

## Virtual Member Tea Introduction of New Members Officer Reports Election of Officers Named Gift Honorees

Saturday, March 13, 9:30 a.m.

### Lake Oswego Branch Officers 2020-2021 Elected Officers

#### President

Mary Pat Silveira (615) 804-6523

#### Program Vice President

Diana Ricks (503) 858-7481

#### Membership Vice President

Marty Maharg (503) 908-1984

#### Secretary

Jeanne-Marie Pierrelouis  
(202) 445-4976

#### Finance Co-Vice Presidents

Susan Hornung (503) 635-4893  
Stephanie Wagner (503) 803-7708

#### Immediate Past President

Pat Squire (503) 730-7072

### Appointed Officers

#### AAUW Fund

Susan Shea (503) 850-4062

#### Advocacy & Public Policy

Sharron Noone (503) 799-2139

#### Communications/Governance

Jane Taft (503) 709-3185

#### Hospitality

Penny Hansen (503) 636-7255

#### Inter-Branch Council

Mary Pat Silveira (615) 804-6523

#### Interest Group Coordinator

Charlene Vojtilla (503) 720-0904

#### Newsletter Co-Editors

Cathy Croghan Alzner (503) 320-6282  
Kris Schultz (503) 621-8602  
loaaunnewsletter@gmail.

#### Public Information

Karen Rottink (503) 636-9755

#### University/College Liaison

Catharine Hojem (541) 240-1291



We are holding our Annual Meeting and Tea in March this year. This has been an especially challenging year, so please join us as we celebrate our branch and its members. We will hold our annual elections and honor those who devote many hours to keep it running.

Sharing an actual tea this year will be a little difficult, but we can think spring! Come ready to share recipes or tell stories. I think that a glass of champagne might not be amiss as we plan to meet once again in person in the fall.



## On My Mind

Mary Pat Silveira



You may all by now be asking yourselves, what next? We certainly had a brutal mid-February, and I know many of you struggled to stay warm and connected. I hope that it wasn't too painful, and that you have been able to return to your normal lives relatively unscathed.

I'm laying odds that the worst is behind us. Many of us are now qualifying for the Covid vaccine; the days are getting longer; and it is unlikely that winter will be so vengeful again before we ease into spring.

March brings us the official end of winter, and, on March 8, International Women's Day (IWD), created in 1910 by the International Socialist Woman's Conference. For years it was primarily celebrated by the socialist countries. This changed when the feminist movement worldwide adopted it in the 1960s, and the United Nations began

celebrating it in 1977. Since 1980, the entire month of March has been designated as Women's History Month, first by Presidential proclamation and, later, in 1987, by Congress.

On a personal note, during the thirty years that I worked at the UN, without fail my male colleagues and friends from socialist countries would present a rose to each of the women in the office on March 8. It was a lovely and well-meaning gesture, but I say, "save the roses for Valentine's Day". International Woman's Day is not about femininity; it is about feminism -- about equality, power sharing, equal economic opportunity and the prevention of violence against women.

This year the theme for Women's History Month is "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced." I would like in particular to honor those who have fought for universal suffrage in our time as well as those women who have sought and won leadership positions at state and federal levels. There are so many to whom we owe so very much. I am forever grateful, but I am not complacent. We must remain vigilant, and we must be ever ready to keep our places in the struggle.

## Valiant Women of the Vote

Mary Pat Silveira

The first woman elected to the House of Representatives was Jeannette Rankin (R-MT), in 1916. Patsy Mink (D-HI) was the first Asian-American woman, elected in 1964, and Shirley Chisholm (D-NY), the first African American woman, in 1968. The first female senator was

Rebecca Latimer Felton (D-GA), who was appointed to an interim position, in 1922. Hattie Caraway (D-AR) was the first woman elected to the Senate, in a special election in 1932, and Margaret Chase Smith (R-MA), the first elected in a regular election, in 1948. However, it was not until 1978 that a woman – Nancy Landon Kassebaum (R-KS) -- was elected to the Senate without her husband having previously served in Congress.

So where are we today? In the current (117<sup>th</sup> Congress), women make up just over a quarter of the members, which is the highest percentage in US history. Counting both the House of Representatives and the Senate, 144 of 539 seats, or 27% are held by women. That is a 50% increase from a decade ago, although it is still far from the female share of the overall population (51%). Nor should we overlook the fact that Nancy Pelosi has been serving for ten years as the first female Speaker of the House, or that the person who now presides over the Senate is Vice-President Kamala Harris.

At the state level, women hold 31% of legislative seats, 30% of statewide elected executives and 23% of mayors in cities with population over 30,000. Oregon, along with Vermont, beats the average with 40% female legislators, but it is bested by Nevada, with 52.4%, Colorado, 47%, and Washington, with 41.5%.

What does it matter? The National Women's Law Center found that in 2019, women were more likely than men to introduce and enact bills on childcare, paid sick leave, sexual harassment and the minimum wage. Relative to men,

women are more experienced and have greater dedication to public service, a better grasp of the issues and better ability to collaborate.

Nevada provides us with a telling example of what can happen with a female-majority legislature. With more women at the table, law makers were able to pass five important bills for equality, including:

- Compensating firefighters who develop breast, uterine and ovarian cancer
- Paid leave – including sick leave – for employees
- Equal pay legislation
- The “Trust Nevada Women Act”, which removes a number of obstacles to abortion
- A series of laws related to domestic violence, sexual assault and sex trafficking

#### References:

1. “BY THE NUMBERS”, Represent Women: Parity for Women in Politics:  
[https://www.representwomen.org/current-women-representation#us\\_overview](https://www.representwomen.org/current-women-representation#us_overview)
2. “A record number of women are serving in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress,” by Carrie Elizabeth Blazina and Drew DeSilver, Pew Research Center,  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/01/15/a-record-number-of-women-are-serving-in-the-117th-congress/>
3. “Women in State Legislatures for 2020,” National Conference of State Legislators,  
<https://www.ncsl.org/legislators-staff/legislators/womens-legislative-network/female-legislative-leaders-2020.aspx>
4. *Did first female-majority legislature in US make a difference?* Helier

*Cheung, BBC News,  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-51623420>*

5. *States of Feminist Resistance: Women Legislators Make a Difference, Ms. Magazine, 4/13/2020, by Jennifer M. Piscopo, <https://msmagazine.com/2020/04/13/states-of-feminist-resistance-how-progressive-women-legislators-make-a-difference/>*



## **Slate of Candidates for Branch Election**

Pat Squire

On behalf of the nominating committee, Jeanne Lemieux, Marty Maharg and myself, I am pleased to announce our slate of new officers for 2021-22. They will take office on July 1.



## **President: Catharine Hojem --**

Catharine has been an active member in our branch for four years, and has been our college representative with Clackamas Community College, where she has made good contacts and worked to establish and monitor our scholarship. Catharine and Diana Ricks initiated a Work Smart program at CCC. As our CC representative, Catherine sits on the Branch Board. She is a member of the Non-Fiction Book Group and the Advocacy Committee, and is a willing volunteer for many of our activities.



## **Secretary: Jeanne-Marie Pierrelouis --**

Jeanne-Marie has been in this job for the past year, a one-year appointment to fill a vacant position. She is a very active member of our branch, the previous two years as Membership Chair, where she helped recruit new members and worked with a committee to retain current members. She also belongs to the Non-Fiction Book Group, and pitches in to help the branch whenever needed.





**Program Coordinator: Marge Ransom** -- Marge's background in public relations has made her an effective volunteer for coordinating the Friendship Tea, the Lunch Bunch, and several other activities. She will use those creative and organizational skills in this newly designed position, where she will work with other branch members who suggest and deliver programs. Marge will coordinate the efforts to offer a smooth, mission-based group of programs for the year.

Thank you to all three candidates!

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## **AAUW Oregon Annual Meeting**

Pat Squire

"Celebrating Resilience and Commitment" is the theme of the AAUW State Annual Meeting set for April 18, 2021.

Jessica Vega Pederson, the Multnomah County Commissioner who is behind the successful "Pre-School for All" will be the keynote speaker at the April 18 meeting. She will discuss the coalition she put together to promote the ballot measure that passed in November, 2020.

The AAUW April 18 Annual Meeting will be held from 1:00-2:30 p.m., via Zoom. Since the state has been offering regular Zoom "Continuing Education" programs, the brief meeting format is appropriate. Announcements and invitations to the Zoom meeting will go out in early April.

Other business aspects of the meeting will include election of state officers. Mary Pat Silveira is running for North Central District Director, a position she was appointed to in the fall. Pat Squire is running for a second term as State Program VP.

The AAUW Fund and Membership Celebration will take place on Tuesday April 20 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Alexandra Vargas Quinones, an AAUW Fellow at Portland State, will give the opening address. AAUW Fund awards, membership awards, a Breaking Barriers update, and Named Gift Honorees will be celebrated.

Both events are open to all with more details to come.



## Recycling Tip

Kris Schultz



Do you know that you can recycle that pesky and cumbersome **rigid** Styrofoam (a petroleum based polymer)? Sorry it cannot be placed in your curbside recycle bin, but it can be taken to Agilyx which is a world leader in chemical recycling of waste plastics. They are located in Tigard off of Hunziker and SW Wall streets.

If you have this type of Styrofoam (no Styrofoam “peanuts”, please) and cannot get to Tigard, I will be happy to pick it up and recycle thus reducing the landfill load.

Catharine Hojem and I will be discussing recycling information at the April AAUW branch meeting. If you have questions that you would like to ask, please send to [loaaauwnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:loaaauwnewsletter@gmail.com) and we will attempt to answer them at that time.

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**Lobby Day will take place this year on March 18, via Zoom. Details will follow soon.**

## Advocacy and Public Policy

Sharron Noone



The Advocacy Interest Group is busy planning activities and postings in March in honor of International Women's Day. As part of that celebration, we want to let Branch members know that **AAUW of OR is the lead advocate** for a bill that mandates diversity on Corporate Boards.

A hearing has not yet been set for the bill, although Trish Garner, State Public Policy Chair, believes that it will be in the first week or two of March.

As soon as the hearing is officially set, she will be calling on you to send in letters of support for the bill - House Bill 3110.

If you would like help with the process of sending in testimonial letters, including possible language, contact Sharron Noone ([smnrrooe@aol.com](mailto:smnrrooe@aol.com)) or Trish Garner ([garner37@gmail.com](mailto:garner37@gmail.com))

## New Email Address for Newsletter Submissions

Cathy Croghan Alzner and Kris Schultz

[loaaunewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:loaaunewsletter@gmail.com)

Please note the above address change. Jane Taft has established a new email address to be used for any and all newsletter submissions. One central location for all submissions will streamline the work of the editors and ensure that all those responsible have access to the same information.

As a friendly reminder, please be sure to (1) remove all prior formatting from anything cut and pasted; (2) submit all text items as word documents, and (3) submit all images in .jpg format.

Thank you.

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## Member Profiles

### Molly Divine

Catharine Hojem



Molly has rejoined the Lake Oswego Branch after a five year-hiatus during which she and husband Gary Baker

lived in Prescott, Arizona. She has been an active AAUW member for a number of years, beginning in Vallejo, California. Since she moved frequently, Molly always joined the local branch because she knew she would find interesting, like-minded, and friendly women. When in Prescott, Molly was president of the 220-member Branch, the largest in Arizona.

Molly grew up in Denver, Colorado where, as a child, she was labeled a “slow learner” and “not college material.” She married at age eighteen and had two children. Needing some “me” time she challenged herself to read one non-fiction book a week, not an easy task. The challenge inspired Molly to enroll in a local community college and then Loretto Heights College. Seven years later, in 1980, Molly graduated with a BA in Environmental Management.

Environmental policies changed with the Reagan Administration and Molly’s career options were eliminated. Fortunately, she turned her sales job at a local independent bookstore into a publisher’s sales representative, an immensely enjoyable ‘accidental’ career. For thirty years, she covered the Western states, driving over a million miles. Molly liked getting to know the members of local communities and helping them choose books to sell in their bookstores.

Molly’s blended family includes her two children, twelve grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Many reside on the West Coast, which makes Portland a great family “base camp”.

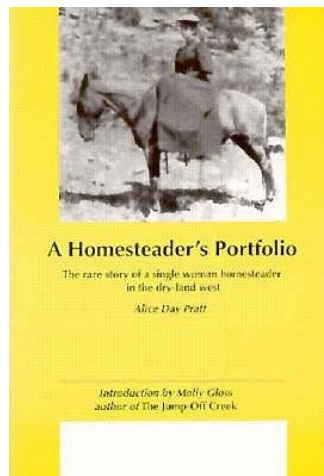
Molly’s passions are reading, journaling, American Mahjong, hiking and traveling.

She walked 750 miles on the 'Camino de Santiago' in Spain and Portugal, visited all seven continents and has done volunteer work in Asia and Africa. Molly and Gary are partners in Hush Valley Eco-lodges and trout farm in Costa Rica, where they plan to return when the pandemic allows.

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### Book Blurb

Cathy Croghan Alzner



Alice Day Pratt, *A Homesteader's Portfolio: The rare story of a single woman homesteader in the dry-land West*

The American West traditionally is known as a "man's world." Beginning in the 1830s of the tens of thousands of western homesteaders, single women may have comprised as many as one third. Many women perceived homesteading as an opportunity for greater autonomy and economic independence. Alice Day Pratt was one of these women. A forty- year-old unmarried teacher who succumbed to "the longing and ambition - - innate but

hitherto suppressed - - to own a portion of the earth's crust in my own right and to tamper with it unrestrained."

*Homesteader's Portfolio* is Alice's story of claiming and settling her homestead in the high desert of central Oregon. Like other "strong minded" predecessors, the 1848 feminists at Seneca Falls, antebellum abolitionists, and progressive era reformers, Alice was criticized and considered a curiosity. Teacher, writer, and single woman homesteader, Alice is one of many women whose contribution to the development of the West and to women's place in society often is overlooked.

WELCOME SPRING





**Due to COVID 19, groups are meeting using the web-based conferencing program, Zoom. Check with your interest group chair for more information.**

## Interest Group Activities



### **Tuesday Books** **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 11:00am**

Date: March 23  
Book: *The Engineer's Wife*  
By Tracey Enerson Wood

For more information, contact Lynda Bigler, [libigler@icloud.com](mailto:libigler@icloud.com)

### **Murder by the Book** **2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 12:00pm**

Date: March 10  
Book: *Scarpetta* by Patricia Cornwall

For more information, contact Jane Taft, [taft.jane@gmail.com](mailto:taft.jane@gmail.com) or Stephanie Carter, [secarter1@gmail.com](mailto:secarter1@gmail.com)

### **Interpretive Books** **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 9:30am**

Date: March 18  
Book: *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes

For more information, contact Connie Irwin, [irwinconnie44@gmail.com](mailto:irwinconnie44@gmail.com)

### **Thursday Evening Books** **4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7:00pm**

Date: March 25  
Book: *The Moment of Lift*  
By Melinda Gates

For more information, contact Suzanne Kaveckis, [smkaveckis@icloud.com](mailto:smkaveckis@icloud.com)

### **Non-Fiction Books**

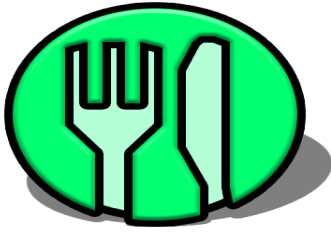
Date: March 9  
Book: *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson

For more information, contact Mary Pat Silveira, [mpsilveira@usa.net](mailto:mpsilveira@usa.net)

### **Friday Books** **4<sup>th</sup> Friday at 10:00am**

Date: March 26  
Book: *The Splendid and the Vile*  
By Erik Larson

For more information, contact Joan Waldron, [spirit.waldron@gmail.com](mailto:spirit.waldron@gmail.com)



### **Lunch Bunch** **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 11:30am**

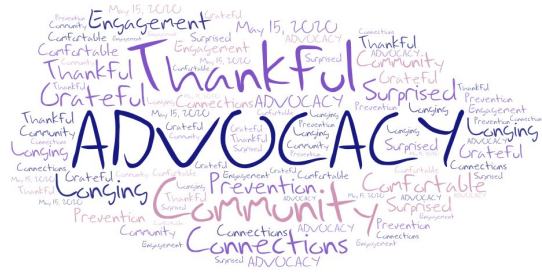
Date: March 16

All members are cordially invited to join us for Lunch Bunch, a casual get-together that is perfect for sharing thoughts and ideas, as well as laughs. We are not meeting in person for now, but we are enjoying each other's company the same as always. For further information, please contact Terry Hyland at [tw20eagle@comcast.net](mailto:tw20eagle@comcast.net) or Marge Ransom, [wrandmr68@yahoo.com](mailto:wrandmr68@yahoo.com).

### **Delightful Dining**

Date: March 20  
Time: 4:00pm  
Venue: Virtual Happy Hour

For more information, contact Jane Taft, [taft.jane@gmail.com](mailto:taft.jane@gmail.com)



### **Advocacy Interest Group** **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 11:00am**

Date: March 12

The Advocacy Group is working on a number of policy issues, most immediate of which is the impact of the pandemic on the employment of women, as well as planning activities and postings for the March 8<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day.

For more information, contact Sharron Noone, [smnrrooe@aol.com](mailto:smnrrooe@aol.com)



### **Story Telling** **3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 3:00pm**

Date: March 15

For more information, contact Mary Pat Silveira, [mpsilveira@usa.net](mailto:mpsilveira@usa.net).

# March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 Board Meeting	3	4	5	6
7	8 International Women's Day 	9 Non-Fiction Books	10 Murder by the Book	11	12 Advocacy Group	13 Branch Annual Meeting and Tea
14  Spring Ahead	15 Story Telling	16 Lunch Bunch	17 	18 Virtual Lobby Day  Interpretive Books 	19	20 Delightful Dining
21	22	23 Tuesday Books	24	25 Thursday Evening Books	26 Friday Books	27 
28	29	30	31			

# April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2	3
4 	5	6 Board Meeting	7	8	9 Advocacy Group	10 Branch Meeting
11	12	13 Non-Fiction Books	14 Murder by the Book	15 Interpretive Books 	16	17
18 AAUW State Annual Meeting	19 Story Telling	20 AAUW State Awards Celebration  Lunch Bunch	21	22 Thursday Evening Books 	23 Friday Books	24
25	26	27 Tuesday Books	28	29	30	