

# Branch Newsletter

## Mission

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

Volume 28, Number 9

May, 2008

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## Branch Program



By Marilyn Roland

[rolandm2@comcast.net](mailto:rolandm2@comcast.net)

### Spring Luncheon

Saturday, May 24, 2008, 10:00am

Corvallis Country Club

1850 SW Whiteside Drive

This event is a perfect time to welcome springtime and to visit with AAUW friends in a beautiful setting. The luncheon menu includes Cobb salad, breads, dessert, beverages and gratuities. Cost of the luncheon is \$15.00. Make your reservation by sending a check for \$15.00, payable to "Corvallis AAUW", to Sue Borden, 1150 NW Oak Ave., Corvallis, OR 97330. Please designate "vegetarian" on your check if you wish no meat items in your Cobb salad. Deadline for reservations is Friday, May 16.

### Guest Speaker

The guest speaker Kendra Brown, winner of Corvallis Branch's local scholarship, is currently in her third year at Oregon State University. She is originally from Kansas City, Missouri. She attended the University of Missouri and earned degrees in Political Science and Spanish. Upon graduation she joined the Peace Corps and served for two years as an English teacher in Madagascar. Due to her proficiency with Malagasy, the local language, she would often assist non-governmental organizations, in particular water resources engineering groups, with translations on their projects in the field. In this way she was inspired by engineers' ability to solve fundamental problems of water availability and quality. When she returned to the States, she returned to school under an environmental engineering program to learn technical skills. In addition to her coursework she is an active member of Engineers Without Borders. She hopes to return to the developing world and take on projects which bring about greater accessibility to clean water.

### Book Sale

Members are encouraged to bring gently-used books and other media items to the luncheon by 10 a.m. If you need to have your materials picked up, please contact Marilyn Roland, 752-5257, or e-mail her at [rolandm2@comcast.net](mailto:rolandm2@comcast.net) after May 14. The book sale is a wonderful opportunity to select materials for summer reading or to give as gifts.

#### President

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## President's Message

### Edie's Notes—Change



You all know the saying "If you don't like the weather in Oregon, wait five minutes (and it will change)". The fact that things will change is probably the only thing that we can rely on to stay the same.

AAUW is changing, from the national level down to the local branches. At the Association level, the Educational Foundation will be consolidated with the Association, to become a unified 501(c)(3) charitable organization. This will permit your donations to go directly to AAUW as tax deductible charitable contributions, including your membership donation (previously membership dues). The Association and EF boards will also be consolidating and will require new bylaws. Changes to the Legal Advo-

cacy Fund are also being made.

A new value promise has been developed that adds a critical piece that has never been fully articulated before and that expresses the spirit of AAUW. *By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.* The value promise is a clear statement of AAUW's unifying commitment to a fair chance and serves as a reference point against which all our programming is measured.

At the Corvallis Branch level, we will soon have Janice Abele taking over the office of branch President, along with several newly elected officers. We will have changes to the bylaws

By President  
Edie Lee  
[edie.lee@lifetime.oregonstate.edu](mailto:edie.lee@lifetime.oregonstate.edu)

which will allow us to plan our mission-based programs more creatively. We have started providing small scholarships for additional programs (OSU Winter Wanderings and National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). More young women have joined the Corvallis branch recently and more are expected to join.

I have the expectation that all of these changes will make AAUW a more vital and interesting organization. I encourage you to invite a guest to attend the Spring Luncheon at the Corvallis Country Club on May 24 so she will discover what a welcoming group of women we have in the Corvallis branch. Please be sure to make your reservations by May 16. See you there!

## News & Notes

### Give a Grad a Gift!

AAUW members can now give a recent grad—a friend, daughter, granddaughter, or niece—a free AAUW membership. At no cost to you or her!

She will receive a free one-year member-at-large AAUW membership! This is

a \$49 value. She can join a branch at any time but will be responsible for paying branch and state dues.

Complete the online membership application at <https://svc.aauw.org/join/gradgift.cfm#eform>

Or...

Download the application at [http://www.aauw.org/member\\_center/forms/upload/Give-a-Grad-a-Gift-Application-Form-PDF.pdf](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/forms/upload/Give-a-Grad-a-Gift-Application-Form-PDF.pdf)

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## Membership

### Membership Application

Thanks to many of you who have already sent your application and payment for 2008-2009. Please note that there has been a \$2.00 increase in AAUW national

dues. Total dues are \$77.00, made payable to Corvallis AAUW.

To encourage all of you to send your money in soon,

By Membership Co-Vice President  
Pam Duren  
[pam.duren@comcast.net](mailto:pam.duren@comcast.net)

we will have a drawing on May 24<sup>th</sup> at our luncheon for those who have paid by that date. We currently have 98 members in our branch.



### New Member

Chris Smith  
3354 NW Goldfinch Place  
Corvallis, OR 97330  
Santa Clara University, JD Law

753-1070 home  
753-1017 work  
[big5komm@comcast.net](mailto:big5komm@comcast.net)

## News & Notes

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

### AAUW Bridge Marathon Announces Winners

Many thanks to all who donated prizes for the recently concluded Bridge Marathon. The HUT Airport Shuttle donated four round trip tickets to the Portland Airport. George and Janice Abele donated gift certificates for Iovino's Ristorante. The John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts provided two tickets to a performance of the Emerald City Jazz Kings. The Hilton Garden Inn donated a night's stay at their Corvallis hotel. Allann Brothers and Coffee Culture provided gift certificates for coffee. Jane Ann Warkentin, Diana Bernstein, Evelyn Stephens, Edie Lee, Pam Duren and Sue Borden donated items used as

prizes. Janice Abele, Urchyl Bohard, Marilyn Trieman, Pam Duren, Jan Rounds, and Martha Jenkins donated refreshments. Helping with hospitality at the Awards Bridge Party were Marilyn Treiman, Urchyl Bohard, Marilyn Roland, Evelyn Stephens, Ann Mills and Sue Borden.

The Bridge Marathon proceeds will be in excess of \$2300. More than 120 players participated in the Marathon this year. The proceeds will support our local scholarships as well as other AAUW philanthropies as designated by the Board.

Winners in the 2007-2008 AAUW Bridge Marathon were announced at the Marathon Awards Bridge Party on Monday, April 14, at the Corvallis Country Club. The Grand Prize Winning team was Kay Robinson and Joan Cook with 14,650 points. Herb and Neoma Sparks came in second with 14,320 points. Evelyn Stephens and Neoma Sparks took third prize with 14,130 points.





## Public Policy

### Georgia / Michigan School News

By Public Policy Chair  
Rosemary Cunningham  
cunninghamrt@comcast.net

#### Georgia School District Backs Away from Single Sex Classrooms, For Now

According to the [Associated Press](#), Superintendent Shawn McCollough's plans to segregate schools in Georgia's Greene County have been dropped. The plan to create single-sex classrooms throughout the entire school district was developed in response to poor test scores, high drop out rates, and teen pregnancies. Although the plan was approved by the school board, parents fiercely opposed it. According to federal law, such single-sex classrooms are allowed, but only with the consent of the students' parents. Under this plan, however, the parents were not given the option of publicly funded coeducation for their children, thus making its implementation illegal. As reported in the Feb. 29 edition of [Washington Update](#), even Leonard Sax, the head of the [National Association for Single Sex Public Education](#), was not supportive

of McCollough's plans. At a meeting to be held on April 14, the plan will be officially dropped, and parents and teachers will be asked to give their input. Although the initial plans have been aborted, there is still talk about creating some single-sex schools in the county.

In a related story, the Arizona state legislature passed a bill last week reiterating a federal law that allows single-sex classrooms, but many question the need for such legislation and for the programs themselves, the [Arizona Republic](#) reported. A school district in Tucson last year abandoned their single-sex classroom program after determining that there were no significant advantages to it and that the classes "allowed for less flexibility and created scheduling conflicts for some students." Calvin Baker, the superintendent of the Vail Unified School District in Arizona, said, "The teachers reported that they did not notice a significant difference one

way or another. While single-sex classes may be good for some students, it is not the no-cost silver bullet that will fix education."

AAUW believes that such segregation without proper attention to civil rights protections can perpetuate gender stereotypes, increase discrimination, and hinder both girls' and boys' opportunities in the classroom.

#### Michigan High School Sports Group Pays Big in Discrimination Ruling

According to the [Detroit News](#), a federal judge ruled Tuesday that the Michigan High School Athletic Association must pay \$7.4 million in legal fees racked up in a decade-long court battle to maintain a sports scheduling system that discriminated against girls. As reported in the April 7, 2007 edition of [Washington Update](#), the U.S. Supreme Court refused to take on the case of *Communities for Equity vs. Michigan High School Athletic Association*.



## Public Policy

(continued)

The lawsuit, first filed in 1998 by a pair of Michigan moms, claimed that Michigan's practice of slotting several girls' high school sports at different times of the year than high schools and colleges in the rest of the country was discriminatory. In December 2001, a U.S. District judge ruled the sports seasons discriminated against girls in violation of Title IX, the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, and Michigan's Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act because, among other things, the current seasons were two to three weeks shorter than those of girls everywhere else in the country and of the boys' seasons. The switching of seasons last September for girls' basketball and volleyball and girls' and boys' tennis and golf affected nearly 56,000 girls and 16,000 boys in hundreds of school districts throughout the state.

**ACTION:** AAUW believes that Title IX's impact on women's athletic participation is one of the country's greatest success stories. It has changed the playing field dramatically for girls and women in sports. AAUW believes that expansion of athletic opportunities for girls and women must continue at both the high school and college levels. If you haven't yet done

so, please use AAUW's Two-Minute Activist online to urge your representatives to cosponsor the [High School Athletics Accountability Act \(H.R. 901\)](#). This critical legislation would 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, helping us all know how well Title IX is being enforced in our high schools and where we might need to make improvements. The House is currently working on adding provisions of this bill in the No Child Left Behind Act, and an increase in the number of cosponsors will demonstrate support for including the provisions in NCLB. For more information, read AAUW's position paper on [Title IX in school athletics](#) and a new report by the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education on [Title IX at 35](#).

### Resources for Advocates

#### **Lifetime Network Aired "North Country"**

Lifetime Television aired the empowering drama "North Country" on Saturday, April

5, at 9PM (ET/PT). Based on a true story, "North Country" features the story of a single mother who moves back to her hometown in hopes of providing her children a better life. When a friend encourages her to take a mining job, she refuses to tolerate the harassment that she and the other female miners encounter from their male coworkers. Despite being at odds with her community and her family, she rallies her female colleagues and stands up for what she believes. "North Country" is based on a book, *Class Action: The Story of Lois Jenson and the Landmark Case That Changed Sexual Harassment Law*, written by AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund 2007 Speaking Out for Justice Awardees Laura Leedy Gansler and Clara Bingham. The movie was shown and discussed at the 2007 AAUW National Convention in conjunction with the awards and the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund dinner.

If you missed the April showing of the movie, you might like to check out the DVD from the library.



## Legal Advocacy Fund

By LAF Liaison  
Marilyn Roland  
rolandm2@comcast.net

### LAF Book Sale

Please bring your gently-used books and other media items to the branch luncheon meeting May 24 at Corvallis Country Club. Be prepared to purchase lots of books, etc. for your summer leisure time. For more details see Page 1 of this newsletter.



### New Directions for LAF

LAF has undergone both staff and programmatic transitions. Holly Kearl is the new LAF Program Manager, working under the supervision of Jill Birdwhistell, PhD, Chief of Strategic Advancement. Several key LAF program decisions were made recently by the Board of Directors. Check out the June newsletter for the changes.

### AAUW Signs onto New Amicus Brief

In March AAUW signed onto an "amicus curiae" brief (friend of the court) for the case Crawford v. Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, TN. In this case, the U.S. Supreme Court will examine whether

Vicky Crawford, an employee of the Nashville Metro School District, is protected under the anti-retaliation provisions 704 (a) of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act after she cooperated with her employer's internal investigation of sexual harassment and then was dismissed from her job. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit found that Ms. Crawford did not have such protection, and if the ruling is upheld, it will set a bad precedent for future sexual harassment cases. It is crucial that AAUW convince the Supreme Court to reject the overly narrow interpretation of the court and protect employees such as Ms. Crawford under Title VII's anti-retaliation provision.

The "amicus" brief AAUW is signing onto will present social science research that demonstrated that psychological and social factors pressure victims of sexual harassment to discount and remain silent about the discrimination.

### AAUW Visits University of Missouri, St. Louis, to

### Discuss Sexual Harassment Policies

In March AAUW staff visited the campus of the University of Missouri, St. Louis, as a follow-up to a November visit. AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman and AAUW Director of Public Policy and Governments Relations Lisa Maatz participated in various LAF-related campus outreach programs based on AAUW's 2006 research report "Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus. They discussed concrete ideas to combat sexual harassment on campus and moderated a roundtable where equal opportunity and human rights directors from campuses in the area discussed the topic: "Sexual Harassment on Campus: strategies for addressing, sharing best practices, and sharing federal regulatory information and AAUW resources." Hallman also gave the keynote speech addressing related public policy advocacy issues at a campus luncheon.

## Interest Groups



### Gourmet Group

By Brenda Rowley

The Gourmet Dinner committee has met and report that a grand Chinese meal has been planned for May 17th. at the home of Marilyn and Leon Roland. Now what is needed is participants; AAUW

members who enjoy a cooking adventure followed by the sharing of a meal with fellow food lovers.

Marilyn can seat up to 20 diners. Both singles and couples are welcome. For a

reservation, please call Brenda at 752-6779 before May 4th.

Thanks from your Gourmet Committee: Christine Cantey, Denise Nervik and Brenda Rowley



### No Host Lunch

By Carolyn Simmons

Sorry, I goofed last month, but let's try again in May. On Thursday, May 15, 2008, at 11:45 a.m., we will meet for lunch at **Cloud Nine**, 126 SW 1st Street (on the

Riverfront in the **Old Lovino's** location). No need to make a reservation.

Just jot it on your calendar, then drop in for good food and nice company. Hope to see

you there!

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



### Afternoon Literature Group

By Carolyn Simmons

On Tuesday, May 13, 2008, we will meet at the home of Mary Lee Seward, 1501 Dixon Street, at 2:00 p.m. Marilyn Treiman will be leading the discussion of Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson.

If you still want/need a 'March-October Book Mark', please send me a SASE and I'll gladly send you one.

Contact Person: Carolyn Simmons, [CrCAROLYN@aol.com](mailto:CrCAROLYN@aol.com), 758-0271, 1302

NW Souza Pl, Corvallis 97330



### Evening Literature Group

By Connie Anderson

The Evening Book Club will be making next year's selections at the May meeting. The meeting will be held Wednesday, May 7th,

at Maxine Eckes' home and Maxine will be leading the discussion. Nancy Tolin will be co-host. The meeting will start at 7:30. Please let Maxine know if you plan

on attending by e-mailing her at [m.eckes@comcast.net](mailto:m.eckes@comcast.net) or calling her at 754-1511. Maxine lives at 3581 SW Par Place, Corvallis.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
7	Evening Literature Group	7:30pm	Home of Maxine Eckes 3581 SW Par Place, Corvallis
12	Board Meeting	1:00pm	US Bank, Corner of Walnut and 9th St
13	Afternoon Literature Group	2:00pm	Home of Mary Lee Seward 1501 Dixon Street
15	Newsletter Articles due to Patti Cleveland		Email to <a href="mailto:pattic@peak.org">pattic@peak.org</a>
15	No-Host Lunch	11:45am	Cloud Nine, 126 SW 1st St, Corvallis
17	Gourmet Group Meal—Featuring food from China Make your reservations early!		Reservations—call Brenda 752-6779
24	Branch Program 2007-08 Local Scholarship Winner, Kendra Brown Speaker	10:00am	Corvallis Country Club 1850 SW Whiteside Drive