

**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

**Advocacy & Public Policy**

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  
loaaauwnewsletter@gmail.

**Public Information**

Karen Rottink (503) 636-9755

**Scholarship/Education Liaison**

Diana Ricks (503) 858-7481

**2021-2023 Branch Officers Installed**



The last “Branch Year” meeting in May began as Oregon State AAUW Co-President Sue Klumpf (top left) installed President Catharine Hojem (top right), Program Coordinator Marge Ransom (bottom left) and Secretary Jeanne-Marie Pierrelouis. Catharine and her Board have begun planning an exciting and informative 2021-2022. While at times Zooming was trying, it kept us together for both monthly Branch meetings and Interest Group activities.

Hopefully we all can look forward as a Branch to meeting face-to face beginning in September. Please be on the lookout for email updates and have a safe and enjoyable summer.



## On My Mind

Mary Pat Silveira



We have so much to celebrate this summer. Many of us will be cautiously returning to in-person get-togethers outside and, perhaps, indoors as well. The CDC has just announced that those who have been vaccinated can be liberated from their masks in most venues. I know that several of our interest groups will be freeing themselves of Zoom for the first time in well over a year. This is wonderful, but, please, be cautious and follow Oregon guidelines.

On June 20, we honor our fathers, and we enjoy the long day of the summer solstice.

June 19 – or Juneteenth – is an important day to celebrate. It is the oldest, nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery

in the country. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that enslaved people were now free. This was two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation, but the slaves of Texas had not been informed. Some say that it was because there were few Union troops in Texas to deliver the news; others suggest that plantation owners deliberately withheld the information in order to keep African Americans in the cotton fields. Both may be true.

Last year, Governor Kate Brown proclaimed the day to be known officially as “Juneteenth,” and promised to introduce a bill in 2021 making it a state holiday. Accordingly, House Bill 2168 was introduced in the state legislature this year, and it has now been passed by the Oregon House. As I write this, it is scheduled for a work session in the Senate.

Jeston Black, who submitted testimony in favor of the bill on behalf of the Multnomah County commissioners, said the day is undeniably a celebration, but it’s more than that. “It’s also a reminder of the work that’s been done to tear down systems of oppression, and a call to engage in the work that remains ahead. “This call — not just to the Black community, but to all non-Black people — today sounds as loudly as it ever has. And people across the country are answering through demonstrations and protests, advocacy, and direct assistance.”

My fellow members of LO AAUW, let us all celebrate Juneteenth and never

forget or relax our advocacy for equality and justice for all.

June is also my last month as branch president. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to lead you the past two years and thanks to the many, many of you who have made this possible with your support. It is my pleasure now to welcome our new president, Catharine Hojem.

## **New Branch Officers**

### **Catharine Hojem A Conversation with Catharine Pat Squire**

A sunny day, a lovely view, a good cup of coffee – it was a perfect time and setting to have a conversation with our new Branch President, Catharine Hojem.

We've come to know Catharine over the past several years as our very capable liaison with Clackamas Community College. Now she is stepping up to a new job and I wanted to learn about her thoughts and approach going forward.

She views the summer and this coming year as a time of renewal and re-energizing our branch. After a difficult year she is looking forward to working with the branch to decide where we want to be and what we want to be doing. She will start working with board members and will reach out to individual members to continue to build relationships, find out where interests lead, and perhaps go in some new directions. "I'm a risk taker," she says, "and I'm willing to take a risk to try

something new. We all make mistakes, and from those we learn, but without risk, we often don't get reward."

Catharine is a great collaborator, listener and advocate. She says she believes in collaborative leadership, with input from those who care. She prefers working with a team to a top-down management style. It's clear that she excels at building good relationships and learning how people work best together. Do not expect a formal style, but rather a casual, friendly, interested leadership approach.

Catharine has spent the past several months being mentored by Mary Pat Silveira, which she says has been a great opportunity to learn the job she is stepping into. This is a new model the board adopted this year, and it has been embraced by both Mary Pat and Catharine. "I'm so impressed with the team, including the new members," she says, "and I can tell that we'll all support each other."

Catharine will lead her first meeting, a planning session with outgoing and incoming board members, on Saturday, June 5. Look for updates and plans for the future!

### **Marge Ransom, New Plans for Programs**

Marty Maharg

Lake Oswego Branch is taking a new approach to planning, developing, and presenting programs this year, "programs-by-committee". The board has learned that a number of branches

are doing this very successfully and we decided to give it a try.

Marge, Program Coordinator, and committee members Diana Ricks, Pat Squire, Marty Maharg, Sharron Noone, Pam Berg and Stephanie Wagner already have begun compiling a list of topics and speakers. Working with a committee makes the job less burdensome and, more importantly, ensures that more members are involved with the planning resulting in more ideas, contact persons and resources.

After the past difficult year, members are anxious to resume meeting in person. Marge and her committee will do their best to ensure the Branch can look forward to interesting, important, and engaging programs.

If you would like to join the Program Committee or have program ideas, please contact Marge Ransom:  
[Wrandmr68@yahoo.com](mailto:Wrandmr68@yahoo.com)  
 (503) 941-9591

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## **AAUW's University Degree Requirement Vote Result**

Catharine Hojem

AAUW just had an important election. Of the 170,000 AAUW members, 77% chose not to vote. Of the 39,100 who voted, 63% (24,633) were in favor of becoming more inclusive by allowing non-degreed membership, while only 14,467 voted against it. Because an amendment requires a two-third's majority to pass, it did not. Every non-vote is a vote so the overwhelming

majority of the membership voted for the status quo.

I'm so proud to say that Lake Oswego Branch has decided to provide a scholarship to Oregon Tradeswomen, a board decision which acknowledges any education that empowers women is worth supporting. A shifting economy, with increasing demands for technological training of many types (e.g., HVAC, electrical, auto and aircraft mechanics, IT and computer repair) as well as four-year degrees, especially in STEM, requires us to be flexible in responding to the changing needs in the workplace that can provide financial independence for women. This decision honors and deepens AAUW's commitment to gender equity.

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## **A Note from Your Editors**

Your editors are taking a summer break. This newsletter contains Interest Groups information and calendars for June, July and August. Please watch your email for activity updates and /or contact specific Interest Group coordinators.

Since the September newsletter tends to be quite "newsy" we kindly request that you submit any articles you would like included by **August 5, 2021** to the newsletter's Gmail address located on the newsletter front page.

Our best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer. We'll see you in September.

Cathy and Kris

## Member Profile

### Susan Hornung

Mary Pat Silviera



It seems unlikely that there is anyone in the branch who does not know Susan Hornung. She has been a member of the Lake Oswego branch for almost forty years and has served at various times in every board position (including district director) except for Program VP. Susan and Robi Ingram-Rich originated the branch Tea (then called Spring Fling) as a fundraiser twenty-two years ago, and it has continued ever since. By the way, Susan claims the tea blend that we use. She experimented with various combinations of commercial tea bags and – voila – found the perfect AAUW blend. Susan also began the book sale, which was quite successful until Kindle intervened.

However, there is much about Susan that you may not know. She loves to travel. She spent her junior year of college in Beirut and travelled throughout the Near and Middle East. After graduating and teaching for three years, she worked with the USO in Vietnam and Thailand during the war in Vietnam and once again took advantage of the opportunity to travel extensively – to Nepal, Burma (now Myanmar) and other parts of Asia. Husband, children, and life put a temporary pause on the travel, but after she and husband Ken retired, they made numerous trips abroad. Susan reckons that she has visited more than 100 countries.

Susan has volunteered in the past with Oregon Public Broadcasting. She is a long-time docent at the Japanese Gardens, and each year she works with the AARP Foundation to help people, young and old, with their taxes. This year was a particular challenge since everything had to be done virtually. She is also our current Co-Finance VP and is a member of four different book clubs (three LO-AAUW and one at the Japanese Garden). Quite simply, Susan loves to read!

All of these things keep her quite busy, but she emphasizes that her main volunteer efforts are for AAUW, “because of what we believe, what we stand for and what we work for.”





## New Addresses

Diane Smith has a new email:  
[dianesmithrdh@gmail.com](mailto:dianesmithrdh@gmail.com)

Terry Hyland has a new home address:  
 22880 West Bluff Drive  
 West Linn, OR 97068

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## Dues Reminder

Susan Hornung

June is the last month of our fiscal year. We hope you all will renew plus look forward to once again meeting in person. This summer we also will create the new directory, so be sure to tell Marty Maharg or me of any changes. If you need help or a new invoice in order to pay with one click and a credit card, please contact me.



Sharron Noone

At the May Board meeting, it was decided that we would provide our annual scholarship to the Oregon Tradeswomen organization. Below is the Mission of that group.



***“Oregon Tradeswomen helps transform lives by building community and economic independence through empowerment, training, career education, advocacy, and leadership development in the skilled trades.”***

The Advocacy Committee plans to support this mission by exploring ways to champion and advocate for the organization. We will meet with representatives and determine appropriate ways to help; we will have a starting plan in place by September. Contact Sharron Noone at [smnrrooe@aol.com](mailto:smnrrooe@aol.com) if you would like to join.

**With the guidelines update, please check with your interest group leader on how you will be proceeding with your meetings.**

## Interest Group Activities



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

Date: June 22  
Book: *Why Fish Don't Exist* by Lulu Miller

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: June 9  
Book: *The Overnight Kidnapper* by Andrea Camilleri

Date: June 26 Annual Book Selection  
Time: 10:30am  
Location: Cackie Kyle's home

Date: July 14  
Book: *A Trouble of Fools* by Linda Barnes

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: June 17  
Book: *Virgil Wander* by Leif Enger

Date: July 15  
Book: *The Ninth Hour* by Alice McDermott

Date: August 19  
Annual Book Selection

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: June 24  
Book: *All the Old Knives*  
By Olen Steinhauer

Date: July 22  
Book: *If I Understood What You Said, Would I Have This Look on My Face* by Alan Alda

Date: August 7  
Book: Annual Book Selection  
Location: TBD

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

### Non-Fiction Books 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.

Date: June 8  
Book: *Donut Economics: 7 Ways to Think Like a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economist* by Kate Haworth

Date: July 12 (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 11am)  
Book: *On Call in the Arctic: A Doctor's Pursuit of Love, Life and Miracles in the Alaskan Arctic* by Thomas J. Sim

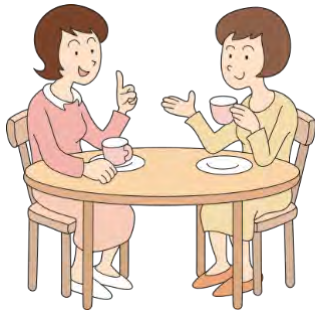
Date: August 9 (**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 11am**)  
Annual Book Selection

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: June 25  
Book: *Caste: The Origins of our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson

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: June 15  
Location: Twill Cellars  
21775 SW Ribera Lane  
West Linn, OR 97068

We are beyond happy to announce this special Lunch Bunch event.

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: July 24  
Time: 4:00pm  
Venue: Garden Tea and Planning Session at Stephanie Carter's  
For more information, contact Jane Taft, [taft.jane@gmail.com](mailto:taft.jane@gmail.com)



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

**No meetings in June or July.**  
Meetings resume in August.

The Advocacy Committee is planning to support Oregon Tradeswomen by exploring ways to champion and advocate for this organization.

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



**Story Telling**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 4:15pm**

Date: TBD  
Date: TBD  
Date: TBD

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



# June 2021

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

# July 2021

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

# August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2	3	4	5 <b>Submission Deadline September Newsletter</b>	6	7 <b>Thursday Books Annual Book Selection 10:00 a.m.</b>
8	9 <b>Non- Fiction Book Selection</b>	10	11 <b>Murder by the Book</b>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 <b>Interpretive Books Annual Book Selection</b>	20 <b>Advocacy</b>	21
22	23	24	25	26 <b>Story Telling</b>	27	28
29	30	31				