

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

**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  
loaaunewsletter@gmail.

**Public Information**

Karen Rottink (503) 636-9755

**Scholarship/Education Liaison**

Diana Ricks (503) 858-7481

## Annual Meeting *and* Friendship Tea

Saturday, March 12, 2022

**3:00pm**

**Zoom**



Our March meeting will combine business and pleasure. We will start at **3:00 pm** with our Annual Meeting, which will include branch reports, the announcement of election results and the introduction of new members. We will also present our Named Gift Awards to honor a few members for their outstanding service and dedication to LOAAUW.

We will take a short break then and switch into Tea mode. Take a couple minutes to get yourself a cuppa and some tea-inspired nibbles. To set the mood, switch your Zoom background to a tea- or garden-party photo. Get ready then for friendly conversation, a full line-up of presentations and activities, and an all-around good time. Although the Tea is virtual, the fun will be real.

## Connections

Catharine Hojem



March is Women’s History Month, and March 8th is International Women’s Day (IWD). For over 100 years this holiday has celebrated women’s social, economic, cultural and political achievements.

This year the United Nations selected “Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow” as the theme for International Women’s Day. It recognizes the contribution of women and girls around the world who are on the front lines working towards climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to create a more sustainable future for all.

The following four inspiring women are representative of world-wide diversity. Although from different cultures, they share a joint mission; restoration of the environment which simultaneously helps individuals, communities and our global village.



**Isatou Ceesay** is a Gambian activist known as the “Queen of Recycling” who created a movement called “One Plastic Bag.” Ceesay taught women how to upcycle plastic bags into bags, purses and backpacks, creating the *N’jau Recycling and Income Generation Group* which provided livelihoods to hundreds of women.



**Winona LaDuke** is an American indigenous environmentalist, political activist and program director for *Honor the Earth*. She advocates for issues involving climate change solutions, renewable energy, sustainable food systems, and environmental justice for indigenous communities. She also has been inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame, and was one of *Time* magazine’s fifty most promising leaders under forty years of age.



Photo by Stuart Pearce

**Sylvia Earle Ph.D.** is a legendary American marine biologist, author, and explorer for *National Geographic* and a pioneer of modern SCUBA gear, discovering many underwater life forms. Earle was the first female chief scientist of the U.S. (NOAA) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the founder of Deep Ocean Exploration and Research. Today, she devotes her time to raising awareness about climate change and sustainability. Her foundation *Mission Blue* was created to enlist global support to protect marine life. The documentary of the same name (Netflix), showcases her efforts to mediate the impacts of oil pollution.



Everett Collection Inc/Alamy

**Vandana Shiva** is an Indian ecologist, physicist, and activist. As the founder and director of the *Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy*, one of her prime goals

is challenging corporate agriculture and fighting for farmers' rights to change the food system for the better. "I don't want to live in a world where five giant companies control our health and our food," she said.

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## AAUW 2021 Achievement Highlights

Mary Pat Silveira

As difficult as 2021 was for the reasons that we all know, AAUW continued to grow its online programs through webinars and the Equity Network learning community. Participation in both [Start Smart](#) and [Work Smart](#) training increased, and AAUW piloted a new financial literacy program, [Money Smart](#), at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Women's Colleges and Minority Serving Institutions.

AAUW launched [STEMEd for Girls](#), a virtual pilot program, to encourage high school girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math. By switching to an on-line format, high school students also had the opportunity to participate in [NCCWSL](#) (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders).

AAUW's [Two-Minute Activists](#) gave members the opportunity to call upon their elected officials for action on such priorities as paycheck fairness, paid leave, reproductive rights, and student loan forgiveness, among others. All five of the top bills passed the House of Representatives in 2021. The [Legal Advocacy Fund \(LAF\)](#) supported five active cases and awarded two new

grants to support law school clinical programs.

AAUW concluded four important research projects and publications in 2021. These include: [Systemic Racism and the Pay Gap](#); [Factory Flaw: The Attrition and Retention of Women in Manufacturing](#); [The Power Gap Among Top Earners at America's Elite Universities](#); and [Pandemic Inequity: Latinas and the COVID-19 Experience](#).

More detail on these projects and all of the other activities mentioned is available by clicking on the links.

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## **Diversity News**

Marty Maharg

On March 24 at 4:00 pm PST, the AAUW Inclusion and Equity Committee will present "Intersectionality Identified," a Zoom webinar about the meaning and significance of intersectionality.

So...what is intersectionality? In 1989, Kimberlé Crenshaw, professor at Columbia Law School, coined the term which acknowledges that everyone has their own unique experiences regarding gender, race, class, sexual orientation, age, religion and physical and mental ability that must be recognized and respected. Any factor, and/or combination thereof, can cause discrimination or privilege.

For example, when job qualifications are equal with men, women, by virtue of their gender, frequently are paid less for the same job. This disparity is even greater when the person is both female and a person of color. Adding in any of

the other factors increases the disparity. By understanding the complexity of intersectionality, one can begin to appreciate the complicated and cumulative impact of discrimination and oppression.

If you would like to register for the webinar or just want learn more about diversity please go to: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/members/governance-tools/dei-toolkit>

YouTube has several videos about intersectionality. The following is short and gives a simple, but very good explanation.

<https://youtu.be/w6dnj2lyYjE>

For more information about pay inequity, go to:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/fast-facts-pay-gap/>

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## **Advocacy and Public Policy**

Sharron Noone

Four state legislators addressed fifty to sixty Oregon AAUW members. Their theme was the interplay of politics, policy making and partisanship. All of the speakers referred to problems that the Covid pandemic has caused. Below are a few significant points they made:

- 1) The Covid pandemic has made building relationships amongst a variety of points of view more difficult, resulting in a more confrontational atmosphere.
- 2) To better understand individuals' points of view, it is important to read and to talk with people from all regions of Oregon.

3) While legislators work to make long-range solutions, they often must respond to short term situations.

Additionally, the speakers discussed several bills in the up-coming short session that AAUW Oregon is supporting. Below are the YouTube links to the Lobby Day recordings.

1. February 15 with journalist Dick Hughes.

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZJKavZ3cTo>]

2. February 16 with Representatives Campos, Neron and Reynolds.

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkSkJi5jtCc>]

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## Upcoming Annual Meeting



During the March 9 meeting, the Branch election of officers' results will be announced. **Ballots will be emailed to each member. Please take a few moments to complete the online survey casting your vote for our slate of officers.** This is your Branch and **your vote is important.**

## LO AAUW Fund Update

Molly Divine

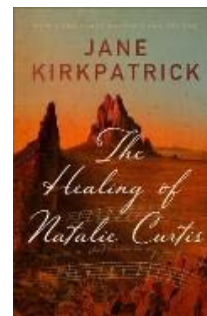
We received the final report for the 2021 donations Lake Oswego branch members sent to national AAUW Funds. The response to our call for donations was terrific! Lake Oswego members contributed \$3,877, and this was during the second year of Covid restricted activities.

Based on those numbers, the Lake Oswego branch is entitled to choose multiple recipients for the Named Gift Awards. Recipients are selected from our membership to be honored for their ongoing exceptional contributions to the greater good of the branch. The selection committee has chosen three members to honor with this award for the 2021-2022 year. We are excited to announce these honorees during our March Tea. Thank you again for your continuing financial support for the AAUW Funds.

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## Book Blurb

Cathy Croghan Alzner



*The Healing of Natalie Curtis*

Award winning Oregon author Jane Kirkpatrick again has written another compelling work of historical fiction which is based upon the tenacity of a

young woman who confronts the US government.

Natalie Curtis, a classically trained concert pianist and vocalist, suffered a breakdown resulting in five years of isolation, self-doubt and the inability to experience joy in her music. In 1902, hoping to find some remedy, Natalie accepted her brother's invitation and left her family and her New York home to join him in the West where she hears a very different type of music: the melodies, rhythms and stories of the Southwestern indigenous women.

In an attempt to assimilate and destroy vestiges of indigenous culture, the US Government had outlawed all dancing to, singing and speaking of indigenous languages. Outraged and sorrowful Natalie made it her life's work to honor the indigenous peoples, codify their songs before they became extinct, and get unjust laws repealed (remember women had very little political voice).

To watch an interview with Jane Kirkpatrick about this novel please see:

"Powell's Books and Jane Kirkpatrick presents The Healing of Natalie Curtis in conversation with Craig Johnson"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTPLCsnuFnA>

## Member Profiles

### Annie Arkebauer

Mary Pat Silveira



Annie began her life in the South of England. She was ten when her father's work took the family to Montreal, Canada where Annie had the opportunity to learn both French and ice skating. Six years later, the family moved again, this time to Washington. Annie finished school in Bellevue and earned her teaching certificate at the University of Washington. After eight years of teaching, she returned to school and earned her M.Ed. at Lewis and Clark and her Administrative Credential from Central Washington University in Ellensburg. She returned to teaching but quickly advanced to Principal, a position she held for twenty years in two Elementary Schools.

During this period, she met Charlie Arkebauer. When Charlie accepted a job in Tualatin, Annie chose to join and marry him, and the two moved to Mountain Park, in Lake Oswego. Their daughter Kelie was born in 1977.

Annie joined AAUW Lake Oswego about fifteen years ago and served as co-Program VP from 2007-2009.

Never mind that Annie is now retired. She likes to stay busy. She remains involved in the lives of her two teenage granddaughters, is an avid reader and member of two book groups, and she participates in Delightful Dining. She is also on the Board of ReRuns at Lakewood Center for the Arts. She began travelling internationally as a young adult and is now in the enviable position of no longer needing a “bucket list.” She does love to go to Hawaii and does so whenever possible.

Annie’s real passion, however, is the protection and nurturing of children. She is a CASA Volunteer and is involved in organizations that fight for gun control, particularly in light of the school massacres. Above all, it is important to her that she continue to make a difference.

**Lois Isbell**  
Marty Maharg



Lois joined AAUW following our tea for potential new members held just prior to

the 2020 Covid lockdown. Due to a lack of in-person events she only recently became more active, joining our Fall outdoor Lunch Bunch activities.

Born in Berkeley, California, Lois grew up in Pomona, California. She received her BA in Psychology from UC Chico and her MEd from Lewis and Clark College, Portland.

Lois worked for the Multnomah County Office of Corrections for ten years. When her husband was assigned to Asia, she and her family made a job-related move to Taiwan and Malaysia, where they lived for four years. Upon returning, Lois worked for social service agencies and non-profit organizations. Beginning in 1998, she worked fifteen years for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission teaching classes to alcohol servers. The majority of her students were young and she enjoyed working with them.

Now retired, Lois is a member of two book groups, a nonfiction group she joined twenty-five years ago and our Tuesday group. She also is a member of Lunch Bunch. She enjoys playing bridge, daily walks, jigsaw puzzles and recently has become interested in attending plays. In addition, she leads a meditation group on Saturday mornings at the Mountain Park Community Center.

Lois’s son, Scott, daughter-in-law, Rachel and six-year-old grandson, Owen, live in Wilmette, Illinois.

## In Memory of Diane Smith

Penny Hansen



Diane Norma Hardiman Smith was a fairly recent new member of our Lake Oswego Branch of AAUW. She was born in Portland on July 10, 1943 and passed away on January 24, 2022. She attended school in the David Douglas school district. She graduated from the Oregon Dental School, R.D.H., earned a B.S. in Psychology at Portland State University and a Masters of Education at Oregon State University.

Diane was an instructor of Dental Hygiene at Portland Community College for nearly three decades. She loved teaching and interacting with her students. After her retirement she decided to sponsor an endowed scholarship, the Diane Hardiman Smith Dental Scholarship, through the PCC Foundation. She enjoyed meeting the first scholarship recipient and was happy giving back to her profession.

Prior to joining our branch Diane created and donated jewelry for our Scholarship Fund which was sold at our annual

Spring Tea. Diane's kindness, warmth, laughter and generosity will be remembered and missed.

If you choose, you can make a donation to the above-named PCC Foundation or to the St. Francis of Assisi Church in Wilsonville. Her funeral has already been held.



Happy March birthday wishes to  
**Dixie Kroupa** and **Stephanie Wagner**  
Belated February birthday wishes to  
**Karen Rottink**

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“Always be a first-rate version of  
yourself, instead of a second-rate  
version of somebody else”  
Judy Garland



## Interest Group Happenings

Please confirm with group leader how your group is meeting

### Interpretive Books

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

Date: March 17

Book: *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren

Contact Connie Irwin,

[irwinconnie44@gmail.com](mailto:irwinconnie44@gmail.com)

### Murder by the Book

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

Date: March 9

Book: *The Case is Closed* by Patricia Wentworth

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

Stephanie Carter, [secarter1@gmail.com](mailto:secarter1@gmail.com)

### Non-Fiction Books

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

Date: March 14

Book: *The World in a Grain: The Story of Sand and How it Transformed Civilization* by Vince Beiser

Contact Mary Pat Silveira,

[mpsilveira@usa.net](mailto:mpsilveira@usa.net)

### Tuesday Books

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

Beginning March 22, we will be leaving zoom and returning to the Szechuan Kitchen for our meetings! 🍲

15450 SW Boones Ferry Road  
Lake Oswego

Date: March 22

Book: *Our Woman in Moscow* by Beatriz Williams

Contact Lynda Bigler,

[libigler@easystreet.net](mailto:libigler@easystreet.net)

### Thursday Evening Books

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

Date: March 24

Book: *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

Contact Suzanne Kaveckis,

[smkaveckis@icloud.com](mailto:smkaveckis@icloud.com)

### Public Policy & Advocacy

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

Date: March 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 update 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: April 9

Time: 6pm

Theme: "Vegetables Unleashed" at the home of Charlene Vojtilla

For more information, contact Jane Taft

[taft.jane@gmail.com](mailto:taft.jane@gmail.com)

# 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> <b>3:00pm</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 <b>Story Telling</b>	22 <b>Tuesday Books</b>	23	24 <b>Thursday Evening Books</b>	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

# April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2
3	4	5 Board Meeting	6	7	8 Advocacy Group	9 Branch Meeting  Delightful Dining
10	11 Non-Fiction Books	12	13 Murder by the Book	14	15  	16
17 	18	20 Lunch Bunch  AAUW State Awards Celebration	20	21 Interpretive Books  	22 Public Policy	22
24	25	26 Tuesday Books	27	28 Thursday Evening Books	29	30