

Branch Newsletter

Volume 29, Number 7

March, 2009

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Branch Program

By Chris Smith
big5Komm@comcast.net



Benton County Historical Society Museum

Saturday, March 14th 10:00am

1101 Main Street, Philomath

We will tour the Benton County Historical Society Museum. Irene Zenev, BCBS Executive Director, will tell us about the additions and improvements to the Benton County Historical Society Museum.

We'll also have a chance to look around the museum and to tour their new storage facility. Afterward, we will be going to lunch at Mexico Lindo, 5228 SW Philomath Blvd. (in the Safeway/Bi-Mart Shopping Center). Please RSVP to Chris Smith (big5komm@comcast.net or 753-1070). You can find out more about the BCBS at <http://www.bentoncountymuseum.org/>

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Educational Foundation

By Educational Foundation Chair
Diana Bernstein
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EF National Contributions:
A check for \$975 was mailed to the National AAUW Educational Fund for 2008. This amount includes checks made out directly to EF (\$295) and money raised through fundraisers (\$680).

Local Branch Fundraising:
The February 6th movie night netted \$383 for AAUW's Educational and Legal Advocacy Foundation. Thank you to Stefani McRae-Dickey for organiz-

ing the evening and choosing such a classic comedy film and cartoon. Thank you to the many members who offered their assistance that evening.

Needing Your Help For Named Gift Honoree Nominations: The Corvallis Branch is able to honor a branch member for every \$500 donation that the Branch sends to the National Educational Foundation. As soon as possible, I would like your suggestions

of members who you feel are deserving of this honor. The Board will make the final selection. The Branch Named Gift Honorees will have their names included in the program for the EF banquet that is held Saturday night during the State Convention (Seventh Mountain Resort, Bend Oregon, 4/24-26). The previous honorees are listed in the front of the Branch AAUW directory. Take a moment to look at all the past recipients.

Local Scholarship Applications Available

Our branch will again offer scholarships to two deserving older-than-average women students (25 years of age or older) who reside in Linn or Benton County.

The scholarships will be for the 2009/2010 academic year. A \$750 scholarship will be offered to a woman

attending Linn-Benton Community College seeking a certificate or degree and a \$1,000 scholarship to a woman attending Oregon State University seeking an undergraduate degree.

If you know of any women who might qualify and wish to apply, applications can

be obtained from our Corvallis branch website @ www.corvallis-aauw.org or at the financial aid office of the applicant's school. Application deadline: April 8, 2009.



AAUW

Membership

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

Did You Know?

Our Corvallis Branch has 89 members.

The AAUW year is July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010.

Prospective members may join after March 15 and become members for April, May and June as well as the 2009-10 year.

Current members should renew their membership by July 1, 2009.

An idea that has become reality is introducing current college students to AAUW by offering them **free** e-student affiliate status. The concept is very simple: Any undergraduate student attending a

college/university partner member institution (this includes OSU) is eligible for the e-student affiliation. Go to www.aauw.org and click on Quick Links in the upper right hand corner of the home page to learn more about the [e-student affiliate initiative](#).

Email Updates

Muriel Lawrence cmlawren@peak.org

Urchyl Bohard tinybubbles3@comcast.net

Yvonne Lee yvscllee@comcast.net



Public Policy

By Public Policy Chair
Marilyn Treiman
halamaria1@juno.com



As the nation's largest single employer with over 2.7 million employees nationwide, the U.S. government should be leading the way in family friendly workplace policies. Instead, it lags far behind. Urge your senators to take an important step toward changing this by supporting the [Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act \(S. 354\)](#). This important legislation will provide federal workers up to four weeks of paid leave for the birth or adoption of a child, and will be a significant step towards paid parental leave for all Americans. While the House passed this measure in the last Congress, the bill never got a vote in the Senate. With your senators' support, that could change this time around. A report from the [Center for Economic and Policy Research](#) found the U.S. to have the least generous parental leave policies of the 21 high-income countries surveyed. A February 2007 study by Harvard and McGill University researchers found that the U.S. is one of only five

countries out of 173 in their survey - along with Lesotho, Liberia, Swaziland, and Papua New Guinea - that does not guarantee some form of paid maternity leave. While federal workers are eligible for 12 weeks of unpaid leave through the Family and Medical Leave Act, many cannot afford to take the time off while not receiving a paycheck, especially these days. The Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act will allow federal workers the ability to take care of and bond with their newborns and newly-adopted children, which is critical to the health and well-being of the child and the parent, without the increased burden of the loss of wages. In these tough economic times, going without a paycheck could mean financial disaster for many families. The U.S. government should ensure that its employees can afford to take the leave they need to care for themselves and their families by making this leave paid. Such protections and improvements are critical to women's equal opportunity and economic security. **Take Action!** Urge

your senators to support the **Family Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act (S. 354)** so that America's federal workers don't have to choose between keeping a job and caring for a new child. 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 your message. <http://capwiz.com/aauw/issues/alert/?aler-tid=12652136&type=CO>

SPECIAL EVENT IN CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

AAUW is partnering with CARE and over thirty other women's organizations to promote the 2009 celebration of International Women's Day. The centerpiece will be the presentation at over 450 theatres throughout the US of the acclaimed documentary film [A Powerful Noise](#). This film highlights the important role women play in bringing lasting solutions to global poverty by telling the stories of three extraordinary women, in Vietnam,



AAUW

Public Policy (continued)

Bosnia and Mali, who are working to help other women in their communities. Following the film there will be a panel discussion (advertised as live from New York, but recorded for the Pacific States and Hawaii) featuring Madeline Albright and three other notables.

This nationwide event will take place on Thursday, March 5. Unfortunately, there is no showing sched-

uled for Corvallis; the closest one is in Springfield at 8PM at the Cinemark 17 theater. The cost of the show is about \$15 per person and tickets can be purchased in advance. Additional information is available at the website: www.apowerfulnoise.org. More about CARE and its work with women and girls can be found at www.care.org.

This would be a great way

to celebrate International Women's Day. If you'd like to go, call me at 758-6337 and we will make arrangements.

See AAUW's position paper on family-friendly workplaces on their web site www.aauw.org.

Legal Advocacy Foundation

By Legal Advocacy Foundation Chair
Marilyn Roland
rolandm2@comcast.net

*Please save the date Saturday, May 16, for the AAUW luncheon meeting and LAF Book Sale fundraiser at Corvallis Country Club.

*Start saving gently-used hardback or paperback books for the LAF Book Sale. Other media items are also welcome additions to the sale.

*LAF continues to expand its online resource library. Information on the Family and Medical Leave Act and Pregnancy Discrimination Act have recently been added, and information on sexual har-

assment in the workplace will be posted later.

*LAF will continue to provide travel grants and stipends to LAF speakers as requested by branches and will work proactively with potential speakers, including those we support as amicus curiae, to encourage their participation.

*Settlement and Decision

Towers v. State University of New York at Stony Brook

Sherry Towers, a postdoctoral research scientist in the physics department of the State University of New

York, Stony Brook, until 2005, lost her job after complaining about discriminatory behavior displayed by her immediate supervisor. According to her complaint, Towers' supervisor became hostile toward her when she told him that she was pregnant and that she needed to cut back her current 60 to 70 hours-per-week schedule following the birth of her child. She alleges that she was effectively fired in retaliation for complaining to the department head. In fall 2008, Towers settled her case to the mutual satisfaction of all parties.



News & Notes

Dates to Save on Your Calendar

An Invitation to the AAUW of OR Convention in Bend

Mark your calendar for the AAUW of OR State Convention from April 24-26, 2009 at the Seventh Mountain Resort in Bend. A weekend of enrichment

activities, informative workshops, inspiring speakers and fun has been

planned. The convention theme, "Choices for Women in a Changing World", provides numerous opportunities for discus-

sions and thinking about the choices that exist not only for our own lives but for the future of AAUW.

All details can be found in the AAUW Oregon News (Spring 2009) issue or on the website (www.aauw-oregon.org)

If you would like to attend, please see the Spring 2009 issue of the AAUW Oregon News. Fill in your registration form and notify Edie Lee (edie.lee@lifetime.oregonstate.edu) or Martha Jenkins

(marthaj@peak.org). The Corvallis Branch of AAUW will reimburse your registration fee. We will also try to organize car pools and room sharing for members attending the convention.

AAUW/League of Women Voters Legislative Day

Be sure to save Tuesday, March 17th for the AAUW/League of Women Voters Legislative Day in Salem. Contact Marilyn Treiman (halamari@juno.com) for details and registration.





AAUW

Interest Groups

Gourmet Group

A small group of AAUW members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal on the 21st of February at the home of Denise and John Nervik. The gourmet meal fea-

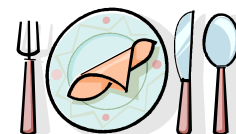
tured lamb with complementary side dishes.

The final dinner of the season will take place on April 25th. To reserve your seat at the table,

please call Brenda Rowley at 752-6779.

Your Gourmet Dinner Committee: Christine Cantey, Denise Nervik, and Brenda Rowley

By Brenda Rowley



No Host Lunch

We'll meet to eat on the 3rd Thursday in March, the 19th @ 11:45, repeating (by popular demand) lunch at Nirvana (Indian Buffet @ &7.95) next to Bi-Mart

on 9th Street. A small group of us enjoyed the February lunch at Applebee's. Hope you can join us next time at Nirvana!

Questions? Contact: Carolyn

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

By Carolyn Simmons



Afternoon Literature Group

We will meet at the home of Carolyn Simmons, 1302 NW Souza Place, on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. Sandra Edinger will be leading the discussion of Abandoned and Forgotten by Evelyn Tannehill. New Book Marks for April thru Octo-

ber, 2009, will be passed out. If you aren't at the meeting, I'll e-mail you the schedule or send it snail mail. Let me know if you don't get one by the end of March. Remember to let me know if YOU want to lead this group,

come September! Hurry, before someone gets in ahead of YOU!! Contact: Carolyn Simmons, CrCAROLYN@aol.com, 758-0271

By Carolyn Simmons



Evening Literature Group

The Evening Lit Group will meet Wednesday, March 4th, to discuss The Whistling Season, by Ivan Doig. Socializing starts at

7:15; the discussion will begin at 7:45. The meeting will be at the home of Julie Searcy, 2854 NW Angelica Drive. Please call her at

753-9471, or email her at jsearcy@peak.org if you plan to attend.

By Carol Sumner & Ann Brodie

Great Decisions Discussion Group

The Great Decisions Discussion Group has begun. We are reviewing topics in foreign affairs, watching an informative DVD and utilizing a briefing booklet to

guide our discussions. The eight class series is held in the Corvallis Caring Place meeting room at 750 NW 23rd St., Corvallis, OR. on Wednesdays, January 21

through March 11, from 1-3 PM. If you have any questions, please call facilitator Charlotte Drost at 541-753-7253 or e-mail at mkcgdrost@aol.com.

By Charlotte Drost





EVENTS CALENDAR

MAR	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
4	Evening Literature Group	7:15pm	Home of Julie Searcy 2854 NW Angelica Drive
9	Board Meeting	12:30pm	Corvallis-Benton Chamber Business Alliance, 420 NW 2nd St.
10	Afternoon Literature Group	2:00pm	Home of Carolyn Simmons, 1302 NW Souza Place
14	Tour of the Benton County Historical Society Museum	10:00am	1101 Main Street, Philomath
15	March Newsletter Articles due to Patti Cleveland		Email to pattic@peak.org
17	AAUW/League of Women Voters—Legislation Day		Contact Marilyn Treiman for details halamari1@juno.com
19	No-Host Lunch	11:45am	Nirvana—9th Street Next to Bi-Mart
APR	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
24-26	AAUW of Oregon Convention		Seventh Mountain Resort—Bend
25	Gourmet Dinner—Everyday Gourmet	TBA	Contact Brenda Rowley, 752-6779