

- Lake Oswego Branch Officers  
2021-2022  
Elected Officers**
- President**  
Catharine Hojem (541) 240-1291
- Program Coordinator**  
Marge Ransom (503) 530-9810
- 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**  
Mary Pat Silveira (615) 804-6253
- Appointed Officers**
- AAUW Fund**  
Molly Divine (503) 460-7103
- Public Policy & Advocacy**  
Sharron Noone (503) 799-2139
- Communications/Governance**  
Jane Taft (503) 709-3185
- Hospitality**  
Penny Hansen (503) 636-7255
- Inter-Branch Council**  
Marty Maharg (503) 908-1984
- Interest Group Coordinator**  
Charlene Vojtilla (503) 720-0904
- Newsletter Co-Editors**  
Cathy Croghan Alzner (503) 320-6282  
Kris Schultz (503) 621-8602  
loaauwnewsletter@gmail.
- Public Information**  
Karen Rottink (503) 636-9755
- Scholarship/Education Liaison**  
Diana Ricks (503) 858-7481

## Oregon Tradeswomen: Building a More Diverse and Inclusive Workplace

Saturday, September 11, 2021  
9:30 Social Time  
10:00 Program  
**Zoom**



It is an honor to welcome back Lisa Palermo, Development Director of Oregon Tradeswomen, a remarkable organization that provides women with the training, career education, and personal support needed to enter and succeed in the skilled trades.

Lisa and a graduate of OTW’s pre-apprenticeship program, will discuss the vital work Oregon Tradeswomen is doing, the impact it has on lives and livelihood, and its ongoing efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in the trades. Job sites are notoriously difficult for women and minorities, often rife with racial, ethnic, and sexual harassment. OTW works to create a more equitable and respectful workplace through programs such as RISE Up Oregon and Safe from Hate.

Our Advocacy Committee will be supporting OTW in its efforts to tackle these and other critical issues in the workplace.

## Connections

Catharine Hojem



Most women I know regard the coming of the fall with a certain amount of anticipation. The nostalgic autumn ritual of our return to school was coupled both with many seasonal delights and the thrill of new adventures. I have wondered if this balanced combination of the old and new blended together has made such powerful memories for so many of us. Too much comfort is forgettable and an excess of excitement can be overwhelming.

This fall, unlike others in important ways, still has its yearly reassurance to offer us through September's beauty, along with our treasured rituals, (pumpkin spice latte's?), but we know it also presents us with some new challenges as well.

It would be far too easy to focus on the difficulties of this past year and a half for they have been many and dark. What gains I've witnessed, others have

reported as well: less can be more; kindness matters; families are priceless, friends too; the joy from helping others is not overrated; board games are fun; Zoom can be a blessing; and sharing our stories helps to ease the isolation.

In June, our board decided to try something new and hopefully exciting with our Scholarship award. The pandemic has had a disproportionate economic impact on women, most notably BIPOC, which will have long term economic results compounding the inequities of the existing gender wage gap. Since the start of the pandemic, more women than men have lost jobs, largely because so many women work in industries that have diminished in 2020, such as the restaurant, retail, hotel and travel sectors. As caregivers, women have sacrificed their jobs for their children and family members needing care.

LOAAUW has decided to financially support and advocate for Oregon Tradeswomen. The training teaches women to obtain positions in fields that are very securely anchored in commerce, such as iron and line workers, plumbers, electricians, construction workers, H-VAC and sprinkler-fitters. The relatively brief instruction period (about two months) allows women to join the workforce quickly by acquiring apprenticeships with living wages available from the outset.

Our Advocacy committee will address the issue of workplace harassment, both sexual and racial, directed at these brave women who are taking positions in traditional male domains. 'Rise Up Oregon' (Respect, Inclusion, Safety and

Equity) is a program which our membership will learn more about this coming year from the Advocacy committee and the Oregon Tradeswomen themselves.

Even though there is plenty of room for optimism regarding the pandemic, we don't yet know to what degree we will be meeting in person. The survey we sent out should provide some answers. But regardless, there is value in just 'showing up' for one another, I believe. That can be through Zoom, Skype, in an email or phone call, a funny card, or a walk at Tryon. We can all do this. We already have!

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## Oregon Tradeswomen



Marty Maharg, Diana Ricks, Pat Squire

On August 3, Marty Maharg, Sharron Noone, Diana Ricks and Pat Squire, members of the Lake Oswego Advocacy Committee, toured the Oregon Tradeswomen Rockwood Rising Project in its suburban NE Portland facility. Staff members Casey Lay, Lisa Palermo and Kelly Kupcak described the program

and showed us the classrooms and workshops.

The Advocacy Committee has decided that assisting the OTW will be this year's focus and our first project will be helping them with their October fund-raiser.

As part of its Blue Collar and Industry Awards on October 22, Oregon Tradeswomen will hold its

### **Build With Us! Auction**

<https://oregontradeswomen.org/build-with-us/>

We are inviting our AAUW members to contribute to this auction with hand-made pieces or items appropriate for the construction industry. If you make furniture, art, jewelry, or create other items you are willing to donate, Oregon Tradeswomen would be honored to have those items in their auction!

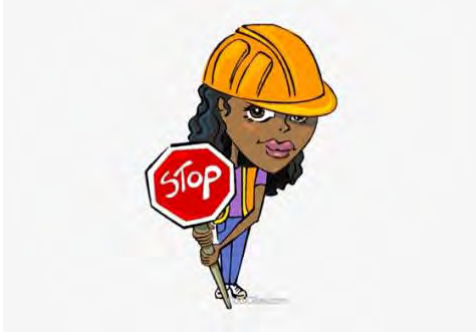
Please reach out to Casey Lay via email at, [casey@oregontradeswomen.org](mailto:casey@oregontradeswomen.org), or call (503) 335-8200 x 128. **Auction items are due by September 30<sup>th</sup>.**

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## Public Policy

By Sharron Noone



Oregon Tradeswomen assists women of all races to access well-paid jobs in the trades. However, one of the most significant and heinous obstacles that they face is harassment. This has been discussed in various articles, although less attention is paid than is warranted. In the article, "Women in Construction: Still Breaking Ground", the authors quote from current studies about this issue. For example, eighty-eight percent of women construction workers experience harassment at work, according to a study by the US Department of Labor, as compared to 25 percent of women in the general workforce. Another study referred to construction as "the industry that time forgot" due to the employment practices to which women are subjected.

Some of these practices include: negative stereotypes about women's ability to perform construction work; sexual tension injected into work contexts; attempts to reserve well-paid employment for men "who deserve it"; and reluctance by supervisors and other officials to discipline perpetrators of discrimination. These work environments persist despite the fact

that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 has prohibited such practices for 50 years.

If you are interested in more details about this issue, please open the article at [https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/final\\_nwlc\\_women\\_inconstruction\\_report.pdf](https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/final_nwlc_women_inconstruction_report.pdf)

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## AAUW Lake Oswego Facebook Page

Karen Rottink

AAUW Lake Oswego Branch has a Facebook Page which, in addition to postings of Branch activities, events and photos, provides an opportunity for you to share your thoughts. To access the AAUW Lake Oswego Branch Facebook page, you will need to have a free Facebook account.

If you do not have a free Facebook account, please here is how to create one:

1. Choose a search engine such as Google, Mozilla, or Safari and type the word Facebook into the search bar. Click enter.
2. Click on the link which says Facebook or Welcome to Facebook.
3. Look for the Sign-Up boxes on the page and fill in all of requested information:
  - First and last name
  - Email address
  - Password
  - Sex/gender
  - Birthday (We suggest not entering

the year for security reasons.)

4. Click the **green** Sign-Up button. Now you have a free Facebook Account!

If you do have a Facebook account, view the Branch Facebook page by:

1. Logging into Facebook with your Facebook ID and password and enter **aauwlakeoswegobranch** into the Facebook search line. Click Enter and you're there.

2. Or you can go directly to <https://www.facebook.com/aauwlakeoswegobranch>

The information on the AAUW Lake Oswego Facebook page will be updated as new information becomes available. You are invited to comment at any time you wish. Let's have fun and keep up the great communication together. Please "Like" our Facebook Page to help promote it.

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## Cards



Do you know a Lake Oswego branch member who is ill, is having surgery, has recently lost a close family member,

or is celebrating a special occasion such as a wedding anniversary or milestone AAUW membership?

Penny Hansen, our Hospitality Chairperson, invites you to inform her of a member who might appreciate a celebratory or supportive card from our branch. Please contact her at [pennyhansen@comcast.net](mailto:pennyhansen@comcast.net).

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**As Covid-19 guidelines are modified, meeting plans may need to change at the last minute.**

## Interest Group Activities



### Tuesday Books

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

Date: September 28

Book: *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell

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

### Murder by the Book

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 12:00pm**

Date: September 8

Book: *Newcomer* by Keigo Higashino

Where: Home of Stephanie Carter

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: September 16  
 Book: *Circe* by Madeline Miller  
 Where: Stephanie Wagner's home  
 14494 SW Uplands Dr

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: September 23  
 Book: *Dress Coded*  
 By Carrie Firestone

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

**Non-Fiction Books**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 11:00am**

Date: September 13  
 Book: *The Language of Butterflies*  
 By Wendy Williams

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

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

Date: September 20  
 For more information, contact Catharine  
 Hojem, [hojem2@gmail.com](mailto:hojem2@gmail.com)



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

Date: September 21  
 Location: Tavern on Kruse  
 4835 Meadows Rd  
 Lake Oswego

Reservations are required. To RSVP or  
 inquire further, contact Marge Ransom  
 at [wrandmr68@yahoo.com](mailto:wrandmr68@yahoo.com) or Charlene  
 Vojtilla at [charjoy8@gmail.com](mailto:charjoy8@gmail.com)

**Delightful Dining**

Date: October 16  
 Theme: Scandinavian dinner  
 Place: Charlene Vojtilla's home  
 Co-host: Molly Divine

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

**Public Policy & Advocacy**  
**Interest Group**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 11:00am**

Date: September 17  
 For more information, contact Sharron  
 Noone, [smnrrooe@aol.com](mailto:smnrrooe@aol.com)

Lunch Bunch June outing at  
Twill Cellars in West Linn



Charlene Vojtilla and Marty Maharg



Focaccia Bread courtesy of Charlene



Molly of Twill Cellars



Stephanie Wagner, Molly Divine,  
Susan Hornung and Jane Taft

# September 2021

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



# October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 <b>Board Meeting</b>	7	8	9 <b>Branch Meeting</b>
10	11 <b>Non-Fiction Books</b>	12	13 <b>Murder by the Book</b>	14	15 <b>Public Policy &amp; Advocacy</b>	16 <b>Delightful Dining</b>
17	18 <b>Story Telling</b>	19 <b>Lunch Bunch</b>	20	21 <b>Interpretive Books</b>	22	23
24	25	26 <b>Tuesday Books</b>	27	28 <b>Thursday Evening Books</b>	29	30
31 						