

**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

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(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

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Interest Group Coordinator

Charlene Vojtilla (503) 720-0904

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Public Information

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Scholarship/Education Liaison

Diana Ricks (503) 858-7481

One Friend at a Time

Saturday, November 13, 2021

9:30 Social Time

10:00 Program

Zoom



Allison Hancock,
Executive Director



“Helping women survive the trauma of cancer, one friend at a time.” That’s the mission of Breast Friends, a remarkable organization dedicated to supporting women throughout the physical and emotional struggle a cancer diagnosis brings. Founded, led, and largely staffed by breast cancer survivors, the organization knows what their sisters-in-arms need.

Executive Director Allison Hancock will share the story of Breast Friends and the extraordinary work it has done since its founding more than 20 years ago. She will speak to the wide range of programs it has developed to inform, engage, and support women, as well as family and friends, throughout our area and far beyond.

Amazingly, these programs are thriving today, despite the pandemic. Allison can attest to the challenges of keeping her organization intact, while serving, yet safeguarding, women when they are at their most vulnerable.

Connections

Catharine Hojem



Last month, the topic of “helpers” was addressed, as so many everyday folks have stepped up to help during this pandemic.

Thanks to Marge Ransom’s and Tigard’s Randa Blanding’s efforts as program coordinators, the good news continues as we heard from three young women who have been inspiring well before Covid. Their personal narratives are as impressive as what they have chosen to do politically for Oregonians as our legislative representatives.

Dacia Grayber (District 35) has been a firefighter and EMT for about 20 years and saw firsthand the devastation caused by unchecked weapon use and wanted to work to correct it. She had no idea that just as she was initiating her legislative campaign the wildfires of fall 2019 would begin, requiring much of her attention. She said “I have a core value of resilience” which clearly supported her as she balanced the two challenges.

Courtney Neron, (District 26) was a high school French and Spanish instructor who decided that after the Parkland shootings she wanted to help prevent more violence from ever happening again, and so began her political activism.

Rachel Prusak, (District 37) is a Family Nurse Practitioner (primary care, palliative and hospice) who was on call during the program and had to respond a few times during the event but returned to the topics at hand without missing a beat. Rachel looks at all public policy through “a Public Health lens”.

The following bills and issues are those which the three legislators identified as their top priorities. Some of the bills they sponsored or were involved with have not yet passed. Most did however, and those that were not successful will be presented in the future. All of them agree that women in leadership have the experiences and insights to address the core critical issues of healthcare, childcare, and safety for all.

Rachel Prusak:

HB 2508: Rachel and her coalition created the “Access to Telehealth” bill that passed with bi-partisan support. Before the pandemic in winter of 2020, there was significant opposition but soon after Covid began, that changed as insurance companies, hospitals, clinicians and auxiliary staff promptly became supportive.

Recently Rachel returned from Washington D.C promoting this legislation which has now become the

model that several other states are adopting.

HB 2510: “Safe Storage, Safe Homes” This successful bill “requires owner or possessor of firearm to secure firearm with trigger or cable lock in locked container or in a gun room.” It also requires that “if a weapon is given to a minor that it must be monitored.” Having been a mental health worker on school crisis teams in rural eastern Oregon, I can only hope that this bill will be a game changer. Disregard for gun safety has played a role in too many preventable teen suicides.

HB 3267: This bill establishes a Prescription Drug Affordability Board of five members who will review prescription drug costs for the purpose of recommending action to the legislature.

The Universal Access to Care bill did not pass, but Rachel will continue to pursue legislation that eliminates barriers to health care in Oregon.

Dacia Grayber:

Dacia worked with the coalition for the “Safe Storage Safe Homes” legislation and said that her proudest moment came when she was on the floor using her twenty years’ experience as an EMT to persuade others to support this bill.

SB 762: This bill was the result of thirteen years of work by the Governor’s Wildfire Council. Although there were differences among the legislators in approach to land use, forest management and codes, the bill passed with bi-partisan support, freeing up 125 million dollars to reposition resources.

HB 2927: This bill, which passed, separated Emergency Management and the Fire Marshall from the military and the Oregon State Patrol. By doing so, it allows different departments to respond more “nimble and independently.” Dacia believes this is especially helpful in light of the potential Cascadia earthquake.

HB 2513: This successful bill requires police to be trained in airway anatomy and certified in CPR. They are required to call 911 within sixty seconds if, while restrained, an individual begins to display respiratory and/or cardiac difficulties.

Dacia worked with a coalition, which included the Tigard mayor who is also an EMT.

Working to address insurance coverage discrepancies, Dacia said that firefighters are reportedly at higher risk for particular illnesses and cancers, including those of the reproductive organs. Insurance covers those cancers only for male firefighters, not females. “If you’re a female, any reproductive organ cancer below the breasts is not covered” she said. She is working to change this.

Courtney Neron:

Her core concerns involve issues related to education and environmental safety for all.

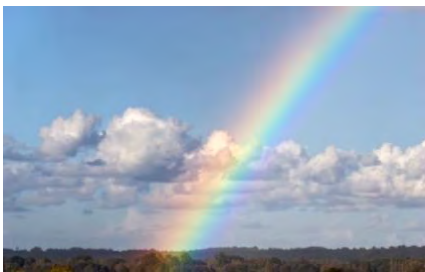
SB225C: This successfully amended the 2014 Oregon Task Force on School Safety bill which provided school safety, security, and emergency management. The amendment broadens the scope of covered hazards to include others such as earthquake preparedness.

HB 2409: Representative Neron sponsored this bill which allows Home Owners Association (HOA) members to opt out of having pesticides used on their homes or yards. It passed.

HB 4141: This bill, which passed, increased funding for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) to all foster children negotiating the legal system.

HB 2495: Toxic Free Modernization Act. This requires all major children’s toy manufacturers to identify toxic chemicals and phase them out in 2022. It did not pass and will be resubmitted at the next regular session.

HB 3073: This successful bill will change the Early Learning Division to “Department of Early Learning and Care” and will be tasked with improving the coordination of early childhood programs, along with providing immediate relief to Oregon’s most vulnerable families who need childcare.



“Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.”
Maya Angelou

Holiday Party

After further considering current Oregon Health Authority (OHA) guidelines, I decided that the Holiday Gala Celebration will again be held via Zoom. We all are hoping that soon we can safely and comfortably meet in person, without masks and resorting to social distancing.

Date: **Sunday, December 12th**

Time: **4:00 to 6:00pm**

Activity: Please bring something especially meaningful to share from your own personal Christmas holiday history, such as a photo, an ornament or memory, etc.

Catharine Hojem
LOAAUW President

Public Policy

Redistricting in Oregon 2021

Pam Berg

Oregon was the first state in the country to pass new redistricting laws which were signed by Governor Brown on September 27, 2021. Beginning in 2022, Oregon will have a new Representative from District 6 in DC.

The main rules of redistricting are equal population, access, continuity, minority representation and keeping communities of interest together. Prior to receiving 2020 census data, the Oregon Legislature convened ten hearings to review redistricting protocol and scheduled twelve more sessions for public input following receipt of the data. Two thousand Oregonians signed up to

testify. After hearing all testimonies, three maps were drawn, one of which passed. Despite conflicting viewpoints about the new map, Representative Andrea Salinas (Lake Oswego), Co-Chair of the House Redistricting Committee, declared that the final map is fair.

Advocacy

Sharron Noone



The Advocacy Committee is planning educational support projects with the Oregon Tradeswomen. We also are considering suggestions from Oregon State Representatives Prusak, Grayber and Neron. As a group they listed five nonpartisan matters that could be important in promoting the AAUW mission of equity and accessibility for women. We are investigating how the Branch could become involved in the following:

1. Child care
2. Affordability of education
3. Job pathways
4. Electing more women
5. Increased pay, respect, and recognition for care providers of the elderly

AAUW Fund

Molly Divine

The AAUW Fund donation year is January 1 to December 31, so we are rapidly approaching the end of the funding year. Donations must be postmarked by December 31st to count for the year 2021.

Covid-19 certainly has impacted Branch members' ability to meet in person resulting in the inability to hold fundraising events that support both our local scholarship and the national AAUW Fund. This is very unfortunate since both projects are near and dear to Branch members.

Before the end of the program year we hope to hold one or more fundraising events, but I am here to remind you contributions can be sent either online or by mail. They will be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

AAUW provides one of, if not the largest, scholarship program for women in the world in terms of funds dispersed. Our most recent year total gifting was \$115 million in fellowships and grants! Recipients represent all fifty states, plus Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and Guam. Additionally, women in 150 countries were awarded fellowships or grants. Every dollar matters. Thank you, Lake Oswego Branch members, for your generous support year after year.

The gift giving season is rapidly approaching. Your \$25 donation can honor someone living with a Tribute or remember someone deceased with a

Memorial. If you do that, and give a name and address, we will send a personal card to let them know of the donation. No supply chain disruption to worry about!

Member Profiles



Deborah Fryer

Susan Hornung

Debby Fryer bravely moved to Oregon in September 2020 during Covid to be with her daughter and son-in-law. She is a new member of our branch but she is not new to AAUW, having been a member when she lived in New Jersey and even starting a branch there.

Born in Buffalo, New York, she moved with her family to California when she was ten. She attended school in Los Angeles culminating in her graduation from UCLA with a degree in Art Education. She then married and moved to Honolulu with her new

husband who was in the military. While living there she taught a short course in art to military personnel.

Later Debby and her husband moved to England for three years where she had the first of her four children. Returning to the U.S., she resided for more than fifty years in New Jersey. Even though busy raising her family, she became a great sailor and raced with her husband twice from Massachusetts to Bermuda and back in a small sailboat.

In her fifties Debby returned to her love of art by starting her own business of creating decorative paintings and murals in homes for interior decorators. Each year she would participate in a Show House where a large older home had each room renovated at no cost by a different decorator. The tickets to see the home then raised money for worthwhile causes.

Debby loves painting in watercolors and she has been a longtime member of the New Jersey Watercolor Society. She also enjoys reading, duplicate bridge, and traveling. She has eleven grandchildren and one great grandchild. Recently she spent a night at Timberline Lodge with one of her daughters, where unfortunately too many clouds blocked their view of the mountain, but they enjoyed seeing the lodge.



Marty Maharg

2021-22 Membership Directory

A big thank you to Jeanne-Marie for all her work on the formatting, calligraphy and printing; to Catharine for her written contributions; and to Susan Hornung for her editing.

You all should have received your directories as they were sent by USPS. However, if you have not, please contact me. If there are any new edits or corrections throughout the coming year, please contact me as well so we can update our records. 503-720-4467; martymaharg@hotmail.com

Correction: Molly Divine's email is mollydivine1@gmail.com



Solutions for old electronics*

Kris Schultz

Two-thirds of households have an old, unwanted TV, monitor, tablet or computer stashed away. Electronics

are resource intensive to produce and contain heavy metals. It is important to manage them properly. If not, they could become monsters in the environment.

In Oregon, it's free and easy to safely recycle electronics through the [Oregon E-cycles program](#), thus keeping harmful materials like lead and mercury out of our air, soil and water. Find a drop-off recycling facility near you with the [Garbage and Recycling Day app](#). #MonsterInYourCloset #OREcycles

Before recycling, please consider how you can reduce and reuse first! Compared to recycling, extending the life of electronic devices has a much greater benefit to the environment, the community and often, your wallet.

For tips on how to keep your devices working longer or how to get the electronics you no longer want into the hands of those that can use them, check out on the Washington County Solid Waste and Recycling [website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

Note: Whether you are giving your device to someone or recycling it, **erase all personal data** so you can feel secure and confident of your choice. Find data destruction tips at the [Oregon E-cycles](#) website.

** Washington County Solid Waste and Recycling October 2021 newsletter*



Tuesday Books

4th Tuesday at 11:00am

Date: November 23

Book: *Hidden Valley Road* by Robert Kolker

For more information, contact Lynda Bigler, libigler@easystreet.net

Murder by the Book

2nd Wednesday at 12:00pm

Date: November 10

Book: *The Windsor Knot* by SJ Bennett

For more information, contact Jane Taft, taft.jane@gmail.com or Stephanie Carter, secarter1@gmail.com

Interpretive Books

3rd Thursday at 9:30am

Date: November 18

Book: *The Patron Saint of Liars* by Ann Patchett

For more information, contact Connie Irwin, irwinconnie44@gmail.com

Thursday Evening Books

4th Thursday at 7:00pm

Date: **December 2nd**

No meeting in November

For more information, contact Suzanne Kaveckis, smkaveckis@icloud.com

Non-Fiction Books

2nd Monday at 11:00am

Date: November 9

Book: *Susan, Linda, Nina and Cokie: The extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR* by Lisa Napoli

For more information, contact Mary Pat Silveira, mpsilveira@usa.net

Story Telling

3rd Monday at 3:00pm

Date: November 15

For more information, contact Catharine Hojem, hojem2@gmail.com

Public Policy & Advocacy

3rd Friday at 11:00am

Date: November 19

For more information, contact Sharron Noone, smnrrooe@aol.com

Lunch Bunch

3rd Tuesday at 11:30am

The location for the November meeting of Lunch Bunch has not been finalized. Due to cooler weather and Covid restrictions, it is getting more difficult to find a suitable venue. Look for an email from Marge in early November with more details. We are also considering alternatives for the December meeting—more information to come on that as well.

To RSVP or inquire further, contact Marge Ransom at wrandmr68@yahoo.com or Charlene Vojtilla at charjoy8@gmail.com

Photo Album

Charlene Vojtilla and Penny Hansen

After nearly twenty months, the Branch Delightful Dining group met together in October at Charlene Vojtilla's home. Twelve members dined quite elegantly on a delightful Scandinavian themed dinner that Molly Devine and Charlene designed. Following the dinner, diners were treated to a tour of Dennis Vojtilla's bonsai nursery.



A SCANDINAVIAN DINNER

APPETIZERS

- GRAVLAX WITH BLINI AND MUSTARD-DILL SAUCE
- CHEESE, ONION AND MUSHROOM TART
- GJETOST WITH WASA CRISPBREAD

DINNER

- ROASTED SALMON WITH TWO SAUCES
 - LINGONBERRY SAUCE
 - CREAMY AVOCADO SAUCE
- WHITE WINE-POACHED COD WITH CREAMY DILL SAUCE
- HERB-ROASTED VEGETABLES
- RED CABBAGE SLAW WITH APPLES
- WHOLE GRAIN PILAF
- SCANDINAVIAN RYE MUFFINS

DESSERT

- SCANDINAVIAN COCONUT COOKIES
- BROWN BUTTER ALMOND CAKE WITH PEARS
- PISTACHIO BROWNIES & LINGONBERRY TROLL CREAM



Charlene Vojtilla and Molly Devine



Standing: Susan Hornung, Ken Hornung
Stephanie Carter
Seated: Gary Baker, Jane Taft



November 2021

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

December 2021

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