious to the casual observer, there is a lot of behind-the-scenes help that is vital to the smooth running of the branch and the implementation of the various programs and interest groups. I would like to give my sincere thanks to all of you who have helped make our branch a success.

For those of you who have not been active participants, come to a monthly program, join an interest group, come to a no-host lunch, and

get to know some of the wonderful women we have in this organization. I'm sure that you'll have a good time and will come back for more! We welcome your ideas as we plan for future events and would welcome your help in making them a reality.

As we navigate through this holiday season, think of others, be kind to the people you meet, and be good to yourself. Wishing you peace, health and happiness in this season and in the New Year.



News & Notes

By President
Edie Lee

edie.lee@lifetime.oregonstate.edu

Corvallis and Albany Assisting Iraqi Refugees (CAAIR)

A local organization has been raising funds for humanitarian purposes to help Iraqi citizens who have fled to Jordan. This is a worthy cause that deserves our consideration. CAAIR is raising money to help Mercy Corps, an Oregon-based, non-governmental organization (NGO) with its work in Jordan. Mercy Corps is recognized for excellent aid work around the world.

Alternative Gift cards are the CAAIR fund raising activity for the remainder of November and December. Make a contribution to CAAIR of \$10 or more

and choose a card from four different designs to send to the person you are honoring and announce your gift. Cards are available at **Gifts for a Better World** at the First Congregational United Church of Christ through December 2nd, Monday – Friday 10 am – 6 pm, Saturday 10 am – 5 pm and Sunday noon – 5pm. They will also be available at the **UUFC Holiday Bazaar** Saturday, December 1st 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis, 2945 NW Circle Blvd.

On Friday, January 25, 2008, 7:30 pm there will be

a **benefit Contra Dance** with music by The Nettles at the gym of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 4515 West Hills Rd., Corvallis.

Plans for other fund raising activities in January and early February include **films at the Darkside Cinema, a musical event, and a slide/lecture titled The Many Faces of Islam.**

You may also send tax deductible contributions to CAAIR, P.O. Box 365, Corvallis, OR 97339-0365.

The website is www.caair.org. Contact CAAIR at contact@caair.org.



Lincoln City Branch Invites AAUW Members on a Home Tour

The 9th annual Salishan Home Tour sponsored by the Lincoln City Branch of AAUW is planned for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1.

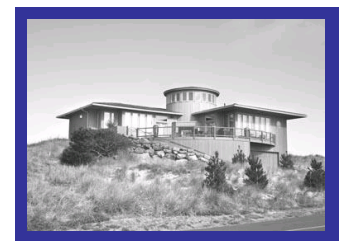
The tour begins at the Salishan Golf Resort Pro Shop at U.S. Highway 101 and Gleneden Beach Loop Road, and features five architecturally distinctive homes in the unique gated

community of Salishan. Vans will transport participants along the tour route. The homes are not handicapped accessible.

AAUW members will also be selling holiday cookies and attractive handmade cookbooks with delicious casserole recipes. Tickets for the tour are \$15 each, and available at Le Domaine in the Shops at

Salishan, the Lincoln City Visitor and Convention Bureau, or the Pro Shop the day of tour.

Proceeds from the annual home tour provide scholarships for local high school seniors and students returning to college, as well as dictionaries for all local third grade students. Further details call 764-3080.





Public Policy

Eliminate Gender Bias in Science Fields

By Public Policy Chair
Rosemary Cunningham
cunninghamrt@comcast.net



A recent National Academies report, [*Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering*](#), found that women repeatedly face biases in academia in the science fields, and that these barriers to success discourage them from careers in these areas. In response to this report, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) recently introduced the **Gender Bias Elimination Act (H.R. 3514)**.

This important piece of legislation directly addresses concerns raised in the National Academies report by authorizing workshops that educate university department chairs, agency program officers, and others on reducing and eliminating gender bias for women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Under this act, agencies that fund scientific research—such as the National Institute of

Health and the National Science Foundation—will also be directed to better enforce existing federal anti-discrimination laws (including Title IX), assess the workplace climate, publish demographic and funding data for grant applications, and extend grant support for researchers on leave for caregiving duties.

Declining interest in science and a shortage of American scientists is a threat to American competitiveness on a national scale, problems that are exacerbated by the low numbers of women and girls working or studying in STEM fields. The Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology's report *Professional Women and Minorities* states that women now comprise 25 percent of the labor force in STEM fields. If women and members of other traditionally underrepresented groups joined the STEM workforce in

proportion to their representation in the overall labor force, the shortage of STEM professionals would disappear.

AAUW supports promoting and strengthening STEM education, especially for women and other underrepresented populations in the fields. AAUW believes this legislation remove barriers to success and encourage more women to choose careers in STEM fields.

Take Action!

To urge your representative to cosponsor the **Gender Bias Elimination Act**, just copy and paste the following URL into your Internet browser. Then follow the instructions to send a message to your U.S. representative: <http://capwiz.com/aauw/issues/alert/?aler-tid=10525271&type=CO>

Educational Foundation

EF and LAF Fundraiser

By Education Foundation
Chair Jan Rounds
donjan@peak.org

An Evening of Merriment, Music and More

Friday, January 18, 2008

Showtime: 7:00pm

Donation: \$15.00

First Congregational United Church of Christ
4515 SW West Hills Road

Reserve the Date!

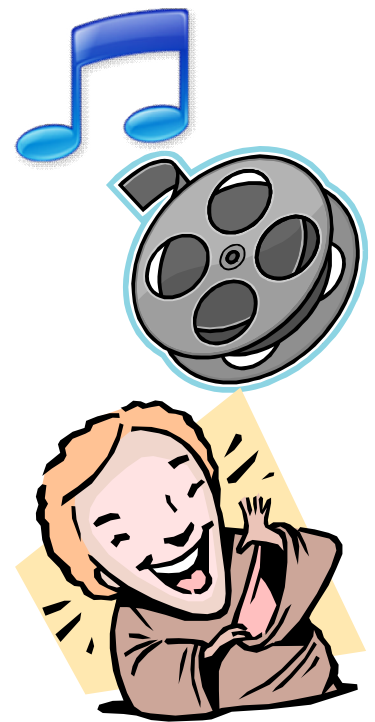
This year we take a comedy romp on the "Road to Morocco" with Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour. Enjoy a comedy classic from 1942, indulge in absolutely decadent

desserts, including a gourmet selection without sugar, and support AAUW's Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund. Bring a friend!

Introduce a new generation to the comedy duo

of Crosby and Hope with the exotic Dorothy Lamour.

At least \$10 per person will be tax-deductible as the proceeds will go to these 501(c)(3) organizations working for equity for women.



Membership

New Member

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

Elizabeth Waldorf
3840 NW Lincoln Ave.
Corvallis OR 97330
(541) 207-3613
PhD. Zoology, Ohio State University
elizabeth.waldorf@mgccc.edu



Legal Advocacy Fund

By LAF Liaison
Marilyn Roland
rolandm2@comcast.net

LAF Adopts Two Plaintiffs

Melissa Jennings, a former student and soccer player at the University of North Carolina, brought a claim against the university alleging that the head coach sexually harassed players on the team. Sherry Towers, a post-doctoral research scientist, is suing the State University of New York at Stony Brook for sex and pregnancy discrimination under Title VII and Title IX, unequal pay, and denial of pregnancy leave.

to determine the types of programs that the university can implement to improve the campus climate and increase awareness of and sensitivity to these concerns.

Charter Oak State College Program Wins AAUW Award

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund granted the Women in Transition program of Charter Oak State College in New Britain, CT, the 2007 Progress in Equity Award for its work in advancing educational opportunities for women in a critically-underserved population.

The Women in Transition (WIT) program provides higher education opportunities for low-income, underemployed single mothers to earn their college degrees through online courses, which allow them the freedom to work and care for their children while minimizing travel

costs. Through this program, participants have become not only strong, empowered individuals but also role models for their children. The program will receive \$5000 from AAUW and will use the award to fund the technology needs of its students.

The Progress in Equity Award recognizes college and university programs that promote equity for women. Now in its 20th year, the award has provided \$111,700 to 40 schools and programs across the country.

An interesting sidelight is that AAUW members were instrumental in the founding of Charter Oak College. The school's charter was authorized in 1973.



LAF Continues Campus Outreach Effort

On November 19 LAF Director Lauren Kamnik met with students, faculty, and staff on the campus of Central Connecticut State University to discuss sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sex discrimination. Kamnik and the CCSU Women's Center will use these discussions

Rides to AAUW Events

By Edie Lee



We would like some help in coordinating rides for those members who wish to attend various AAUW events and need rides.

Ideally, we would like a contact person for each part of town. If you can be a contact person or are able to provide rides to

events, please contact Janice Abele: jla-bele@aol.com Phone 730-0503

Interest Groups



Gourmet Group

By Brenda Rowley

On Dec. 1st, several AAUW members and their guests will partake of a dinner featuring dishes commonly eaten in Afghanistan. It has been fun planning this meal which will introduce us to new flavors and

different ways of preparing meat and grains.

The next Gourmet Dinner will take place on Jan. 19th. Participants will be preparing and consuming foods from an Italian menu. It is not too early to make reserva-

tions for this meal with Brenda Rowley at 752-6779.

Thanks, from your Gourmet Committee: Christine Cantey, Denise Nervik and Brenda Rowley



No Host Lunch

By Carolyn Simmons

Once again this December we'll meet at Michael's Landing for our third Thursday no-host lunch at 11:45 a.m. The third Thursday is December 20th, and I'll need res-

ervations called or e-mailed to me by **Monday, Dec.17th**. This year, bring a small decoration or ornament. Tell us how/why it's significant to you. There will be room for 18 at most, so get your name in to me

soon.

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



Afternoon Literature Group

By Carolyn Simmons

We'll meet on Tuesday, December 11, at 2:00 p.m., at the home of Brenda Rowley, 1581 NW Hillcrest

Drive. Dorothy Ruff will be reviewing Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See. Contact Person: Carolyn Simmons,

758-0271, CrCAROLYN@aol.com.



Evening Literature Group

By Connie Anderson

December's AAUW Evening Lit Group will be reviewing Jill Ker Conway's book Road from Corrain. Mary Mills will be giving the author report. We will be meeting

Wed. Dec. 5th at 7:30 PM at Elaine McManus' house with Betty Iverson as co-hostess. Please let Elaine know if you plan on coming by e-mailing her emmcmamus@comcast.net or calling her

at 752-5678. Elaine lives at 1810 NW Juniper Dr., Corvallis. Thanks!



Great Decisions Discussion Group

By Charlotte Drost

The AAUW Great Decisions Discussion Group is forming. This program engages groups across the nation on subjects of interest in foreign affairs. We discuss current topics each week in an infor-

mal setting. Participants will purchase a discussion briefing booklet, and pay part of the cost of a weekly current DVD on each topic, for a total cost of \$20 per participant. The 8-week series will be on Wednesdays, Jan. 23 to March 12 from 1 PM to 3 PM in

the conference room at the Corvallis Caring Place-750 NW 23 d St. Corvallis. **Registration deadline is Dec. 15.** To register please call Charlotte Drost at 753-7253 or email mkcgdrost@aol.com.

EVENTS CALENDAR

NOV	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
30	Holiday Tea and Poinsettia Sale	4—6pm	Home of Shirley Wirth 3994 NW Boxwood Dr, Corvallis
DEC	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
5	Evening Literature Group		Home of Elaine McManus 1810 NW Juniper Dr., Corvallis
11	Afternoon Literature Group	2:00pm	Brenda Rowley, 1581 NW Hillcrest Drive
15	Newsletter Articles due to Patti Cleveland		Email to pattic@peak.org
15	Registration Deadline for Great Discussions Series		Contact Charlotte Drost at 753-7253 or email mkcgdrost@aol.com .
20	No Host Lunch RSVP by December 17th!	11:45am	Michael's Landing RSVP to Carolyn 758-0271
JAN	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
18	EF and LAF Fundraiser Merriment, Music and More, \$15.00 Donation	7:00pm	First Congreg. United Church of Christ 4515 SW West Hills Road
19	Gourmet Group Dinner—Italian Menu		Contact Brenda Rowley 752-6779
23	Great Decisions Discussion Group	1:00pm	The Corvallis Caring Place