

**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

**Diversity Officer**

Marty Maharg (503) 908-1984

**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

## Preserving Oregon's Wild and Natural Places

Saturday, February 12, 2022

9:30 Social Time

10:00 Program

**Zoom**



Marcy Cottrell Houle

Marcy Cottrell Houle is a wildlife biologist and award-winning author of several books and numerous articles for leading national publications. Her inspirational book, *A Generous Nature: Lives Transformed by Oregon*, profiles twenty-one conservationists and activists who championed the preservation of some of the most beautiful and environmentally significant places across Oregon. Among those places is Tryon Creek State Natural Area, a shining example of what can be accomplished when people who value natural riches are willing to fight long and hard to safeguard them.

Houle will share insights that she gained from her personal interviews with these remarkable individuals and celebrate the courage and determination it took to preserve the habitats, ecosystems, and natural beauty that make Oregon unique. Their stories help us understand the history of our exceptional places and the role we all play in protecting our world.

## Connections

Catharine Hojem



My daily walks with our Labrador, Gil, are a 4:30 p.m. ritual, rain or shine. I suspect that the reason I am so committed is that walks are *everything* to him and his feedback is so delightful. He is seven but that doesn't stop him from engaging in impressive vertical leaps or his elite form of canine yodeling. Being able to make anyone *that* happy, doing something so seemingly insignificant makes my day a success, regardless of what else is going on.

Perhaps we all have recently been feeling that many of our collective efforts seem insignificant, compared to the scope of difficulties we're facing, but our AAUW mission, equity for women and girls, is not achieved in one dramatic gesture but in the consistent efforts we make over time, year in and out.

Contributing to fundraising, volunteering to do committee work, and being willing to participate on the board are all ways that we steadily move ahead, regardless of the obstacles. Perhaps it's even more important in challenging times to "stay the course" and do what has always been of value to us.

Happy Valentine's Day members! Our sweethearts of the month (among others) are our three volunteers for the nominating committee, Diana Ricks, Pam Berg and Pat Squire. Next time you have a chance, thank them for taking on this responsibility. The last two years have been really wonderful working with the existing officers/sweethearts Marty Maharg (Membership), Susan Hornung (Finance VP), and Stephanie Wagner (Co Finance VP). They have all worked so diligently in many kinds of un-tested situations and have left a legacy of jobs all very well done.

I know we all are looking forward to seeing how this committee has filled the vacant positions. Please consider volunteering your time or be willing, if you're asked, to step up to a new challenge. We will vote on our new officers at our virtual March meeting as well as present the award to our Named Gift Honoree. There will be time to also enjoy a Spring Tea with some delightful festive activities.

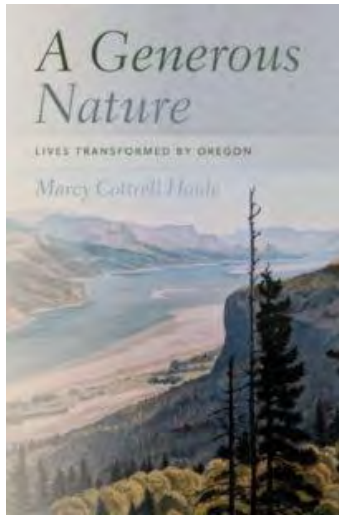
We are headed towards more chances for activity! Lobby Day became Lobby Evening, on ZOOM, and will be on February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. Hope to see you all there where you will have a chance to gather with members in other branches and listen to the featured speakers. The annual state meeting will be April 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, it will be on ZOOM, not in Ashland but I'm looking forward to that setting in 2023.



Many hands make light work

## Book Blurb

Marge Ransom



Want to read a good love story? Then, look no farther than our February Branch Meeting speaker Marcy Houle's *A Generous Nature: Lives Transformed by Oregon*. Her twenty-one stories are "a love song to Oregon," one that is not hers alone, "but that of many who feel as I do, that we are privileged to live in one of the Earth's most exceptional places."<sup>1</sup>

There are genuine heroes here: men and women of all ages, all backgrounds and most with little or no prior experience with government or public policy. Each one found the way, somehow, to win their fight to whether it was to protect "Wild and Scenic" rivers, old-growth forests, or the high plains. They help us appreciate the personal conviction, as well as the structured planning and innovative legislation, it has taken to preserve these places for generations to come.

For a preview of this book and the success stories it celebrates, please check out the following short interview with Marcy Houle:

<https://katu.com/amnw/am-northwest-books-authors/a-generous-nature-by-marcy-houle>

In addition to this book, you may be interested to read some more of Houle's award-winning books including, *Wings for My Flight: The Peregrine Falcons of Chimney Rock*, *The Prairie Keepers: Secrets of the Zumwalt*, and her latest, *The Gift of Caring: Saving Our Parents from the Perils of Modern Healthcare*.

<sup>1</sup> Marcy Houle, *A Generous Nature: Lives Transformed by Oregon*, Introduction.

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Mark your calendar for the important meeting coming up on **Saturday, March 12**, via Zoom. Per our bylaws, this will be our Annual Meeting, and it will include branch reports and the introduction of new members, as well as voting for new officers. We'll also honor a number of individuals who have given noteworthy service and support to LOAAUW.

There's more, though. After we conduct branch business, we'll move on to something that many of us look forward to every year: our Friendship Tea. Yes, it'll be a virtual event, but we'll try to

make it fun and engaging. The main thing needed is your cheery presence. Note that the start time for the March meeting is 3:00 pm — tea time!

Watch for further information next month, but do plan now to attend.

## LO AAUW Named Gift Honoree

Molly Divine

Each year the AAUW Fund allows our branch to honor usually one or two members as Branch Named Gift Honoree(s) in recognition of their exceptional service over several years. The Honoree likely would have taken on many tasks or one very large one to promote AAUW's mission or to make our branch the warm, vibrant and inviting organization that it is. If you would like to nominate a member for this award, please send your suggestions to Molly Divine along with a short note about why she should be considered by **February 15**.

## LO AAUW Fund Update

Molly Divine

Our financial contributions make a difference. Nationally, fueled by our donors and supporters, AAUW's advocacy efforts have amplified women's voices in statehouses across the country, as well as in the halls of power in Washington D.C. We have fought to enact laws and policies that champion gender equity and to break down barriers limiting women's access and opportunity. Among our many accomplishments are helping to pass the Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act; and the 2009 Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay

Act. Our advocacy work continues through our Legal Advocacy Fund, Lobby Corps, Action Network and more.

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## Advocacy and Public Policy



## Lobby Day

Sharron Noone

Lobby Day is on the way, but this year, it will be Virtual Lobby Evenings. AAUW of Oregon Lobby Evenings will take place via Zoom on **Tuesday, February 15 and Wednesday, February 16 beginning at 7:00 PM**. The theme this year is the interplay of politics, policy making and partisanship.

Lobby Evenings kicks off on February 15th with Dick Hughes, a freelance journalist who writes the weekly "Capital Chatter" column for the *Oregon Capital Insider*. Not only is he consummately well informed, but he has a broad perspective and a great sense of humor. You can read one of his latest pieces entitled "Few policymakers engaged in long-term solutions vs short-term gains:"

[https://www.oregoncapitalinsider.com/news/capitol-chatter-few-policymakers-engaged-in-long-term-solutions-vs-short-term-gains/article\\_dd2e68f0-69d9-11ec-bf94-6f8713cec6ed.html](https://www.oregoncapitalinsider.com/news/capitol-chatter-few-policymakers-engaged-in-long-term-solutions-vs-short-term-gains/article_dd2e68f0-69d9-11ec-bf94-6f8713cec6ed.html).



The next day, February 16, there will be a panel of four new female legislators, including:

Representative Wlinsvey Campos (Democrat, District 28, Aloha), Representative Lily Morgan (Republican, District 3, Grant's Pass), Representative Lisa Reynolds (Democrat, District 36, West side of Portland) and Senator Akasha Lawrence Spence (Democrat, District 18, Portland).

Zoom invitations will be sent out before the event. You won't want to miss this!

## Member Profile

### Connie Irwin

Marty Maharg



A native of Washington state, Connie spent her childhood in Des Moines and graduated from Washington State University with her degree in Home Economics and Education. During her senior year, she married her college sweetheart, John.

Connie began her career teaching Home Economics in Washington and Oregon schools including Oregon Episcopal School and Ninety-One

School in Canby. She later left teaching to become an administrative assistant in the health insurance industry.

Additionally, Connie volunteered in two high school foreign exchange programs.

Husband John, a civil engineer who worked for the Oregon Highway Department, was involved in the construction of the Freemont Bridge. During a visit to the construction site, Connie was invited to stand on the bridge scaffolding.

Connie has two children and three grandchildren. Daughter Julie met her husband while studying in Finland. Son Mark teaches fifth grade in the Beaverton School District.

Living in Charbonneau, Connie joined Lake Oswego branch in 1995. Following John's death, she moved to Sellwood and continues to remain active in Lake Oswego branch. She currently chairs the Interpretive Books Interest Group. Notably, Connie was one of the three designers and quilters who made the beautiful Suffrage Quilt we raffled off as part of Lake Oswego's centennial celebration of woman suffrage. Lately, Connie also uses her sewing skills to make banners based upon spiritual art that she recreates in fabric for her church.

Connie enjoys traveling and her trips include New Zealand, Australia, Scandinavia and a safari in Tanzania. Her favorite, however, is Finland to visit her daughter and family.

**Happy February Birthday!!**

Lynda Bigler



## Interest Group Happenings

Please confirm with group leader how your group is meeting

### Tuesday Books

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

Date: February 22

Book: *The Shepherd's Life* by James Rebanks

Contact Lynda Bigler,  
[libigler@easystreet.net](mailto:libigler@easystreet.net)

### Murder by the Book

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

Date: February 9

Book: *The Searcher* by Tana French

Contact Jane Taft, [taft.jane@gmail.com](mailto:taft.jane@gmail.com),  
Stephanie Carter, [secarter1@gmail.com](mailto:secarter1@gmail.com)

### Interpretive Books

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 9:30am

Date: February 17

Book: *Counterparts: Literature* by Shakespeare/Johnson

Contact Connie Irwin,  
[irwinconnie44@gmail.com](mailto:irwinconnie44@gmail.com)

### Thursday Evening Books

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7:00pm

Date: February 24

Book: *Better Luck Next Time* by Julia Claiborne Johnson

Contact Suzanne Kaveckis,  
[smkaveckis@icloud.com](mailto:smkaveckis@icloud.com)

### Non-Fiction Books

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 11:00am

Date: February 14

Book: *The Book of Eels* by Patrik Svensson

Contact Mary Pat Silveira,  
[mpsilveira@usa.net](mailto:mpsilveira@usa.net)

### Story Telling (discontinued)\*

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 3:00pm

\*But please check in on the 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00pm

Contact Catharine Hojem,  
[hojem2@gmail.com](mailto:hojem2@gmail.com)

### Public Policy & Advocacy

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

Date: February 18

Contact Sharron Noone  
[smnrrooe@aol.com](mailto:smnrrooe@aol.com)

### Lunch Bunch

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

Lunch Bunch continues to evaluate the safest way to meet each month. Look for an email sometime in early February with specific plans.

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: February 26 (tentatively)

Time: 6PM

Location: Home of Penny Hansen

Theme: Thai cuisine

To RSVP, contact Jane Taft at  
[taft.jane@gmail.com](mailto:taft.jane@gmail.com)

## February 2022

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be via ZOOM

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

# March 2022

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be via ZOOM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <b>Board Meeting</b>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 <b>International Women's Day</b> 	9 <b>Murder by the Book</b>	10	11	12 <b>Branch Annual Meeting and Tea</b>
13  <b>Spring Ahead</b>	14 <b>Non-Fiction Books</b>	15	16	17 <b>Interpretive Books</b> 	18 <b>Public Policy &amp; Advocacy</b>	19
20 	21	22 <b>Tuesday Books</b>	23	24 <b>Thursday Evening Books</b>	25 <b>Friday Books</b>	26
27	28	29	30	31		