

**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  
loaauwnewsletter@gmail.

**Public Information**

Karen Rottink (503) 636-9755

**Scholarship/Education Liaison**

Diana Ricks (503) 858-7481

**Legislators' Forum: Key Issues in 2021  
and Beyond**

Saturday, October 9, 2021

9:30 Social Time

10:00 Program

**Zoom**



Rep. Dacia Grayber



Rep. Courtney Neron



Rep. Rachel Prusak

LOAAUW is proud to announce an event designed to provide an up-close look at where we stand on the most pressing issues facing our state. This event will feature three notable members of the Oregon House of Representatives — Dacia Grayber, Courtney Neron, and Rachel Prusak — who will share the latest news from Salem, along with their insights.

This Forum is an opportunity to hear directly from our legislators about hot-button topics such as redistricting and advocacy efforts concerning causes that matter deeply to us. We can also look forward to delving into issues related to women in leadership roles.

The event is a joint endeavor with our neighbor, Tigard Area Branch AAUW. It is especially fitting, given the extent to which our memberships share legislative districts as well as a keen interest in public policy. Together, we are a powerful force for change!

## Connections

Catharine Hojem



There's little chance of overstating the magnitude of the crises that have occurred globally in recent weeks. From the earthquake in Haiti that has killed at least 2,200, to the fractured efforts to transport Afghan refugees and Americans to safety, the situations are catastrophic.

The historic reach and violence of hurricanes, with the ensuing flooding in New Orleans and the east coast have proved overwhelming to areas unprepared for such devastation.

For many in our country, the aggressive restriction of reproductive freedom and healthcare for women is a crisis that will primarily impact our poor and BIPOC women and girls. The state of Texas deputizing the public to act as law enforcement is a looming crisis for our entire country.

And still, sadly the pandemic rages on, stretching healthcare services and providers in many communities to the

breaking point. Currently, one thousand Americans die daily from this largely preventable virus.

Fred Rogers, aka "Mr. Rogers" said this: "When I became afraid as a child learning about natural disasters, there was something my mother said that I've remembered: 'Always look for the helpers' she'd tell me. 'There's always someone who is trying to help'. I did, and I came to see that the world is full of doctors and nurses, police and firemen, volunteers, neighbors and friends who are ready to jump in to help when things go wrong".

Now the list of helpers has grown to include not just emergency and healthcare workers but ordinary people taking on risks just to do their jobs, allowing us to continue to have basic needs met. We all have noticed, and are grateful for the scores of everyday heroes who continued to provide us with goods and services, well before vaccines were available.

I am aware of so many of you who have stepped up as the needs of your children and grandchildren suddenly became urgent. Sometimes your presence was the only way that parents could continue to work as many daycare options were discontinued. The respite care you provided allowed your adult children to tap into some brief relaxation, a scarce option for them in these stressful times. Others have taken on the education, offering hands-on support to homebound children, expanding upon the online instruction on which so many of them relied. Many have kept their connections strong with grandchildren by continuing simple

rituals through the use of Zoom, Face-Time or Skype.

Looking for the helpers will not stop disasters or tragedies, but it does serve to remind us that there is still so much wonder and good in the world. By looking for them, more of us may be inspired to become the helpers as well. I know that I am inspired by so many of you.

Though most of us have our favorite charities, here are some additional suggestions which are specific to the current crises:

**Donate extra travel miles or vouchers:**

- **Miles4Migrants** is accepting donations in the form of air miles for individuals with legal approval for travel and who cannot afford the costs.

**Donate to organization that provide aid to Afghans:**

- **Neighbors in Need: Afghan Allies:**

<https://www.lirs.org/help-our-afghan-allies/>

- **International Refugee Assistance Project**

<https://refugeerights.org>

- **Humanity and Inclusion**

<https://www.hi-us.org>

**Other organizations accepting donations include:**

Afghan Aid, Women for Afghan Women, International Refugee Service, Mercy Corps, United National High Commissioner for Refugee, HIAS.

**Haiti**

- Partners in Health (Zanmi Lasante)

<https://www.pih.org>

- Project HOPE

<https://secure.projecthope.org/>

- Haitian Education and Leadership Program (HELP)

<https://uhelp.net>

- Hope For Haiti

<https://hopeforhaiti.com>

**Planned Parenthood:**

<https://weareplannedparenthoodaction.org/>

\*\*\*\*\*



**Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

Marge Ransom

A reminder that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a national campaign that focuses public attention on early detection, treatment and the difference they make in the fight against

breast cancer. These are the strongest defenses we have against the second most common form of cancer among women (second only to some types of skin cancer). To put the incidence of breast cancer in personal terms, one out of every eight women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer sometime in her life. How early the diagnosis is made largely determines the journey that lies ahead of her.

If you're due for your mammogram, please get it done this month. If you have a family member or friend who's due, make sure she gets it done also. And don't neglect monthly self-exams; forty percent of diagnosed breast cancers are detected by women who feel a lump.

You can also lend your support to a variety of special activities and fund-raising projects supporting Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Many local organizations and businesses are sponsoring events or offering special promotions during October; be on the look-out for these, and please support them generously.

Our program next month will feature Allison Hancock, Executive Director of Breast Friends, an organization that is dedicated to supporting women in our area throughout their struggle with breast cancer. Allison has a wealth of information and experience to share with us, and it is always timely. As she says, cancer has no calendar.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Public Policy Sharron Noone



As Branch Public Policy Chair, I try to make community participation easier. With so many competing ideas it is important that you have easy access to your political representatives. The AAUW Policy Update website is a good source of letters, briefs and white papers about current topics. (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/documents>)

Peggy Shippen, Salem AAUW Branch, has made a (draft) webpage that includes summaries of current issues of interest to AAUW members as well as contact information for local politicians.

“The purpose of this website is to provide members with an easy way to:

- Learn about Federal, State and (maybe) Local issues supported by AAUW;
- learn how to support upcoming legislation by becoming a “Two-Minute Activist” and
- have quick access to senators’ and representatives’ email contact information.”

If you would like to see the draft of the webpage and/or if you think an online or hardcopy tool would be useful, please contact me. I hope to hear from many of you. [smnrrooe@aol.com](mailto:smnrrooe@aol.com)

## Advocacy

Sharron Noone



<https://oregontradeswomen.org>

The Advocacy Committee will summarize and post in the newsletter each advocacy-focused Branch presentation. Hopefully this will help you decide which community women's organizations you would like to assist and how to do so.

During the September 11<sup>th</sup> program Lisa Palermo from Oregon Tradeswomen made two points very clear: 1) the importance of providing women who choose not to go to college an opportunity to earn a decent wage; 2) the equal importance of providing training for all, including men, on how to create a respectful workplace in a male dominated workforce. Reinforcing these criteria, Lisa described a few horrifying incidents of harassment women in the trades experience daily.

Right now, the best way we can help OTW is to participate in the **Build With Us! Auction**. (<https://oregontradeswomen.org/build-with-us>). Please consider attending the Silent Auction beginning October 19 or the live Virtual Auction on October 22. Registration is free. If you have questions, contact Casey Lay at

[casey@oregontradeswomen.org](mailto:casey@oregontradeswomen.org), or call (503) 335-8200 x 128.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Member Profiles



### The Delightful Jane Taft

Charlene Vojtilla

Jane Taft, a longtime member of the Lake Oswego Branch, is chair of the Delightful Dining group and the adjective fits her as well! Jane is lively, intelligent and involved in a host of activities. She has been a member of LO AAUW since 1998, when she moved to the Portland area. She, along with Pat Squire, has the distinction of having served two terms as President of the Lake Oswego Branch.

Jane grew up in Albany, New York, and attended Goucher College in Maryland. She remains active in the alumni association. She majored in History at Goucher and then attended the University of Oregon, where she received a Master's in Journalism.

Jane returned to Albany after graduate school and life also took her to New York City, London, and Florida, where she joined the Ft. Lauderdale AAUW branch-serving as newsletter editor. When she and her daughter's family moved to Portland, she quickly looked up AAUW and connected with then Membership Chair Susan Hornung. As soon as it became known that she had a degree in Journalism, she became newsletter editor here. Since she joined, Jane reckons she has spent only about 6 months not holding some position on the Board.

Jane especially enjoys the AAUW interest groups and feels that they are a good way to recruit and retain new members. She currently participates in Delightful Dining, Lunch Bunch, Murder by the Book and Thursday Evening Books. She especially encourages members to think of new interest group subjects and start groups, as she has done over the past 23 years.

When not busy with AAUW, Jane enjoys time with her daughter, son-in-law, and three grandchildren (ages 26, 24, and 12) who live near her in West Linn.



Marty Maharg

Welcome to our two new members, Nicole Maclennan and Debby Fryer. Nicole recently moved to Lake Oswego and joined at our Saturday Market event in August. We look forward to getting to

know her once she and her son are settled in. Debby moved from New Jersey, where she had been a long-time member of AAUW. She joined us in September. She has already attended the September general meeting and the nonfiction book-group.

The 2021-22 Membership Directory is in process. It will be delivered via USPS, hopefully by the end of October, if not sooner.

If you are interested in assisting with membership activities, please contact me via email or text.

503-720-4467;  
[martymaharg@hotmail.com](mailto:martymaharg@hotmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Interest Group Activities



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

Date: October 26

Book: *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams

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: October 13  
 Book: *1222* by Anne Holt

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: October 12  
 Book: *Good Night, Mr. Wodehouse* by  
 Faith Sullivan

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: October 28  
 Book: *The Elephant Whisperer*  
 By Lawrence Anthony

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: October 11  
 Book: *Tightrope: Americans Reaching  
 for Hope* by Nicholas D Kristof and  
 Sheryl We Dunn

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: October 18

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

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

Date: October 15

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



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

Date: October 19  
 Location: Stanford's Restaurant  
 14801 Kruse Oaks Blvd  
 Lake Oswego

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  
 Time: 6:00pm  
 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)

# October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 <b>Board Meeting</b>	6	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>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 						



# November 2021

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