



The newsletter of the Corvallis, OR Branch of the
American Association of University Women

www.corvallis-aauw.org



Branch Newsletter

Volume 27, Number 5

January 2007

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

Clueless at the Top: While the Rest of Us Turn Elsewhere for Life, Liberty, and Happiness

by
Harriet & Charlotte Childress
Diversity Consultants

Saturday; January 20, 2007
1:30 PM

Corvallis Public Library Meeting Room
645 NW Monroe Avenue
Co-sponsored with Friends of the Library

Want more sanity in your life, our world?
More peace, hope, and happiness, too?
Then move away from hierarchies
For fresh air and a beautiful view.

Millions of us in the United States and around the world are ready for significant fundamental change in our nation, our families, and our world. Turning our heads from looking up to the top to looking outside gives us a refreshing wave of relief and purpose and vast new possibilities. Once we cut our puppet strings, we are free to move by our own direction to build the lives we really want.

Harriet and Charlotte Childress will review their book, *Clueless at the Top*, explaining hierarchies and what they mean for our lives. They'll help us transform what we already know about diversity to establish alliances that build equality, fairness, and collaboration in our communities, workplaces, families, and world. With their help we can discover that our common experiences of being higher in some "pecking orders" and lower in others unify us on paths to new, powerful solutions.

Invite your friends and neighbors to join you. The meeting is open to the public. Coffee and cookies will be served, and discussion is encouraged.



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President's Message

President
Sue Borden, 752-6036
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Notes from Sue: Change is in the wind...

At the beginning of a new year, change is on our minds. Our New Year's Resolutions inspire us to change—change destructive habits, change goals for ourselves, and, importantly, change our attitudes—toward ourselves and others. It's a good thing, because as we all know, we should always expect (and plan for) change---except from a vending machine!

AAUW is changing. At the national level, the Board has revised AAUW's Mission Statement to be more succinct and action oriented. *"AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research."*

The Vision Statement has changed, too. *"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."*

Our next Branch meeting will give us some new ideas about changes we could make. Come and get acquainted with Harriet and Charlotte Childress, Eugene authors who have some interesting ideas on how we can deal with the hierarchies that often rule our lives and keep us from doing what we really want.

So, change is on our minds. Let us consider change carefully, but boldly. As an anonymous quote in the latest issue of AAUW's Outlook says, *"Change is the essence of life. Be willing to surrender what you are for what you could become."*

LUNAFEST Corvallis

Linda Lovett, 738-6875



On January 27, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., the Benton County Breast and Cervical Cancer Coalition will host the third annual LUNAFEST Corvallis at OSU's LaSells Stewart Center Austin Auditorium. The festival features nine short films "by, for, or about women," with a total running time of 90 minutes. Films range from quirky animation to touching documentaries; all the films celebrate women in our local and global communities. Proceeds will benefit the Benton County Breast and Cervical Cancer Coalition for its early detection and outreach programs; the OSU Women's Center for health education; and The Breast Cancer Coalition for research and advocacy on environmental and other preventable causes of the disease. Tickets will be available January 12th at LaSells, the OSU Women's Center, Grass Roots Bookstore, and Rice's Pharmacy.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$8 for students. Learn more about LUNAFEST at www.lunabar.com; for information about LUNAFEST Corvallis, call Linda Lovett at 738-6875.



Membership

V.P. Membership
Louise Livesay, 753-4813
Mary Mills, 745-7961
Nelwyn Price, 754-3612



Welcome New Member

Karen Kiemnec

Karen has a B.S. degree from Oregon State Univ. and is working on her Ph.D in zoology. She is currently working on salamander reproductive behavior and hopes to gain a professorship at a small university.

She has been a resident of Corvallis the past 6 years and has also lived in Louisiana. Her interests include tennis, scrapbooking, rock-climbing, hiking and looking for herps- (amphibians and reptiles).

Karen learned about our branch of AAUW from another graduate student at OSU. She would like to meet women who study in other academic disciplines and get involved in supporting women in their chosen careers.

Karen has one request ----- She is looking to adopt an "orange tabby kitten"! Can anyone be of assistance?

Additions / Updates

New Member

Karen Kiemnec
1750 NW Grant Ave.
kiemneck@science.oregonstate.edu
H - 760-7415 W - 737-8140
BS - OSU
Zoology

New email addresses

Linda Lovett
linlov@comcast.net



Membership Support

Our Holiday Tea on the afternoon of December 1st, was the perfect time to ring in the Holiday Season. Over 35 members attended the tea at the home of Nancy Sanderson. Poinsettias galore decorated Nancy's lovely home and we all enjoyed wonderful goodies and good conversation. Our newest members, Karen Kiemnec and Juliana Mbuthia attended, which gave all of us the opportunity to visit and get to know them better. Many thanks to Nancy for opening her lovely home to us and thanks to all the members who brought guests and wonderful holiday food. It was a fine time to see us at our best!

WE ARE 100 MEMBERS STRONG

A big "Thank You" to so many members for helping to recruit new members to our branch and introducing people to the mission of AAUW. Now our challenge is to encourage and invite our new members to become involved in branch meetings and our interest groups. The Membership Committee is requesting names and addresses of prospective members so we can send them a copy of our monthly newsletter and invitations to AAUW events. Half year dues are in effect from January 1st through March 15th, so this is another reason to tell friends and neighbors about AAUW. Please respond to Mary Mills, Louise Livesay or Nelwyn Price.

Celebrate Our Successes in 2006!

[More Info](#)

Thank you for playing an integral role in the success of the AAUW Action Network this past year. Your advocacy and that of tens of thousands of others in our nationwide network of e-activists has helped AAUW make an impact on public policy issues throughout 2006. The growing power and reach of this network can claim some impressive achievements.

Just consider that over the past year, together, we have:

- Convinced the House and Senate to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, with improved provisions for women and girls.
- Helped defeat several attempts to repeal the estate tax, and told the truth about the impact of continued budget and tax cuts on services critical to women and girls, especially education programs.
- Turned out the women's vote by sending reminder e-cards celebrating Women's Equality Day, and others urging women to register to vote and to go to the polls on Election Day. Action Network also ensured the distribution of AAUW's [Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout Guide](#), resulting in voter education programs across the country.
- Held members of Congress accountable using the [AAUW Congressional Voting Record](#). Action Network members thanked members of Congress who scored well for their support of AAUW priority issues, and the [AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps](#) hand-delivered voting records and thank you notes to all members scoring 80 percent or above.
- Increased awareness of the wage gap between men and women through programming based on AAUW's [Pay Equity Resource Kit](#) and forwarding Equal Pay Day e-cards across the country.
- Supported successful efforts to pass the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, holding true to AAUW's suffragette past and the conviction that all citizens should have the right to vote free from intimidation and discrimination.
- Protected the United States Constitution by ensuring that discrimination was not codified in the most sacred democratic document by defeating the Federal Marriage Amendment. AAUW was founded at a time when women were relegated to second-class status and addressing that injustice has been at the heart of our mission ever since.
- Successfully advocated for the passage of the South Dakota ballot initiative, which overturned a state law that would have banned all abortions, making no exceptions even in cases of rape, incest or the health of the mother.
- Persuaded the Food and Drug Administration to finally approve over-the-counter sale of emergency contraception to women after years of political delays.
- Ensured that proposed "Sunset Commissions," which likely would have cut critical social programs outside the democratic process, were not advanced within the House and Senate.
- Helped to kick off AAUW's 125th anniversary celebrations, recognizing a [125 year legacy of leadership](#).

Interactive Murder Mystery plus Dinner Coming this February

EF and LAF fundraiser



The Final Cut

Rehearsals begin the week of January 8, with performances in early February. If you would like to try playing a truly campy role, with lots of humor, Call Stefani McRae-Dickey, 929-7988 for information, and check the AAUW Corvallis website for information updates regarding ticket sales and show times.

Jan Rounds, 754-7730

Poinsettia Sale and EF donations

Many thanks to Nancy Sanderson; her gracious hospitality made our Holiday Tea quite special! The poinsettia sale that day was fun and festive. The total profit from the plant sale was \$185. Donations made directly to EF at the Tea were \$110. So our total EF donation from our Holiday Tea was \$295. Thanks to those of you who purchased and donated! A large majority of those attending indicated they liked the "no pre-order" format. Next year, though, we'll try to include some white poinsettias for you to choose from!



Getting to Know Juliana

I asked Juliana to tell us about her country. Her comments about Kenya will continue in next month's newsletter.
Jan Rounds

Juliana says:

This is what I would like you to know about my country, Kenya. Economically: Kenya is a developing country. Many people live below the poverty line. The unemployment level is very high, and even those who are employed earn very low income. Statistics show that many families survive on less than \$1 per day.

Politically: Kenya gained independence in 1963 from the British. We have a presidential system of government. The presidential and parliamentary elections are held every 5 years. Our current president is His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki. He is the Third President since independence.

Education: The current government provides free primary (elementary) education. Due to poverty many parents are unable to take their kids to high school. This problem is also compounded by the fact that we don't have enough institutions of higher learning. More than 600,000 kids sit for the 8th-grade exam every year but only one-fourth of them can be accommodated at our available high schools. Worse still, less than 20,000 can be accommodated at our public universities and less than 15,000 join the few private universities we have in the country.

Tourism: Kenya is a beautiful country. Being near the equator we enjoy good weather throughout the year. When it gets very cold here, and you want to get away, think about going to Kenya! We have 42 tribes with many tribal languages and different cultures. We also have wild life, a number of game parks, including the famous Maasai Game Park. Here you get to see all types of wild animals: e.g. lions, elephants, you name them—they are all there. Try visiting Kenya and you won't regret it!

Juliana's family is hoping to obtain their visas in January. We'll keep you posted.

(More about Kenya next month.)

Marilyn Roland, 752-5257

- A big "THANK YOU" is extended to Corvallis Branch for contributing \$215.00 to LAF at the November branch meeting. LAF celebrated 25 years of service to individuals in higher education seeking justice. Your generosity is truly appreciated. This amount brings our annual LAF contribution to \$772.50. Congratulations!
- Please start collecting gently-used books and other media items for the LAF Book Sale at the May 2007 branch luncheon at Corvallis Country Club.

LAF Celebrates 25 years of Progress

Since 1981 the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund has helped students, faculty, staff, and administrators in higher education challenge discriminatory practices such as sexual harassment, denial of tenure or promotion, pay inequity, and inequality in women's athletics programs. Today LAF offers the following programs and services:

- Case support for sex discrimination lawsuits
- The LAF Progress in Equity Award, which recognizes a college or university program that has resulted in significant progress for women on campus.
- The Speaking Out for Justice Award, which is awarded biennially at the AAUW National Convention to prominent women who have successfully advocated for equity for women and girls.
- The Legal Referral Network of attorneys and social scientists who consult with the public on legal strategies, resources, and the strength of current and potential lawsuits
- The Campus Outreach Program to assist colleges in promoting gender equity
- The Plaintiff Travel Grant Program, which funds LAF-supported plaintiffs to speak at selected AAUW state conventions
- Informative research and newsletters, including LAF Update and Network News
- A resource library that covers issues on Title IX, sexual harassment, pay equity and other issues and includes LAF videos and publications
- Resources on how to navigate the legal system

To find out more about these programs, visit www.aauw.org/laf.

Interest Groups

Gourmet Group

Soups, Stews, and Breads will be featured at the Jan. 20th Gourmet Dinner, hearty fare for what will probably be a cool, wet evening. Fourteen people have made their reservations which leaves just two openings. If you want to attend the Jan. dinner hosted by Brenda Rowley and Bob Combs (please note change in hosts), please call Brenda at 752-6779.

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

No-Host Lunch

I've heard great things about lunch at **Le Patisier**, 370 SW Western Blvd., so we'll meet there for a drop-in lunch on the third Thursday in January, **1/18/07, at 11:45**. Hope you can join us in starting out the New Year out with a taste of pleasure. Just drop in, or you can contact:

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



Diversity / Equity

Eddie Lee
Eddie.Lee@oregonstate.edu

UNICEF Says Violence is Eroding Iraqi Women's Rights

A news release from Ms. Magazine, December 14, 2006:

Violence in Iraq is a growing threat to the empowerment of Iraqi women and girls, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said in a recent statement. The agency called for immediate action to improve the status of Iraqi women in its statement, which accompanied a report on the global status of women and children released earlier this week.

The continued violence aggravates problems such as poverty, limiting women's freedoms, UNICEF said. Employment opportunities and health services are reaching staggering lows. Only 14 percent of Iraqi women between 16 and 60 years old are currently employed, in contrast with 68 percent of men, UN figures show. Maternal mortality rates are also on the rise: between 193 and 290 per 100,000 according to surveys – compared with 41 per 100,000 in neighboring Jordan. Girls make up 74 percent of the 600,000 school-aged children unable to attend school because of violent and repressive climates. Instead, girls are marrying younger and younger: A 2004 national survey found that 60 percent of married Iraqi women aged 15 to 24 were married before 18 years of age.

UNICEF stressed that promoting women's rights is fundamental to Iraq's recovery. "Gender equality will not only empower women.. but also their children, families, communities, and countries," the report said. Recommended steps toward women's equality include enabling girls to return to school, supporting the increasing number of female-headed households in Iraq, setting quotas to ensure women's participation in government, and educating men and boys on the benefits of gender equality.

Interest Groups *continued*

Afternoon Literature Group

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

Carolyn Simmons, 758-0271

CrCAROLYN@aol.com

Tuesday, January 9th

The Year of Magical Thinking, by Joan Didion

Hostess: Muriel Lawrence, 930 NW Oakdell Place

Marilyn Treiman will lead a discussion

Also, we will vote for Book Club Selections for reading March - September, 2007.

All proposed "reads" must be submitted to Carolyn Simmons by Dec. 31, 2006.

Evening Literature Group

Meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Mary Gray, 752-5970

Shirley Wirth, 754-7186

January 3rd

Devil in the White City

Hostess – Ann Brodie

3145 NW Seneca

757-1728

Annbrodie143@comcast.net

Please call or email if you plan on attending

Reviewer – Rosie Cunningham

Events Calendar

JAN	Activity	Time	Location
3	Evening Lit Group	7:30 p.m.	Ann Brodie, 3145 NW Seneca
8	Board Meeting	12:30 - 2:00 p.m.	US Bank (corner of 9th & Walnut)
9	Afternoon Lit Group	2:00 p.m.	Muriel Lawrence, 930 NW Oakdell Place
15	Newsletter deadline		
16	Great Decisions	2 – 4 p.m.	Corvallis Caring Place Library Contact Charlotte Drost (753-7253) for further information.
18	No-Host Lunch	11:45 a.m.	Le Patisier , 370 SW Western Blvd
20	Program: <i>Clueless at the Top: While the Rest of Us Turn Elsewhere for Life, Liberty, and Happiness</i>	1:30 p.m.	Corvallis Public Library Meeting Room 645 NW Monroe Avenue
20	Gourmet Group		Brenda Rowley and Bob Combs (please note change in hosts), please call Brenda at 752-6779.