

## Branch Newsletter

Volume 25, Number 7

March 2005

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AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change.

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.



### AAUW CELEBRATES

## Profiles of Noteworthy Women, Past and Present

**Tuesday, March 15  
7 p.m.**

**The Caring Place  
750 NW 23rd Street**

This program will be presented Readers' Theater style, starring women from our own group.

We hope to see you there.

***Readers' Theater is an interpretive oral reading activity in which performers use voices, facial expressions and hand gestures to interpret characters in scripts or stories. The emphasis of Readers' Theater is on oral expression of the part.***

**"Modern invention has banished the spinning wheel, and the same law of progress makes the woman of today a different woman from her grandmother."**

**--Susan B. Anthony**

### Co-Presidents

Stefani McRae-Dickey  
929-7988  
mcraedic@peak.org

Jan Rounds  
754-7730  
donjan@peak.org

### Program Development Co-VPs

Marge Bromley  
bromleymb@comcast.net  
Carolyn Simmons  
CrCAROLYN@aol.com  
Cathy Phelps  
cathy.phelps@comcast.net  
Marilyn Roland  
rolandm2@comcast.net

### Membership Co-VPs

Rosemary Cunningham  
753-1319  
cunninghamrt@comcast.net  
Dorothy Ruff  
929-4629  
druff@mycidco.com  
Diana Bernstein  
738-8292  
dianatbernstein@yahoo.com

### Treasurer

Nancy William  
753-1979

### Secretary

Louise Livesay  
fanlu@aol.com

### Newsletter Editor

Martha Jenkins  
758-4390  
marthaj@peak.org

### Newsletter & Website Administrator

Cynthia McMahan  
MBC Corp.  
cynthiamcm@peak.org

**Co-Presidents**  
Stefani McRae-Dickey, 929-7988  
Jan Rounds, 754-7730

## Program

### **Stef's Stylus:** Celebrate Women's History Month

## President's Message

Recently I've been reading about women who were trail blazers in science and mathematics, despite the efforts of their parents, the educational hierarchy and their peers to prevent them from pursuing learning, to experiment in science and prove new ideas in mathematics. These were extraordinary women who persevered in spite of societal pressure. What strikes me, however, is how much has changed since Sophie Germain's\* parents denied her paper, pen, books and, indeed, light and heat for her bedroom so she could not study mathematics at night. (In case you wondered, she was not allowed to study during the day either, but in the privacy of her room at night, she was able to study mathematics until her parents intervened.)



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## AAUW-Corvallis Home

Eventually Sophie's parents relented and she began a lifelong study of Real Analysis and Number Theory, as well mathematical applications in physics and chemistry. She corresponded with Lagrange and Gauss who were impressed with her analysis. One of her more well-known proofs is about the nature of solutions to Fermat's Last Theorem,  $x^n + y^n = z^n$ , where  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ , and  $n$  are integers. She proved that if  $n$  is a prime number less than 100, then the solutions for  $z$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  must be divisible by  $n$ . This was a major step toward finding all solutions to the equation. If fact, the proof for all solutions of Fermat's Last Theorem was only completed about 15 years ago. This proof was not the elegant logical proof that mathematicians usually prefer, but a very long computer analysis, quite unlike Germain's proof.

Today, young women are encouraged to study science and mathematics. Women earn PhD's in science and mathematics. Universities hire women to teach and do research in these areas. Women present research papers at symposiums around the world. True, we still experience discrimination, but society accepts women in roles that were considered "non-traditional" fifty years ago.

It was the courage of the early pioneers who fought to be allowed to learn, to teach, to do research and contribute to the body of knowledge that has brought us to a time when 60 percent of all college students are women. Women are scientists, mathematicians, astronauts, inventors, teachers, agronomists, CEO's, Senators and Representatives and one day soon, I believe, a woman may be the President of the United States. We are free to dress the way we choose, study what we choose, have families if and when we choose, and have the careers (yes, plural) we choose. We have indeed changed the world for ourselves, our daughters and our granddaughters.

So as we celebrate Women's History Month, let's honor those who came before us to smooth the way. They did it at great personal sacrifice and with great courage. The individual rights they fought for are now our universal rights.

Raise Your Glass in Honor of Our Foremothers!

*Stefani McRae-Dickey*  
*Co-President*

\* Sophie Germain (1776-1831)

V.P. Membership  
Diana Bernstein, 738-8292  
Rosemary Cunningham, 753-1319  
Dorothy Ruff, 929-4629

Did you know?

The Corvallis branch has **104** members!

The AAUW year: **July 1, 2005 – June 30 2006.**

Prospective members may join in March and receive a **2005-2006** membership!

**Current members should renew their membership by July 1 !!!**

## Getting Acquainted with New Members



**Becky McKenzie**, a math teacher at LBCC and OSU, has recently retired and is eagerly looking forward to her "next life." It should be a fairly active one because Becky avidly pursues snow sports, swimming, rowing and rigorously walking her wonder dog, Casey. Fortunately for our evening literature group, Becky enjoys one sedentary activity – reading!.

**Cherrill Boissonou**, has a MS in Counseling from WOSC. She has lived in Corvallis for 16 years and is married with two children. In her leisure time, Cherrill enjoys art, tennis and traveling. She looks forward to meeting new people and credits Carolyn Simmons for encouraging her to join AAUW.

**Ana Norlander** has a BS in Psychology from WSU in Pullman and has spent 10 years in the mortgage lending field. Presently she is a real estate agent for Coldwell Banker Valley Brokers in Albany. Her "full house" includes husband, Brent, two young sons, two dogs and two cats. Ana loves to quilt (Attention quilters!), garden, and she coaches her son's soccer team. Ana has expressed interest in AAUW literature groups and becoming involved in other philanthropic committees.

**June Martin**, a retired editor, has also worked as a legal secretary and educational research assistant. She has lived in Corvallis for five years and has many hobbies which include reading, walking, sewing and working jigsaw puzzles. This independent spirit can often be found browsing in an art gallery or a second-hand shop. June is also interested in finding out more about the AAUW local scholarship committee, Legal Advocacy and the Educational Foundation.

Please welcome new members by inviting them to attend an AAUW interest group or program!

## Membership Directory

Please add these members to your new AAUW directory.

Neoma Sparks  
2515 SW 45th  
Corvallis, Or 97330  
H – 757-7321  
[neoma6@comcast.net](mailto:neoma6@comcast.net)  
BA – U of Washington  
English/Education

Cherrill Boissonou  
543 NW Calloway  
Corvallis, Or 97330  
H – 745-7149  
MS – WOSC  
Counseling

Susan Gelberg  
2553 NW Michelle Dr.  
Corvallis, Or 97330  
H – 745-5549  
[sogelberg@yahoo.com](mailto:sogelberg@yahoo.com)  
PhD – U of Illinois  
Psychology

Eneida Hallenborg  
36418 Kings Valley Hwy.  
Philomath, Or 97370  
H – 929-3418  
[eneida@peak.org](mailto:eneida@peak.org)  
MA – California State  
Nursing

New email address:  
Ruth Gallagher  
[rurygalla@yahoo.com](mailto:rurygalla@yahoo.com)

This month and next, I will list selected information taken from [Making The Grade On Women's Health: A National and State-By-State Report Card:2004](#), a joint research effort between the National Women's Law Center and Oregon Health & Science University. The research group describes, for each issue, a benchmark of what they believe to be the ideal state policy. Then a policy rating system of "No or Harmful Policy"; "Weak Policy"; "Limited Policy"; or "Meets Policy" is applied to each issue.

The following is a partial list of areas where Oregon received the lowest or a "Weak" rating and the actions that the state is recommended to take to receive the rating of "Meets Standards".

Medicaid Eligibility by Income, for the Aged and Disabled: State should expand income eligibility to or above 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Osteoporosis and Colorectal Cancer Screening: State should require private insurers to cover bone density screening for certain high-risk groups identified by Medicare and colorectal screening for individuals over 50.

Mastectomy Hospital Stays: State should mandate coverage of physician-determined length of stay (rather than a minimum of days).

Family Planning: State should require private insurers to cover prescription drugs to cover all forms of FDA-approved prescription contraceptive drugs and devices.

### **\*Albany Branch Hosts Oregon Public Policy Co-Chairs\***

The Albany Branch of AAUW cordially invites you to attend their March 1 Branch Meeting featuring the AAUW State Public Policy Co-Chairs, Betty Haus and Alice Bartelt. The meeting is at Samaritan Albany General Hospital, 1046 6th Avenue SW, in Albany.

Alice is also the Association Director for the Mountain Pacific Region, which includes Oregon. Betty and Alice will discuss issues of interest to women in the upcoming legislative session as well as AAUW's role in the legislative process. A question and answer period will follow. For more information contact: Gail Gerdemann, 926-3436 or [gerdemann@proaxis.com](mailto:gerdemann@proaxis.com)

If you are interested in carpooling, please call Stefani, 929-7988.

### **EF NAMED GIFT HONOREE NOMINATIONS**

The AAUW Educational Foundation raises money to fund scholarships, fellowships, and grants for women in various fields and for research projects. For every \$500 that we raise and send on to our national Educational Foundation, we can honor one of our members by submitting that \$500 gift to the Fund from our branch in her name, i.e., as a "named gift honoree."

We will donate \$2,000 to the Educational Foundation this year and are entitled to select 4 outstanding branch members as named gift honorees. The branch EF co-chairs would like nominations from the membership to help them choose these valued members for this year. We need to have your suggestions right away as the choice/s need to be sent to the State EF Chairman in time for printing in the State convention program – in April.

Will you please take the time to look over the membership book and give us your nomination of members whom you feel deserve this honor? You can look on page 6 of your membership book to see who the previous branch named gift honorees were. Contact Marge Bromley, 757-7722, e-mail: [bromleymb@comcast.net](mailto:bromleymb@comcast.net) or Jane Ann Warkentin, 754-8875, e-mail: [jane4art@msn.com](mailto:jane4art@msn.com). The honoree/s will be announced at the spring brunch.

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March is National Women's History Month. The 2005 Women's History Month theme, "Women Change America," honors and recognizes the role of American women in transforming culture, history and politics as leaders, writers, scientists, educators, politicians, artists, historians, and informed citizens.

"Women Change America" also celebrates the myriad ways in which the spirit, courage, and contributions of American women have added to the vitality, richness, and diversity of American life. In 2005, all previous Women's History Week and Month Honorees will be recognized and celebrated. Information about all the women who have been honored for National Women's History Week and National Women's History Month can be found at [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org).

Here are some historic moments showing how "Women Change America":

- **1777** Mary Katherine Goddard prints the first copy of the Declaration of Independence to include the names of the signers.
- **1848** 300 women and men meet to discuss women's rights at Seneca Falls, New York.
- **1851** Harriet Tubman becomes a conductor on the Underground Railroad and returns to the South 19 times rescuing over 300 people.
- **1852** Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is officially published, selling 300,000 copies the first year and awakening white northerners to the plight of enslaved black people.
- **1872** Susan B. Anthony and other suffragists are arrested for voting in the Presidential Election.
- **1910** Dr. Alice Hamilton connects contaminated and unsafe working conditions to illness and death, leading to the first state worker's compensation law.
- **1919** Suffragists picketing the White House are arrested. They go on a hunger strike and are force-fed. News of their brutal treatment outrages the nation.
- **1920** After a 72-year campaign, women in the United States win the right to vote.
- **1939** After being denied use of Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution in Washington, D.C., Marian Anderson gives an Easter Sunday concert at the Lincoln Memorial, drawing an audience of 75,000 and transforming the nation.
- **1950** Margaret Chase Smith challenges the tactics of Senator Joseph McCarthy on the floor of the United States Senate.
- **1955** Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to give up her seat on the bus, resulting in the year-long Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott which effectively challenged long held segregation policies of the South.
- **1962** Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* is published, launching the environmental movement.
- **1971** Katherine Graham, publisher of the *Washington Post*, prints the Pentagon Papers which disclose the lies and cover-up of the Vietnam War.
- **1972** Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 is passed to guarantee equal access and educational opportunity to males and females in all public education institutions.
- **1973** Billie Jean King defeats Bobby Riggs on the tennis court in the Battle of the Sexes.
- **1988** Gertrude Elion shares the Nobel Prize in Medicine for her pioneering work in inventing drugs to treat acute leukemia, kidney disease, and arthritis.
- **2004** In the spirit of Babe Didrikson, the USA Women's basketball, soccer, softball, and volleyball teams all win Gold Medals at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Greece.

## Oregon Convention April 29 – May 1 in Seaside

The AAUW of Oregon state convention will be held at the Best Western Hotel and Convention Center in Seaside on April 29–May 1, 2005. This is a beautiful beachfront hotel with all the meeting rooms within the hotel. The rooms have refrigerators and microwaves and the famous Prom walkway is just outside the hotel door.

The program will include an international dinner on Friday night. Please bring a memento of your travels to share at your table. Saturday's lunch event is new. The Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund chairs are joining to present a silent auction and kick off AAUW of Oregon's Crystal Centennial Campaign. That's right, 2005 marks 100 years of AAUW in Oregon! This event will replace the usual EF/LAF sales room.

Saturday night will be full of fun starting with a beach barbecue, foundation garments fashion show, and concluding with a branch awards dessert. The workshops will have a mixture of AAUW, political, and personal growth topics, and our guests from Washington DC are experts in EF and fundraising. You won't want to miss the trip to the end of the trail for Lewis and Clark at Fort Clatsop or the Oregon tax reform panel presentation on Friday. Visit the Connections Room during the weekend to see unique branch project(s), ways of organizing programs, fundraising ideas, member orientation suggestions, etc. Nothing is for sale in the Connections Room. It is a venue for branches to share ideas.

Plan now to come to Seaside in April! The registration form will be in the next Oregon News and on our state website: [aauwor.homestead.com](http://aauwor.homestead.com) Questions? Contact Nancy Brown, State Convention Coordinator [coachnancy@comcast.net](mailto:coachnancy@comcast.net) 541/928 779

### March 2005 Women's History Month Display

All of the following were discovered or invented by women:

- disposable diapers
- drip coffee maker
- flat paper bags
- correction fluid
- baby carriers

Can you name the inventors of these items? If not, come see the March AAUW Women's History Month exhibit, **Mothers of Invention**, on display in the case near the front entrance of the Corvallis–Benton County Public Library to learn more about fascinating women inventors. You will be surprised at what you discover!

### \*AAUW Member honored with invitation to the Oxford Round Table\*

Corvallis Branch AAUW member Linda Modrell has been invited participate in the March session of the Oxford Round Table (yes, THAT Oxford) for a discussion of human rights with special emphasis on women's rights and attendant issues including gender equity in both the public and private sectors. Round Table membership is limited to 35 persons from around the world. She has been invited to make a presentation on an aspect of her choice relevant to the general topic.

Linda has offered to make a presentation to AAUW about her experience at the Oxford Round Table sometime next year. We are looking forward to hearing her talk.

This invitation is a great honor for Linda, for AAUW and for the community, but does not come with any financial support. If you would like to help Linda meet the expense, \$2895 excluding airfare, you may make a donation directly to her at PO Box 1122, Philomath, OR 97370.

## Caring and Sharing

(Contact Stefani McRae–Dickey at [mcraedic@peak.org](mailto:mcraedic@peak.org) with information)

As a follow-up to our excellent February 12th Branch presentation, The 2004 Surgeon General's Report on Bone Health and Osteoporosis: What It Means To You, is available by calling toll free 1–866–718–BONE or visiting [www.surgeongeneral.gov](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov)

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to **Gerry Custer**. Gerry had a knee replacement recently. Hope you're feeling chipper soon, Gerry! Our love to you.

**Jane Ann Warkentin's husband**, Ben, has broken his arm and has had to have surgery. We hope he will heal soon. Cards and telephone calls to wish him well are welcome.

## Afternoon Literature Group

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

Louise Livesay, 753-4813

Contact Louise if you can not come.

March 8

*Death Comes to the Archbishop* by Willa Cather

Hostess: Sally Terman

2964 NW Spurry PL  
(please let Sally know if you cannot attend. )

Reviewer: Muriel Lawrence

## Evening Literature Group

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

Mary Mills, 745-7961

Shirley Wirth, 754-7186

March 2

*Inextinguishable Symphony* by Martin Goldsmith

Hostess: Julie Searcy  
2854 NW Angelica Dr.  
753-9471

Reviewer – Mary Gray

## Foreign Films & Food

This month's evening with a great video and delicious dessert will be **March 18**. Won't you join us for this gathering of friends at Sally Terman's house (2964 NW Spurry Place)?

Desserts will be ready by 6:15 pm followed by the film at 7:00.  
Trouble finding a parking spot? Go ahead and park in the driveway.  
Calling ahead (752-9019) is a good idea. Hope to see you there!

## Gourmet Group

The table is set for our Friday, **March 11th** Gourmet Dinner at the home of the Cantey's at 7 p.m.

We will savor the flavors of Nectar and Ambrosia / Foods of Ancient Greece.

There will be one more dinner this (AAUW) year. It will be on Saturday, May 21st, at the home of Nancy and Don Sanderson. Make your reservation to join us for "Dining with William Shakespeare / Renaissance England." The dinner is open to all AAUW members and guests, but sometimes space limits participation, so be sure to make your reservation with Carolyn Simmons, by May 1st, at the latest. There will another reminder about the May dinner in the April bulletin.

Thanks from your Gourmet Committee:

Christine Cantey; Denise Nervik; Carolyn Simmons.

Place your reservations with Carolyn at: CrCAROLYN@aol.com  
or 758-0271

## No-Host Lunch

Lunch is but a dream. . . or so it seemed to those of us who dropped in for a fun and imaginative lunch at American Dream Pizza on Thursday, February 17th.

In March, we'll meet again (on the third Thursday) at **New Morning Bakery**, downtown, at 219 SW 2nd Street. They offer a variety of salads, quiches, and decadent pastry items, as well as fine coffees and teas. Won't you join us for lunch? Mark your calendar for **March 17, 2005, at 11:45 a.m.**

You can let me know you're coming, or just drop-in.

Hope to see you then! Carolyn Simmons, CrCAROLYN@aol.com  
or 758-0271

MAR	Activity	Time	Location
2	Evening Lit Group	7:30 p.m.	Julie Searcy 2854 NW Angelica Dr.
8	Afternoon Lit Group	2 p.m.	Sally Terman 2964 NW Spurry Pl.
11	Gourmet Group	7:00 p.m.	The Cantey's
14	Board Meeting	12:30 – 2 p.m.	US Bank, corner of 9th & Walnut
15	Branch Meeting	7:00 p.m.	The Caring Place
15	Newsletter deadline		
17	No-Host Lunch	11:45 a.m.	New Morning Bakery 219 SW 2nd Street
18	Foreign Films & Food	6:15 p.m.	Sally Terman 2964 NW Spurry Pl.
APR	Activity	Time	Location
11	Board Meeting	12:30 – 2 p.m.	US Bank, corner of 9th & Walnut
29 – May 1	Oregon Convention		Seaside, Oregon