

## Branch Newsletter

Volume 27, Number 7

March 2007

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



*Celebrate Women's History Month!*  
AAUW & the Benton County Historical Society present

**History Making Women**  
*A Seminar for Sophomore and Junior High School Girls*

**Wednesday, March 14, 2007**  
Benton County Historical Museum, 1101 Main Street, Philomath, OR

Continental breakfast, 8:30 A.M., provided by AAUW  
Seminar, 9 A.M. – 12:00 Noon  
**Please RSVP to [christensen@bentoncountymuseum.org](mailto:christensen@bentoncountymuseum.org) before  
Friday, March 9, 2007**

A panel of five outstanding, history making women will share their professional achievements, inspirations, and educational journeys as they explore the unlimited opportunities available to women who pursue educational options beyond their high school studies. High school sophomore and junior girls will be encouraged to consider continuing their educations beyond high school and will discuss career choices in traditional and non-traditional professions with the panelists.

The seminar facilitator is Kimberly S. Jensen, Ph.D., Western Oregon University, Professor of History and Women's Studies. The panel of history making women includes:

- Lindy Troland, Cultural Specialist, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Dawn Wright, OSU oceanographer, author and geographer
- Kim Smith, Artist, entering the Peace Corp (June, 2007)
- Juliana Mbuthia, OSU grad student and AAUW EF International Fellow
- J.B. Kim, Lewis & Clark College, Northwest School of Law, Director of Academic Enhancement

High school sophomore and junior girls and their instructors, from schools throughout the Willamette Valley and the Oregon coast, are invited to attend.

AAUW Members are invited to attend as well. Space is limited so be sure to RSVP to [christensen@bentoncountymuseum.org](mailto:christensen@bentoncountymuseum.org) by March 9, 2007.

### President

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# President's Message

**President**  
Sue Borden, 752-6036  
[sueborden@cmug.com](mailto:sueborden@cmug.com)



## Notes from Sue: Leadership and Change

Two months ago I wrote about changes in AAUW's mission and vision statements. Other organizational changes are coming, too. A number of proposals for restructuring the Association will be discussed and voted upon at the AAUW Convention in Phoenix AZ June 29 – July 2, 2007. These proposals can be found on the AAUW website and will, no doubt, be discussed at the AAUW of Oregon Convention in Salem April 27-29, 2007.

Closer to home, our Branch will be choosing new officers soon. Our Nominating Committee has been successful in finding good candidates for each of the vacant offices---except for one. No one has yet agreed to be the president-elect, who would serve on the board in 2007-08 and then lead the branch for 2008-09.

Speaking from experience, leading this Branch is really an opportunity for personal growth and inspiration. Our members are very competent women, who will do their jobs in the most creative, efficient, and interesting ways. Discussions are always stimulating, and productive. In store for anyone in the leadership position are "Five Good Things:

- *A sense of zeal that comes from connection with another person*
- *The motivation to take action*
- *Increased knowledge*
- *Increased self-worth*
- *Desire for more connections*

(quoted from Jean Baker Miller, a prominent psychologist and psychiatrist whose life's work was to point out women's strengths and explain the differences in their development as compared to men. )

Please consider contributing your leadership qualities to our Branch as president-elect. Sharing the responsibilities with another member is certainly a possibility. Many Branches have co-presidents. I'd be happy to talk to you about the responsibilities and the benefits of Branch leadership.

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## Great News and Many Thanks

Many thanks go to our wonderful nominating committee, Edie Lee, Jan Rounds, Pam Duren and Martha Jenkins. Five wonderful women have accepted nominations to the Board for 2007/2008. They are:

President: Edie Lee  
Program Vice-President: Sue Ann Bottoms  
Membership Vice-President: Pam Duren  
Secretary: Janice Abele  
Treasurer: Sue Borden

We will vote on this slate of officers at our April 21 Branch meeting.

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# Membership

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



## Membership F.Y.I.



**Our Corvallis Branch has 104 members!**

**The AAUW year: July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008**

**Prospective members may join in March and receive a 2007 - 2008 membership!**

**Current members should renew their membership by July 1, 2007.**

## Updates

Juliana W. Mbutia has a new address and phone number.

### **Juliana W. Mbutia**

3405 NW Orchard Ave. Apt #  
150 (541) 829-3463 - Cell  
Phone



# Educational Foundation

Jan Rounds, 754-7730

## Getting to Know Juliana

*This month Juliana tells us more about life at OSU and about her family. Jan Rounds*

I'm having a very busy week with the midterms. This term I am taking four classes: Linear Algebra, Calculus, Probability and Geometrical Transformation, plus a seminar.

My husband and the kids went to the embassy for a visa appointment on 24th of January. Unfortunately they were unsuccessful. They have another appointment next week on February 20th.

Pertaining to housekeeping: I think most of the basic things required to start were donated; thanks to the AAUW members and other well wishers for their unforgettable generosity. You have all been kind and good to me. I highly appreciate whatever each and every one of you has done for me. God bless you all.

I am also taking this opportunity to thank my host, Shelly Murphy. She welcomed me into her home, took care of me like her own and showered me with a lot of love. God bless her.

## Support Title IX High School Data Reporting in the Senate



When AAUW's Capitol Hill Lobby Corps was making the rounds of House offices last week asking representatives to cosponsor the recently introduced High School Athletics Accountability Act, H.R. 901, Lobby Corps members were told by Hill staff that they had been receiving messages from AAUW members about this bill. Since last week, many new cosponsors have been added to the bill because of AAUW efforts. This is an excellent example of how all of AAUW's advocacy strategies work together in pursuit of equity for women and girls.

This week, Lobby Corps will head to the other side of Capitol Hill seeking cosponsors for the Senate companion bill, S. 518, introduced by Sens. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and Patty Murray (D-WA). These important bills will require high schools to report basic information on the number of female and male students in their athletic programs and the expenditures made for their sports teams. Send a message today to strengthen Lobby Corps efforts on Thursday.

Title IX's impact on women's athletic participation is one of the country's greatest success stories. In the past three decades, Title IX has led to a 400 percent increase in the rate of female participation in college sports and a more than 800 percent increase in participation at the high school level.

Despite the significant gains girls and women have made since the enactment of Title IX, a significant drawback to the law's enforcement at the high school level involves the lack of data reporting. The U.S. Department of Education has not required these schools to report athletic opportunity, participation and funding statistics to any higher authority. As a result, high school girls are likely being deprived of the critical opportunity to play sports. In fact, we estimate that while girls comprise 49 percent of the high school population, they receive only 41 percent of all athletic participation opportunities -- 1.25 million fewer participation opportunities than male high school athletes. Colleges must report this data; it's time our high schools do too.

Feb. 7 was National Girls and Women in Sports Day. In honor of this day, AAUW urges all members of the Senate to become cosponsors of the High School Sports Information Collection Act and to support it once it comes up for a vote.

AAUW strongly supports both the House and Senate bills, and will be working for their passage in the 110th Congress. It's time we know the status of Title IX in America's high schools.

### Take Action!

To urge your senators to cosponsor and support the High School Sports Information Collection Act, just click on the "Take Action" link in the upper right corner, or copy and paste the following URL into your Internet browser, then follow the instructions to send a message to your U.S. Senators: <http://capwiz.com/aauw/issues/alert/?alertid=9368496>

If you haven't already done so, you can still [urge your representative](#) to support the High School Athletics Accountability Act, introduced by Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY).

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## March 2007 Women's History Month Display

Be sure to stop by the display case at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library to see the "Happy 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday AAUW" display.

You will be surprised by what you may discover!

Marilyn Roland, 752-5257

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*The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, a program of the AAUW Educational Foundation, is the nation's largest legal fund focused solely on sex discrimination in higher education. It provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.*

## AAUW Supports Female Coach in Montana Sex Discrimination Case

A former women's basketball head coach at Montana State University is receiving new funding from AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund to help battle an ongoing problem of sex discrimination and inequality at the school. Robin Potera-Haskins sued Montana State University-Bozeman on July 1, 2005 for sex discrimination and for retaliation for complaining about sex discrimination.

Throughout her employment, Potera-Haskins was given fewer privileges than the male coaches in the athletic department. She was paid 30 percent less than the male coaches and was not given benefits that male coaches routinely received, such as use of vehicles and cellular phones. She also contends she was given less autonomy over her team and was forced to use substandard practice facilities.

Potera-Haskins claims university officials told her that "winning is not a high priority for the women's....team" and that she should "lower expectations."

"AAUW is proud to support Robin in her case against an institution that puts men and women on unequal playing fields," said Lisa Maatz, interim director of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. "Sex discrimination is alive and well on college campuses, and we need to hold universities accountable."

The school's athletic director pressured Potera-Haskins to place his daughter on the basketball team and provide her with an athletic scholarship, even though she lacked the skills and qualifications to play at the Division I level. When Potera-Haskins filed a complaint with the university, no action was taken. She was eventually terminated without cause and replaced by a less-qualified male coach.

Potera-Haskins and AAUW assert that the school violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Montana Human Rights Act, and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. AAUW has contributed \$5000 to the case so far.

"Potera-Haskins was hired as the head coach of the women's basketball program at Montana State University in April 2001. She created a winning program, and her efforts--and that of her players--deserved more equitable treatment and respect from MSU," Maatz said.

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## Bridge Marathon Requests:

The AAUW Bridge Marathon is in full swing with 144 players vying for top scores. We'll be awarding prizes for top scores at our Final Night Bridge Party on Monday, April 16. What will be awarded? We're asking for your help on that.

Can you donate something for a prize—or ask a merchant for a donation? We prefer “consumable” items. Most of our bridge players are older women who, frankly, don't need more “things” but do appreciate prizes they can use up. Coupons for meals, coffee, snacks, or tickets to an event would be appropriate. We also would like to make prize baskets, groups of small items with a theme—total value around \$20. Here are some ideas:

- French Treat basket: wine, chocolate, bread, coffee, wine glasses, coffee cups, pretty napkins—other things “French.” (this one would be more valuable—and would be used for First Prize)
- Bridge Party basket: tallies, score pad, cards, pretty paper plates, cups, napkins, munchies (Mixed nuts, M&M's, pretzels)
- Movie Night Basket: DVD's or videos (gently used OK), popcorn, candy, soft drinks, popcorn bowls
- Reader's Book basket: book(s)(gently used OK), tea, cups, napkins, tissues, things that go with curling up with a book.
- Gardener's basket: seeds, small plants, gloves, tools, kneeling pad, etc.

The more we get donated, the more money we make! We're not asking anyone to provide a whole basket. **If you can provide any item**, please ask one of your AAUW Board members to bring it to the Board Meeting on March 12. If you have questions about an item or need more information, please contact Sue Borden or Evelyn Stephens.



# Diversity / Equity

Eddie Lee  
Eddie.Lee@oregonstate.edu

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## International Women's Day - March 8

Celebrated on March 8, International Women's Day (IWD) is the global day connecting all women around the world and inspiring them to achieve their full potential. IWD celebrates the collective power of women past, present and future. Each year on March 8, thousands of International Women's Day events occur all around the world. IWD events range from small random informal gatherings to large-scale highly organized events that have been planned for many months.

Many progressive global corporations clearly understand the importance of supporting women's advancement. They provide strong corporate leadership and social responsibility in actively developing and advancing female talent.

Purple, green and white are the official international women's colors. The colors originated from the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), in the UK in 1908. The colors were said to represent: white for purity in public as well as private life; purple for justice, dignity, self-reverence and self-respect (and representing the women's vote); green for hope and new life. The colors unified the women's movement and emphasized the femininity of the suffragettes. Many women's groups around the world who understand, respect and chose to honor the history and progress made by the suffragettes use purple as their predominant representative color.

In 1975, during International Women's Year, the United Nations began celebrating March 8 as International Women's Day. Two years later in December 1977 the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed on any day of the year by Member States. For the United Nations, International Women's Day has been observed on March 8 since 1975. The Day is traditionally marked with a message from the Secretary-General. The UN's theme for IWD 2007 is 'Ending impunity for violence against women and girls'.

Why dedicate a day exclusively to the celebration of the world's women?

In adopting its resolution on the observance of Women's Day, the General Assembly cited two reasons: to recognize the fact that securing peace and social progress and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms require the active participation, equality and development of women; and to acknowledge the contribution of women to the strengthening of international peace and security.

For the women of the world, the Day's symbolism has a wider meaning: It is an occasion to review how far they have come in their struggle for equality, peace and development. It is also an opportunity to unite, network and mobilize for meaningful change.

## Afternoon Literature Group

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

Carolyn Simmons, 758-0271  
[CrCAROLYN@aol.com](mailto:CrCAROLYN@aol.com)

### Tuesday, March 13th

**Breaking Clean** by Judy Blunt (A Library Book Bag Selection)

We'll meet at Louise Livesay's home  
2182 NW Myrtlewood Way

Get your copy of Breaking Clean from Jan Rounds (754-7730), and come to the meeting for an open discussion. Something fun and different!

Questions: Contact Carolyn Simmons

## Evening Literature Group

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

Mary Gray, 752-5970  
Jan Tallis, 757-8060

### Wed. March 7<sup>th</sup>

**March** by Geraldine Brooks

The evening lit group will be meeting at the Benton County Historical Museum - upstairs Mooreland Auditorium  
1101 Main St., Philomath

Mary Gray will review

Hostess – Jan Christensen [jchristensen6145@msn.com](mailto:jchristensen6145@msn.com)

Please email Jan if you plan on attending

## No-Host Lunch

Drop in for Lunch on Thursday, **March 15th at 11:45 @ Marzini's** (on Kings--between Rice's and Kinko's, across from Fred Meyer).

They often put coupons in the paper. Keep your eyes peeled. Hope to see you for a great Italian lunch in March.

Questions: Contact Carolyn Simmons, 758-0271, or  
[CrCAROLYN@aol.com](mailto:CrCAROLYN@aol.com)

## Gourmet Group

In late April the last Gourmet Dinner of the season will showcase recipes from the Moosewood Cookbooks. These recipes are very good, and we thought it would be fun to feature them in a Vegetarian Gourmet Dinner. There will be more about this meal in the April newsletter.

Thanks from your committee co-chairs: Christine Cantey, Denise Nervik and Brenda Rowley

## Great Decisions Interest Group

Meetings will be on Tues. Jan 16, 2007 through March 13, 2007 from 2-4 PM at the Corvallis Caring Place Library - 750 NW 23rd St. Topics this year are Middle East, Climate Change, Mexico, Migration, South Africa, War Crimes, Central Asia and Children's Rights. Please call Charlotte Drost at 753-7253 for further information.

# Events Calendar

MAR	Activity	Time	Location
2	<b>Program: <i>An Evening of Mystery, Murder and More</i></b>	7:00 p.m.	First Congregational United Church of Christ 4515 SW West Hills Road
7	Evening Lit Group	7:30 p.m.	Benton County Historical Museum - upstairs Mooreland Auditorium, 1101 Main St., Philomath
12	Board Meeting	12:30 - 2:00 p.m.	US Bank (corner of 9th & Walnut)
13	Afternoon Lit Group	2:00 p.m.	Louise Livesay, 2182 NW Myrtlewood Way
14	<b>Seminar: <i>History Making Women</i></b>	8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Benton County Historical Museum in Philomath
15	Newsletter deadline		
15	No-Host Lunch	11:45 a.m.	Marzini's on Kings Blvd.