

Branch Newsletter

Mission

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

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Branch Program

By Chris Smith
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Luncheon

Saturday, June 13, 2009—11:45 a.m.

Gathering Together Farm, Philomath

Our summer program is lunch at the Gathering Together Farm on Saturday, June 13th at 11:45 a.m. This is a purely social event with no agenda other than to have a good time. We will be ordering off the menu which always has a nice selection of interesting meals. The menu highlights fresh, seasonal ingredients grown on the farm. You don't need to make reservations—just come on June 13th and have a good time!

Driving directions: When you reach Philomath from Corvallis on Highway 20, turn left on 13th Street (the second stoplight in Philomath) which becomes Fern Road; go about 1 mile and turn right onto Grange Hall Road where there is a sign; go about ¼ mile and the Farm is on the right side of the road. If you want to carpool, meet at the Bi-Mart parking lot on SW 53rd Street at 11:30 (park in the area facing 53rd). Hope to see you there!

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Educational Foundation

By Educational Foundation Chair
Diana Bernstein
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Each year, college women gather in Washington, D.C. for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. With 500 students expected, this conference provides a transformative experience for attendees, where students discover and enhance leadership skills, build relationships, network for the future, and meet national experts and workplace leaders.

The AAUW and NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education are co-sponsors of the June 4-6 conference at the University of Maryland, College Park. For over 125 years, AAUW has focused on the promotion of women and girls through education and advocacy. With a network of 100,000 members, 1,300 branches and 550 college and university members, AAUW has the capacity to affect and sustain a more promising future and a powerful voice for women and girls. NASPA with more than 11,000 members at 1,400 campuses, and representing 29 countries, is the largest professional association for student affairs administrators, faculty and graduate students. NASPA members are committed to serving college students by embracing the core values of diversity, learning, integrity,

service, fellowship and the spirit of inquiry.

The keynote speakers for this year's conference are Naomi Tutu and Ritu Sharma.

Tutu is the third child of Archbishop Desmond and Nomalizo Leah Tutu. She started her public speaking as a college student at Berea College in Kentucky in the 1970s when she was invited to speak at churches, community groups, and colleges and universities about her experiences growing up in apartheid South Africa. Since that time, she has become a much sought-after speaker and has led Truth and Reconciliation Workshops for groups dealing with conflict. Together with Rose Bator, she presents a workshop titled Building Bridges that deals with issues of race and racism. Tutu and Bator also lead women's retreats through their organization, Sister Sojourner. They are writing a book provisionally titled *I Don't Think of You as Black: Honest Conversations on Race and Racism*.

Ritu Sharma is the co-founder and president of Women Thrive Worldwide. In 1995, at age 26, Ritu led a coalition of more than 100 organizations to influence the United Nations Summit on Social Devel-

opment. She also served on the official U.S. delegation to the summit throughout its negotiations and later on the U.S. delegation to the United Nations General Assembly Session on Women, also known as "Beijing Plus Five."

In 2001, Ritu worked closely with Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY), Rep. Connie Morella (R-MD), and Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) to craft the GAINS for Women and Girls Act, the most comprehensive legislation on global women's issues ever introduced into the U.S. Congress. In 2007, Women Thrive took the section of the GAINS Act on violence against women and girls and expanded it into the International Violence Against Women Act.

Ritu holds a bachelor's degree in international economics from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a master's of public health from the Johns Hopkins University. She is the author of *An Introduction to Advocacy: A Training Guide* and serves on the Board of Directors of Inter Action and the Center for U.S. Global Engagement.



AAUW

2009 Local Scholarship Recipients

The scholarship committee, composed of Pam Duren, Martha Jenkins, Marilyn Treiman, Urchyl Bohard and Edie Lee, met in April to choose the recipients of our 2009/2010 local scholarships.

Corvallis AAUW awards scholarships annually to women students 25 years of age or older who reside in Linn or Benton County. Applicants must be admitted students at either Oregon State University or Linn-Benton Community College. They should plan to enroll in at least 8 credit hours each term seeking an undergraduate degree from OSU or an undergraduate degree or certificate from LBCC. Selection is based on the applicant's financial need, academic achievements, career goals, work experiences, community activities, honors and awards.

Amanda Jean Halama was awarded the \$1000 OSU scholarship, and Chitra Patel

received the \$750 LBCC scholarship.

Amanda has a double major in business administration and elementary education, and expects to complete her degree in June 2010. Having moved several times after high school, she found her career direction at OSU in the College of Education Double Degree program. After graduation she hopes to pursue a career in teaching at the third-grade level. She will strive to be the type of teacher who ignites passions in her students and fosters a love of lifelong learning. She has volunteered and held leadership positions in numerous campus and community groups, the most noteworthy of which was as an intern for Barack Obama's Campaign for Change during the election and as a team lead for Benton County during the inaugural preparations.

Chitra Patel is a surgical tech-

nician at Albany General Hospital and has been in the health care field for ten years. At LBCC, she is studying pre-medicine with a major in biology. She plans to continue her education at OSU with a BS degree in biology with a pre-medicine option. Her goal is to do research in molecular biology in order to contribute to the improvement of public health and make a difference in people's lives. She believes in the value of hard work and never gives up on her dream. She has volunteered in rural areas in India at a primary healthcare center as a member of a primary healthcare team, and has also worked as an operating room nurse in India.

Local scholarship funds come from member donations and the proceeds from our Bridge Marathon fundraiser. Thanks to everyone who has donated and all those who helped make the fundraiser a success.

Membership

Membership Dues Deadline is June 30

Please send in your membership dues by June 30. You create extra work for the treasurer and the membership committee if dues are sent in later than the end of June. As of now, about ¼ of

our membership has sent in their dues. Thank you to the early birds! The rest of you, please send it in now. A membership form is located in the April and May newsletter, and on the www.corvallis

By Membership Co-Vice President
Marion Dickens
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-aauw.org website. Remember that \$46 of the Association dues is tax deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes.

Public Policy

By Public Policy Chair
Marilyn Treiman
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AAUW Applauds White House Council on Women and Girls



President Obama signed an executive order formally establishing the White House Council on Women and Girls. In a signing ceremony in the East Room, which was attended by AAUW's Executive Director Linda Hallman, the President spoke before leaders of his Cabinet, executive branch agencies, and leaders of women's rights groups. The Council's mission will be grounded in legislation, policies, and research, but its overarching goal will be inspirational: "to ensure that our daughters and granddaughters have no limits on their dreams, no obstacles to their achievements -- and that they have opportunities their mothers and grandmothers and great grandmothers never dreamed of." The creation of such a council was an idea long-championed by AAUW. In December, AAUW spearheaded a letter to the Obama transition team requesting that the new administration restore and strengthen all

offices that in past administrations have played a fundamental role in protecting and advancing women's issues and opportunities. The creation of the Council is the first step in reestablishing critical women's programs in the executive branch. The Council will be chaired by Valerie Jarrett, Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor, and will include as members cabinet-level federal agencies. The Executive Director of the Council will be Tina Tchen, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Public Liaison at the White House. AAUW was a participant on the Council's kick-off conference call, which was led by Ms. Jarrett and Ms. Tchen on Friday morning. As stated in the executive order, the Council will "work across executive departments and agencies to provide a coordinated Federal response to issues that have a distinct impact on the lives of women and girls, including assisting women-owned businesses to compete internationally and working to increase the participation of women in the science, engineering, and

technology workforce, and to ensure that Federal programs and policies adequately take those impacts into account." It will meet regularly, make policy and legislative recommendations to the President, and conduct outreach to outside organizations, all of which will be focused on improving the lives and livelihoods of women and girls. Moreover, within the next five months, the Council must develop and submit to the President an interagency plan with recommendations for interagency action. During its first year, according to a White House press release, the Council will focus on many issues that are at the core of AAUW's mission, including: strengthening women's economic security, work/life balance for working women and their families, domestic violence prevention, and improving women's health care. AAUW applauds the formation of the Council, and looks forward to working with its members on our shared priorities and vision.



AAUW

Legal Advocacy Foundation

By Legal Advocacy Foundation Chair
Marilyn Roland
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Thanks to the Branch:

A big "Thank You" goes to all the members and guests who attended the AAUW luncheon Saturday, May 16, at Corvallis Country Club and donated books and other media materials for the sale. We will now be able to add \$203 to the monies going to the LAF Fund at the end of this year.

LAF provides the following services:

- 1) Provides financial and moral support for those fighting sex discrimination in the workplace and on campus
- 2) Develops and supports proactive Campus Outreach Programs
- 3) Produces comprehensive online legal resources
- 4) Sustains a network of attorneys
- 5) Advocates for equitable policies and practices for campuses and workplaces

Pregnancy Discrimination Case:

In October AAUW joined the National Women's Law Center in signing an amicus brief in support of employees in a pregnancy discrimination case before the U.S. Supreme Court. The case, *AT&T v. Hulteen*, involves a group of women who took pregnancy leave before the Pregnancy Discrimination Act passed, which resulted in smaller pensions than those of women who took pregnancy leave at AT&T after 1978.

The women argue that their pensions should reflect the new pregnancy leave policy, not the older, discriminatory policy. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit ruled in favor of the employees, but AT&T appealed.

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case in December and thus far no decision has been announced. The court's interpretation in *Ledbetter v Goodyear*, which limited

the time frame within which one could file suit over unequal pay, may be crucial to the ultimate decision in this case.

Under the Pregnancy Discrimination Act:

- 1) Employers with more than 15 employees are required to treat women who are pregnant the same way they treat other employees with temporary disabilities.
- 2) Facially discriminatory policies that limit or preclude women from performing specific jobs simply because they are fertile or pregnant are prohibited.
- 3) Actions by employers that result in disparate treatment or impact toward women because of their ability to become pregnant are also prohibited.
- 4) An employer cannot refuse to hire a pregnant woman because of her pregnancy or because of a pregnancy-related condition.



By Edie Lee and Nancy Neumann

Highlights of the AAUW of Oregon 84th Convention in Bend, April 24-26

The theme was "Choices for Women in a Changing World". All of the lunch and dinner speakers had topics relating to choice.

The conference began with Friday night's dinner and keynote speakers Dr. Gloria Salemo and Dr. Emelise Aleandri, who talked about their experiences being bullied in their jobs, their attempts to resolve the situation and how they eventually decided to take legal action. I expected their talk to have a resolution to their bullying experiences, but the matter is still in litigation. They plan to write a book about their story.

Our keynote speaker for Saturday's lunch was Sylvia Hayes, of 3E Strategies in Bend. She talked about sustainable practices in building, energy, and the economy as well as what we can do as individuals to promote sustainability.

Saturday afternoon we had a Town Hall meeting about the proposed Association bylaws changes. The discussion was

mainly about the proposed change to allow anyone to become a member of AAUW, with no educational requirements. One exercise that we did was to write a list of the most influential women in our life. Then we took a look at the list to see who would not be able to be an AAUW member because she lacked the educational requirements. Women such as Oprah and Ellen DeGeneres would not be qualified. After doing this exercise, we discussed how we now felt about the bylaws change.

Our Saturday night dinner featured two speakers who are doctoral candidates and recipients of 2008-9 AAUW American Fellowships. Sara Jaquette Ray read from her dissertation, entitled "The Ecological Other: Indians, Immigrants and Invalids in U.S. Environmental Thought, Literature and Activism." Devora Shamah is a grad student at OSU. She talked about her project "Looking

Toward the Future: Examining Aspirations Among Rural Youth". She found that if rural youth were introduced to the idea of going to college, they set college as their goal and took education more seriously.

We concluded with lunch and an inspirational speaker, Tammy Baney, Deschutes County Commissioner. She talked about her life as the abused wife of a drug addict, her decision to leave the marriage, her struggles as a single parent, her accomplishments on governmental commissions dealing with children and families, and her volunteer work with many non-profit organizations. She credits her upbringing with the outlook that she could accomplish anything that she made her mind up to do.

We felt that the conference was worthwhile and the presentations were informative. Next year's state convention will be April 23-25 2010, in Wilsonville.

Scholarship to NCCWSL Conference Awarded

Shaunia Banks, a senior at Western Oregon University, was awarded a \$100 scholarship to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in June at the University of Maryland. The program, **Leadership for To-**

day and Tomorrow, is intended to build leadership skills, advocacy, and networking. Shaunia is majoring in Social Science, and plans to attend graduate school at OSU in 2010. In her various jobs on campus, she has been

a resource for students and has helped with students' transition to college life. Her goal is to work for a non-profit organization that helps women and children who are in difficult family situations.



AAUW
Interest Groups

No Host Lunch

These are the last two lunch notices before we start up again for another great year in the Fall.

Remember, there will be no July Bulletin and no July Lunch. I. Thursday, **June 18**, 2009, we'll meet at New Morning Bakery, 219 SW 2nd Street,

Corvallis, at 11:45 a.m. Hope you can make it.

2. Thursday, **August 20**, 2009. We will have our annual get-together at Nearly Normals, 109 NW 15th Street, Corvallis, at 11:45a.m.

Please reserve your spot with me by Monday, August 17th.

By Carolyn Simmons

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

Put these dates **on** your calendar, so you will be sure to remember!



Afternoon Literature Group

We are changing plans for June. We will meet on Tuesday, June 9th at 2:00 p.m., at the "home" of **Muriel Lawrence**.

Muriel now lives at 1601 NW Garryanna and she will reserve the **Community Room** for our **June** meeting. Marilyn Roland will be leading the discussion of **The Zookeeper's Wife**, by Diane Ackerman.

VERY IMPORTANT;

No one has offered to lead the group beginning in September.

The job could be split into **3 parts:**

I. Voting and tallying in June and January. Being sure that EVERY member is afforded the opportunity to vote. Notifying members of "winners". Assigning Reviewers and Hostesses twice each year -- February and September.

Picking up any Book Bags from the Library, dispensing; then returning the books.

II. Keeping up on "the Clipboard", Making a Display for

September Brunch, and making/passing out *group member lists*.

Writing and sending off monthly Bulletin information on the 15th of each month to pattic@peak.org.

III. Making the Bookmarks (I will gladly continue to make and distribute these.

That's it! Please let me know ASAP, if you'd be willing to do job #1. or #2.

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

By Carolyn Simmons



Evening Literature Group

The Evening Lit Group will meet Wednesday, June 3rd, to discuss Water for Elephants, by Sara Gruen. Socializing

starts at 7:15; the discussion will begin at 7:45. The meeting will be at the home of Maxine Eckes, 3581 SW Par Place.

By Carol Sumner & Ann Brodie

Please call her at 754-1511, or email her at m.eckes@comcast.net if you plan to attend.



EVENTS CALENDAR

JUN	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
3	Evening Literature Group	7:15pm	Home of Maxine Eckes 3581 SW Par Place
9	Afternoon Literature Group	2:00pm	Home of Muriel Lawrence 1601 NW Garryanna
18	No-Host Lunch	11:45am	New Morning Bakery 219 SW 2nd Street

AUG	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
15	Newsletter Articles due to Patti Cleveland		Email to pattic@peak.org
20	No-Host Lunch	11:45am	Nearly Normals 109 NW 15th Street