

## Branch Newsletter

Volume 25, Number 9

May 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.



### HATS OFF TO AAUW AND IFUW



#### Luncheon Meeting, Book Sale, Installation of Officers

10 a.m.

Saturday, May 21, 2005

Corvallis Country Club

1850 SW Whiteside Drive

Reservations needed: Cost \$12

It will be "Hats Off to AAUW" at the branch luncheon meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 21, at Corvallis Country Club, 1850 SW Whiteside Dr. Members are asked to dig out their favorite hats and gloves from the past to show off at this event. A prize will be awarded to the individual with the most outrageous chapeau. Of course, this is an optional but "fun" activity.

On the luncheon menu is a cobb salad, rolls, beverages, and either chocolate or strawberry mousse. The cost is \$12.00 including the gratuity. Checks for the luncheon should be made out to "Corvallis AAUW" and sent to treasurer Nancy William, 1355 NW 19th St., Corvallis, OR, 97330, by Monday, May 16.

Members are encouraged to bring their lightly-read books to the country club starting at 9:30 a.m. for the annual branch book sale. This will be a great opportunity to purchase good books for summer reading and beyond. If you are not able to attend the luncheon and have books to donate please call Marilyn Roland, 752-5257, between May 18 and 20 to arrange for pickup or to drop off your books.

Branch officers for the 2005-6 year will be installed. Outgoing officers and others in leadership positions will be recognized. Hats off to all of them!

The featured guest speaker is Eleanor Plamondon of McMinnville whose topic is "IFUW: Lifeline for the Rest of the World". Eleanor attended the IFUW (International Federation of University Women) Triennial Conference in Perth, Australia, in August of 2004. At that conference she learned of the decision by AAUW not to pay its dues assessment for 2005. Outstanding women from all over the world attended this conference, and Eleanor will share her experiences interacting with them.

When Eleanor graduated from Pomona College in 1951, she was given a life membership by the Pomona Valley Branch of AAUW. She joined the Santa Ana Branch a few months later. She has been supporting the Association for over 50 years. Since her membership in the Santa Ana Branch, she has belonged to branches in the San Fernando Valley, Crescent City, McMinnville, Beaverton, Salem, and Tigard where she currently is actively involved. She was a charter member of the Curry County Branch and oversaw the dissolution of the McMinnville Branch. Eleanor spent 15 years on the state board and served in several capacities, among them the IFUW Liaison. She tries to attend state conferences and conventions because she believes in maintaining connections with other AAUW women. Perhaps she will wear the hat seen at the 2004 convention.

Please join us on May 21 in a lovely spring-like setting to socialize, gain new knowledge, and purchase like-new books.

#### Co-Presidents

Stefani McRae-Dickey  
929-7988  
[mcradic@peak.org](mailto:mcradic@peak.org)

Jan Rounds  
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## Co-Presidents

Stefani McRae-Dickey, 929-7988  
Jan Rounds, 754-7730

## Jan's Jottings

How can I start this month's "prez" message without first saying a great big *THANK YOU* to Evelyn Stephens and Sue Borden for their tireless efforts in organizing our first year of the AAUW Bridge Marathon. Their many months of work has raised more than \$2,000, to be used for LAF, EF, and our local scholarships. Thank you again, ladies, for a job well done. And thanks also to Patty Eberhardt, Pam Duren, and all who helped with the Bridge Marathon Final Night, April 11th.

As I write this, I'm still thinking about our April General Meeting, "Courageous Women: Women Who Have Surmounted Great Odds." What a fantastic night! For those of you who did not attend, you missed a good one! Three women, including our own Zel Brook, graciously (courageously) shared their inspirational stories. And a fourth panelist, retired OSU faculty member Kathy Heath, spoke eloquently about gender equity in university sports. I'll close with a quote from Judith Orloff, M.D., that Kathy shared with us. Thanks to our wonderful Program Committee for a truly meaningful evening.

Well, it's hard to believe that our AAUW year is winding down. Where does the time go? We just have one last general meeting, and it will be a fun one! The Country Club is a great setting, not only for a delicious lunch, but also for the installation of our officers for the next AAUW year—and a great used book sale! (Bring your checkbook!) Plan to join us. Please read page one for details.

And now—a gentle reminder: the AAUW fiscal year—for branch, state and national—ends on June 30th. Please take time to complete the enclosed membership dues form and return it, along with your check, to Rosemary Cunningham before June 30th. Earlier would be great!

Here is the reason for the request: paying your dues on time (or early!!!!), before the June 30th date, makes the required paperwork for both our membership committee and our treasurer tolerable. Dues received late (while happily accepted) require additional paperwork to be sent to AAUW state and national offices. And since we have more than 100 members, many late dues greatly increases that paperwork. Our treasurer, Nancy William, has the hope of having all dues paid and received by June 30th. Wouldn't it be great if that happens! Thanks in advance for your consideration. And if *you* have already paid, kudos to YOU!

The quote I referred to earlier is from Katherine Martin's book, *Women of Spirit*. In it Orloff writes:

In the quiet moments of our lives lies courage.  
In the everyday steps we take is courage.  
In love is courage.  
In being different dwells courage.  
In the cry against injustice lives courage.  
In stepping up to responsibility lies courage.  
In reaching out to others is courage.

May you find the courage you need for today.

**Jan Rounds**

## V.P. Membership

Diana Bernstein, 738-8292  
Rosemary Cunningham, 753-1319  
Dorothy Ruff, 929-4629

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## Getting Acquainted with New Members

As most of you know, our 2004-2005 year ends on June 30, 2005. The newly minted 2005-2006 application is now available online and can be downloaded. For your convenience, there's an application available in this newsletter. We urge you to fill it out and mail it today!

**Patricia Dunning** has the distinction of being our first 2005-2006 branch member! She teaches classes at LBCC in Medical Terminology and Pharmacology. She is also a Chronic Care Coordinator with Samaritan Health Services. Patti has lived in Corvallis since 1973 and her family includes her husband, John, and grandson, Sean. This year, Patti learned about our local AAUW branch at Fall Festival and has since been attending some of our programs. We extend a gracious welcome to a fellow educator who wishes to promote other women in education!

Patricia Dunning  
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Corvallis, Or 97330-4426  
[pidunning@yahoo.com](mailto:pidunning@yahoo.com)  
H- 758-0675, W- 768-5693  
BS - Lesley University  
Education

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## Caring and Sharing

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

Warm and gracious member, **Joyce Carver**, has sold her home on Kiger Island and is moving to Edmonds, Washington. Joyce has been a member since she retired in 1995 and has served as Evening Book Group Chair, Hospitality Chair and as Membership Vice President. She is always kind and lends a hand without being asked. She will be missed very much by all of us!

Joyce plans to join AAUW in Washington as well as volunteering in schools and the library. She plans to return for visits and will use our website to stay abreast of Corvallis Branch activities. Thank you Joyce for all you have done for AAUW and for your wonderful friendship.

Her new address after May 15th will be : 200 James Street, Unit 407 Edmonds, Washington 98020

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To my AAUW friends:

*Your friendship means so much to me. As I sort through my 'stuff' and re-read your cards and words of support & care throughout this last year, I'm deeply touched. Thank you for being a very large part of my life.*

*This is not a goodbye. It's just "So long" until we're together again.*

*I'll be back to visit and, of course, you'll come to see what I'll be calling home after May 18th. You're ALL invited to explore the Puget Sound area with me.*

Fondly, Joyce

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## Give a Grad a Gift

Members can now give a recent grad - a friend, daughter, granddaughter, niece - a free AAUW membership!

To receive this \$43 value:

Complete the online membership application

Or

Download the application (MSWord) (PDF)

<http://svc.aauw.org/join/gradgift.cfml>

## LAF–Supported Plaintiff Settles Case

*Bonnie Pitblado landed an assistant professor of anthropology position at Western State College of Colorado faculty in 2000. But her contract was terminated in 2001, following a series of unsuccessful mediation sessions with a male senior colleague who, she alleges, "created a hostile work environment for her and other women." In addition to two other cases, in October 2003 the LAF Board of Directors awarded Pitblado \$5,000 in support of her suit. Soon after, she reached a settlement with the institution.*

**Q What made you decide to bring a case against your former employer?** **A** [Even before I filed the lawsuit,] I had a new life and tenure-track position at a top research institution here in Utah, and so in many ways I had already emerged from a bad situation a victor. It would have been so easy to simply move forward. This is precisely what institutions count on in these actions. I decided I couldn't play into that expectation. I was not the first woman at Western State College to feel that her male senior colleague and the former WSC vice president, who is now WSC's president, had discriminated against her. I said to myself, "I am emotionally able to take this on. I have a good case with great documentation. If not me, then who will do this?" Ultimately, the positives outweighed the negatives in my decision.

**Q What obstacles have you had to overcome since you initiated the lawsuit?** **A** I certainly knew going in that I would have a very tough row to hoe, but I didn't realize the degree to which the legal system is stacked against the little people. Also, it wasn't enough to feel victimized by my senior colleague and the vice president while at WSC. I had to really fight not to feel victimized by the very process of suing the college. I realized immediately when the university's attorneys filed their request for discovery documents that their strategy would be to try to discredit me. They subpoenaed *all* of my medical records for the last 15 years, as well as a slew of other intimate details about my life. Another downside was worrying what my colleagues and superiors at my new place of employment—Utah State University—might think of me. Ultimately I concluded that I could trust my new colleagues to understand not only what I had been through but also why I had decided to try to do something about it.

**Q Why was settling your lawsuit so important?** **A** It was important for me to carry the process through to some sort of conclusion. I would have been okay with going to trial. What was vital to me was emerging with a victory and a story to tell. To me, the fact that WSC was willing to settle even before summary judgment meant that it acknowledged that its chances of winning were poor. That acknowledgment is precisely what I was looking for. It was a matter of accountability—not an enormous jury award—so an early settlement was a perfect outcome for me.

**Q How did you hear about the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, and what compelled you to seek its support?** **A** I heard about the Legal Advocacy Fund from women colleagues in my department at WSC who visited me after they learned that my contract had not been renewed. I sought the support of LAF so I wouldn't have to stand alone against a powerful institution. The support from AAUW legitimizes the case even in my own eyes and certainly, I think, in the eyes of others that may hear about it. For me, the sky literally seemed bluer outside when I found out that LAF was going to support my case!

**Q In light of your experience, what's one message you would give to young women starting their careers in academia or other workplaces?** **A** I came in contact with a lot of people throughout my studies and research, and 99 percent of them have been incredible. My particular academic niche tends to be one that men disproportionately choose. Nonetheless, before I took the position at WSC, I had *never* experienced any significant gender bias. I hope shining a spotlight on WSC's poor treatment of me will give the institution an incentive to change and become more supportive of other women faculty.

## Caring and Sharing – Continued

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

We wish **Christine Canty's** husband, Jim, a speedy recovery from his surgery.

We express our heartfelt condolences to **Jan Rounds** on the loss of her mother.

We extend our sincere sympathy to **Linda Lovett** on the loss of her mother. In the strange way life has of giving us sadness and gladness, we also wish Linda much joy with her newly adopted daughter, Lianna.

New member, **June Beck**, passed away on April 8, 2005. June had graciously agreed to chair the Local Scholarship committee and was busy accepting scholarship applications. We were enjoying getting to know her and will miss her.

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## The U.S. Supreme Court rules in Title IX case

On March 29, the U.S. Supreme court ruled that individuals who report instances of sex discrimination in education may sue under Title IX if their schools retaliate against them for challenging the discrimination.

In the decision for *Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education*, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote, "The text of Title IX prohibits a funding recipient from retaliation against a person who speaks out against sex discrimination, because such retaliation is intentional discrimination on the basis of sex."

The case involved Roderick Jackson, a Birmingham, Alabama high school girls' basketball coach. He complained about inequities in equipment, funding and practice conditions between his girls' team as compared to the boys' team. He alleged that he was fired from his coaching job because of his complaints. Jackson sued under Title IX, claiming that he lost his coaching position because of his complaints that the girls were victims of discrimination. A lower court threw out the case, agreeing with the Board of Education that the law doesn't cover retaliation claims. The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals backed the lower court. The case was then accepted by the U.S. Supreme Court.

This case was supported by the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. Leslie T. Annexstein, director of the LAF, commented "It is now completely clear: sex discrimination in education – and retaliation for anyone who tries to correct the situation – will not be tolerated." She concluded, "We hope that this decision will empower more school employees like Mr. Jackson to stand up for justice when faced with instances of sex discrimination."

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### Spring Musicale Sunday, May 15, 2005, 3:00 p.m.



Return with us once again to a more genteel time, when one's education was not complete unless one could sing or play an instrument. Picture golden spring sunlight slanting through the windows of Nancy Sanderson's music room while you delight in beautiful music performed by accomplished musicians. Afterwards, enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres while discussing the nuances of the performance.

We will present a "Musicale" on May 15 at Nancy Sanderson's home at 3:00 p.m. Although there will be no charge for the concert, your donation for AAUW programs (EF, LAF, Local scholarships or operating expenses) will be gratefully accepted. Seating is limited, so please arrive on time to secure your seat for this lovely performance.

Nancy will play the harpsichord, Maureen Beezhold's group, Antiquae Novae, will perform on recorders, and Sue Borden and the Spiritoso Woodwind Quintet will also perform. Sue and Nancy will play together a couple of duets. While the concert is mostly Baroque and Renaissance, some lively ragtime is included for variety.

This Sunday afternoon musical event is always 'sold out.' The musicians that Nancy gathers for this concert are inspired performers. They will delight and surprise you with their program. Those fortunate enough to attend past performances felt they had returned to an age before television, cell phones, and computers. It is a lovely visit to slower-paced time when entertainment was provided by friends and family.

To reserve your place, please call or email Sue Borden (752-6036) [sueborden@cmug.com](mailto:sueborden@cmug.com). Let Sue know if you can bring a bottle of wine or sparkling cider or an appetizer to share.

*Stefani McRae-Dickey*

## Afternoon Literature Group

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

Louise Livesay, 753-4813  
Contact Louise if you cannot come.

May 10

### *The Piano Tuner*

Hostess: Valerie Krauss  
3463 NW Maxine Circle, 766-8916

Reviewer: Carolyn Simmons

## Evening Literature Group

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

Mary Mills, 745-7961  
Shirley Wirth, 754-7186

May 4

General discussion of books for 2005-2006 and book selection

Hostess: Jan Tallis  
3550 NW Tanager Dr.  
757-8060

Facilitators – Mary Mills and Shirley Wirth

## Gourmet Group

Our final dinner for the 2004-05 AAUW year will be at **7:00 p.m., Saturday, May 21, 2005**, at the home of Nancy and Don Sanderson. Spaces have been filling up fast. Any final RSVP's by May 1st at the latest, please! This will be a **Shakespearean Feast**—a classic culminating culinary event.

RSVP: CrCAROLYN@aol.com or 758-0271

Thanks! The Gourmet Committee; Chris Cantey, Denise Nervik, Carolyn Simmons

## No-Host Lunch

On April 21st several of us enjoyed another delicious drop-in lunch downtown at Evergreen Indian Restaurant. That's over now, but not the next one. It will be the **3rd Thursday in May, 5/19/05**, and will be at **Tommy's 4th St. Bar and Grill** (350 SW 4th) at the usual time, 11:45 a.m. Sure hope you'll drop in for a bite and a bit of chat with your AAUW friends. Contact me, or just drop in!

Carolyn Simmons CrCAROLYN@aol.com 758-0271

## Foreign Films & Food

Our last session for the year is slated for **May 20**, with a deadline for responding of May 16. Once again the video night will be at Sally Terman's home (2964 NW Spurry Place, Corvallis) and will start at **7:00 p.m.**

Please call Sally at 752-9019 to let her know if you are coming. You'll have a great time visiting with friends, enjoying a delicious dessert, and watching an exciting film. See you then!



**2005–2006  
Corvallis Branch AAUW Membership Form**



Note: The information you provide will be printed in the Branch Membership Directory unless you indicate otherwise.

**Please complete this form and send with your payment to:**

Rosemary Cunningham  
4754 NW Inger Pl.  
Corvallis, OR 97330

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip +4 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

University/College \_\_\_\_\_ Highest Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Field of Study \_\_\_\_\_

**2005–2006 Dues Payment**

**\$70.00**

Branch \$16.00  
State \$11.00\*  
National ~~\$43.00~~  
Total \$70.00

\*AAUW of Oregon dues include a one-year subscription to the *Oregon News* at \$0.25.

If you are a Life Member, Student Affiliate Member or Member-at-Large, please contact Rosemary Cunningham ([cunninghamrt@comcast.net](mailto:cunninghamrt@comcast.net)) for dues information.

● I need a **print copy of the newsletter**, and enclose **\$10.00** for printing and postage. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

● **Contribution to the Local Scholarship Fund** – Provides tuition scholarships to older than average female students. (Contribution is *not* tax deductible) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to: Corvallis Branch AAUW**

AAUW dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes, but may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense. Checks written separately to AAUW Educational Foundation or AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund are tax deductible contributions.

**Contributions**

**AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) (Check written to LAF is tax deductible)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

LAF is the nation's largest legal fund focused solely on sex discrimination in higher education. Since 1981, LAF has helped students, faculty and administrators challenge discriminatory practices involving sexual harassment, denial of tenure and promotion, and inequality in women's athletic programs.

**AAUW Educational Foundation (EF) (Check written to EF is tax deductible)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

EF provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

MAY	Activity	Time	Location
1	Reservations due for Shakespearean Feast	7:30 p.m.	Carolyn Simmons, 758-0271
4	Evening Lit Group	7:30 p.m.	Jan Tallis, 3550 NW Tanager Dr.
9	Board Meeting	12:30 – 2 p.m.	US Bank, corner of 9th & Walnut
10	Afternoon Lit Group	2:00 p.m.	Valerie Krauss, 463 NW Maxine Circle
15	Spring Musicale	3:00 p.m.	Nancy Sanderson
15	Newsletter deadline		
16	Spring Brunch Reservation Deadline		Send \$12 check to Nancy William
19	No-Host Lunch	11:45 a.m.	Tommy's 4th Street Bar & Grill
20	Foreign Films & Food	7:00 p.m.	Sally Terman, 2964 NW Spurry Pl.
21	Spring Brunch	10:00 a.m.	Corvallis Country Club
21	Shakespearean Feast	7:00 p.m.	Nancy and Don Sanderson 1165 NW 17th St.
JUNE	Activity	Time	Location
30	Membership Dues Deadline		Contact Rosemary Cunningham