

**Lake Oswego Branch Officers
2022-2023
Elected Officers**

President

Catharine Hojem (541) 240-1291

Program Coordinator

Marge Ransom (503) 530-9810

Membership Vice President

Stephanie Wagner (503) 803-7708

Secretary

Jeanne-Marie Pierrelouis
(202) 445-4976

Finance Vice President

Diana Ricks (503) 858-7481

Immediate Past President

Mary Pat Silveira (615) 804-6253

Appointed Officers

AAUW Fund

Molly Divine (503) 460-7103

Communications/Governance

Jane Taft (503) 709-3185

Diversity Officer

Marty Maharg (503) 908-1984

Education Committee

Diana Ricks (503) 858-7481

Hospitality

Charlene Vojtilla (503) 720-0904

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

Public Policy

Sharron Noone (503) 799-2139

2022 Gala!



Sunday, December 11, 2022

2:00- 4:30 PM

Oswego Heritage House
Avenue A & 10th Street

The LO AAUW Board is inviting you to celebrate the winter holidays and to share friendship while supporting the branch's education mission.

This is your opportunity to enjoy live music from the Beaverton Community Band Sax Four, to nibble on delicious food, and to sip wine and non-alcoholic punch.

You will not want to miss this event.

Tickets are \$25 AAUW Members, \$15 for Spouses/Partners/Guests Please see newsletter insert for additional details.



Connections

Catharine Hojem



At the November Branch meeting, Stephanie Wagner's presentation highlighted the historical development of the Lake Oswego Sustainability Network which continues to drive eco-healthy policy choices for this community. Coupled with the Oswego Lake Watershed Council, these teams, using a strategic approach to sustainability, make Lake Oswego not just a beautiful place to live but one that will continue to grow and improve.

The biggest obstacle facing us is the dependence on fossil fuels. Seemingly small efforts add up to large changes when everyone contributes: carpooling, "bunching" errands, filling a re-usable container with drinking water rather than buying bottled water, transitioning to electric vehicles, choosing electric over gas-fueled appliances when possible. All plastic begins as a fossil fuel. The three "R's" – "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" emphasize limiting purchases of goods made, or packaged with, petro-chemicals.

During the November Board meeting a number of issues were discussed:

Our **membership** number fell this past year. We now have fifty-eight members and are looking for ways to increase Branch engagement. Please let us know if you have ideas for a new interest group.

Unpaid members will be removed from the email list.

Marty Maharg attended a **Diwali celebration** at West Linn High School, sponsored by diversity groups in Lake Oswego and West Linn. Diwali is the Hindu Festival of Lights celebrating "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance."

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) also asks us to consider whether there are any obstacles in our branch which prevent members from fully participating. Please let us know if you feel there are practices, or meeting locations, etc. that make your participation difficult or uncomfortable.

Communication Plan: To improve efficiency, the board decided that future messages to membership need to be approved by the President and the Communications Chair only and not by the entire Executive Committee.

A **Google Drive** is being established as a repository for Board minutes and all relevant documents. Stephanie will set it up and provide training for its use.

An **ad hoc committee** of Charlene, Diana and Catharine will meet in December to begin reviewing other locations in Lake Oswego for our programs. With the loss of several members, the increased cost of

Heritage House is not sustainable for us long term.

We will not meet in January at Heritage House because many will be involved in the Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service. The refund from this cancellation will be applied to an extended time for the Gala for set-up and clean-up.

Hope to see you all at the **Gala on December 11th!!!**

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Marty Maharg

On October 24, Diana Ricks, Sharron Noone, Pat Squire and Marty Maharg attended an Oregon State Diversity Committee meeting. Chairwoman Trish Gardner, discussed Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Belonging (DEIB) as it relates to the AAUW mission and goals and how local branches can incorporate DEIB into their activities.

Following the meeting the Lake Oswego attendees met with Catharine Hojem to specifically discuss the LO Branch. All agreed that Lake Oswego and West Linn, where most members live, are quite homogeneous. While the number of BIPOC and LGBTQ members of the branch may be small, there are several members with sensory deficits, orthopedic and medical problems. These also are DEIB concerns. The group concluded the Branch needs to be more sensitive and accommodating to promote feelings of inclusivity and belonging.

In addition, members need to be mindful of statements or attitudes associated with implicit bias or micro aggression that can cause one to feel uncomfortable. The Branch needs to discuss ways to address these issues so all members sincerely feel included. Finally, the group discussed “the elephant in the room.” How can the National AAUW promote DEIB when AAUW is an exclusive organization, limiting membership to those who have a college degree, minimally either a Bachelors or Associate of Arts degree? Such an organization is not inclusive.

In the new year, the committee will take up the afore mentioned concerns. It welcomes your comments, suggestions and participation.

It never is too late to admit mistakes, make amends and move forward. *The Oregonian* published “Publishing Prejudice: The Oregonian’s Legacy,” an apology about its history of racism. You are encouraged to check out the following link for specific details.

<https://projects.oregonlive.com/publishing-prejudice/>

Public Policy Sharron Noone

Oregon will be the first state in the nation to enshrine the right to affordable health care in its constitution. Measure 111 passed with nearly 50.7% of voters in favor and 49.3% of voters opposed, a margin of about 22,000 votes. It addresses the cost of medical care as a major cause of hunger and even homelessness.

The following is excerpted from the *Oregon Foodbank Newsletter*, October 11, 2022.

“Hunger on the Ballot: Affordable Healthcare (Measure 111)”

“Healthcare and hunger are directly connected. A lack of nutritious food can seriously harm our health – and high medical costs force impossible decisions between the food and care we need to thrive...Oregon Health Authority reports that medical debt contributes to at least 60% of bankruptcy filings in our state. Last year, 1 in 3 Oregonians reported that healthcare costs led to skipped medications, canceled doctor’s appointments or other actions that are detrimental to our health. And we know that meals are often the first thing families cut back on when budgets are tight.”



Happy December Birthdays

- Pat Filip
- Debbie Fryer
- Lois Isbell
- Garlene Logan
- Susan Shea
- Bettirae Willis

A friend told me that I should not keep anything in my house that does not bring me joy. So, I threw out all my cleaning tools and products and bought books, yarn and fabric.

Adapted from Marie Kondo’s tips for tidying up

Joy and peace to all of you and best wishes for a 2023 of health, happiness and friendship.

Cathy and Kris



It's Coming!! Buy your tickets now!!

LAKE OSWEGO AAUW HOLIDAY GALA

Sunday, December 11, 2022, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Lake Oswego Heritage House, 398 10th St, Lake Oswego.

Tickets are \$25 AAUW Members, \$15 for Spouses/Partners/Guests

Saxophone quartet providing live music

Food, wine and non-alcoholic punch provided by LO AAUW Board

Bring any other beverages you want to enjoy

You may purchase tickets now by using the Donate button on our website: lakeoswego-or.aauw.net.

On the first screen you indicate the donation amount. This can be for tickets only, donation only, or both. When you click on the "pay with debit/credit card," it takes you to a screen to provide your card information. Below the checkbox for "make this a monthly donation," is an option to add a note. If you click on this, you get a dialog box. In this box the member should indicate the number of Gala tickets to purchase, the names of the attendees, and then any donation amount.

Or, you may send checks made out to LO AAUW to our treasurer:
Diana Ricks, 15655 SW Alderbrook Dr, Tigard, OR 97224.

This is your chance to get together during the holidays, and to support our organization at the same time. Friends and family are welcome. Please include the names of the members and guests who will be attending. If you are unable to attend, donations are welcome. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Interest Group Happenings

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, December 13 at 11:30
Five Spice in Lake Oswego.

This cozy restaurant offers a wide menu including Starters, Sandwiches, Salads, Entrees and Dessert, too. They also have an impressive Northwest-focused wine list. Please note this will be indoor dining.

This event is RSVP only via an invitation email that will be sent out in advance of each meeting. Contact Marge Ransom (wrandmr68@yahoo.com) or Charlene Vojtilla (charjoy8@gmail.com).

Interpretive Books

3rd Thursday at 9:30am

Date: December 15
Book: *Bloomsbury Girls* by Natalie Jenner

Contact Connie Irwin
irwinconnie44@gmail.com

Murder by the Book

2nd Wednesday at noon

Date: December 14
Book: *The Last Mrs. Summers* by Rhys Bowen
Location: Home of Stephanie Carter

Contact Jane Taft taft.jane@gmail.com
or Stephanie Carter
secarter1@gmail.com

Non-Fiction Books

2nd Monday at 11:00am

Date: December 12

Book: *Twelve Patients: Life and Death at Bellevue Hospital* by Eric Manheimer
Contact Mary Pat Silveira for more information mpsilveira@usa.net

Tuesday Books

4th Tuesday at 11:00am

Date: December 27
Book: *These Precious Days: Essays* by Anne Pachett
Location: Szechuan Kitchen
15450 SW Boones Ferry Road

Contact Lynda Bigler
libigler@easystreet.net

Thursday Evening Books

4th Thursday at 7:00pm

Date: December 1
Book theme: Read any "banned book"
Location: Home of Molly Divine

Contact Suzanne Kaveckis,
smkaveckis@icloud.com

Public Policy

3rd Friday at 11:00am

Meeting to be held on Zoom

Date: December 16

Contact Sharron Noone
smnrrooe@aol.com

Delightful Dining

Date: December 17 at 6:00 pm
Location: Home of Penny Hansen
featuring Cozy Winter Soups.
Spouses are welcome!

For more information, contact Jane Taft
taft.jane@gmail.com

December 2022

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

January 2023

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