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**Communities include:  
Lake Oswego, Oregon City,  
Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin,  
West Linn, Wilsonville,  
and more**

# Newsletter

**Volume 49, Number 2**

**October 2023**

**Book Banning in Oregon and Beyond  
Saturday, October 14th  
Oswego Heritage House  
398 10th St.,  
Lake Oswego  
9:30 - Social Time 10:00 - Program**



“Censorship is the child of fear and the father of ignorance.” Laurie Halse Anderson, writer.

“We believe in the power of books and their ability to make us better as individuals and as a society. Books give us perspective and their stories allow us to feel seen and provide us with the opportunity to learn from each other’s lived experiences.” Niher Malaviya, Interim CEO of Penguin/Random Books.

October 2023 has been designated as Banned Books Month in the US. Books are disappearing from library shelves and being decreed off-limits by school boards since the movement began in earnest in 2021.

Led by a vocal minority, including such groups as Moms for Liberty, the number of books banned is increasing dramatically each year. Nationwide numbers were 2571 in 2022 compared to 1858 in 2021. The latest statistics in Oregon describe 85 challenges from June 2022 to July 2023 which have focused primarily on books that were deemed anti-faith or pro-LBGQ+.

On October 14th we welcome Greg Martin from Wilsonville Public Library; Will Peters from Annie Bloom Books in Multnomah Village; and April Younglove, Adult Services Librarian from Lake Oswego Public Library to converse regarding these current challenges and how organizations such as the Office of Intellectual Freedom are responding.

The acceleration of book challenges and related legislation sweeping across the country will affect the future of our children’s education and our individual right to choose. We deserve to hear diverse stories, and readers deserve the autonomy to choose what books they read.

We look forward to a lively discussion.



## Prez Sez



Jeanne Pierrelouis & Diana Ricks

### **Book Clubs: LO AAUW’s Vibrant Activity**

Our Lake Oswego AAUW Branch has five book clubs! A significant percentage of the LO AAUW members participate in one or more of these book clubs. Why do so many of us value this monthly activity? An article on the Writing and Wellness website provides food for thought as to why.

No matter our age, reading helps keep our brain sharp. Discussing what we’ve read with other branch members can challenge our understanding and help us make new connections that we may not have thought about before.

Book clubs encourage us to read more, and reading relieves stress all by itself. According to a 2009 study, even just six minutes of reading can reduce stress levels by more than two-thirds (68 percent)! And at least in this study, it seemed to work better and faster than listening to music, going for a walk, or having a nice cup of tea.

Creativity is all about making new connections, and book clubs help us do that. As we listen to others' opinions about the plot, characterizations, and settings, we're likely to think about things we wouldn't have thought about before.

Book clubs stretch our thinking beyond what we would normally experience just from reading the book. A 2013 study showed that people who were regular readers were more creative thinkers, so, if you're reading, you're already encouraging creativity. Joining a book club and discussing with others what you read takes it one step further.

Our book clubs have selected an enticing list of titles for 2023-2024. The full listing can be found in this newsletter and on our website. Check out the times and dates for the book clubs and join us!

### Special Note: October Branch Meeting

At our branch meeting on October 14th we will have a panel discussion on Banned Books. The issue of banned books is one which our membership can relate to. The list of classic banned books includes such titles as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *A Farewell to Arms*, *The Great Gatsby*, *1984*, *A Catcher in the Rye*, and *The Call of the Wild*. We are confident that most of us have read some or all these books on this list in high school or college. These books broadened our horizons, introduced us to new places and people, taught us valuable lessons, and in some cases made us laugh or cry. Join us for a lively discussion!!



## Interest Groups Happenings

**Lunch Bunch**, 3rd Tuesday at 11:30 am, Contact:

Charlene Vojtilla, [charjoy8@gmail.com](mailto:charjoy8@gmail.com)

Date: October 17th, Location: Szechuan Kitchen, Lake Oswego

RSVP is required to ensure seating if you would like to attend.

**Delightful Dining**, Saturday, October 28th at 6:00

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

October's theme is Italian food with co-hosts Jane

Taft and Martha Schrader. Please contact Jane if you would like to join this group.

**Interpretive Books**, 3rd Thursday at 9:30 am, Contact Laura Eyer, [eyerlaura@gmail.com](mailto:eyerlaura@gmail.com)

Date: October 19th, Book: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

**Murder by the Book**, 2nd Wednesday at noon, Contact Jane Taft [taft.jane@gmail.com](mailto:taft.jane@gmail.com)

Date: October 11th, Book: *The Case of the Canterfell Codicil* by PJ Fitzsimmons

**Non-Fiction Books**, 2nd Monday at 11:15 am, Contact: Mary Pat Silveira

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

Date: October 9th, Book: *Paved Paradise: How Parking Explains the World* by Henry Graber

**Thursday Evening Books**, 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm, Contact Suzanne Kaveckis,

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

Date: October 26th, Book: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

**4th Tuesday Books**, 4th Tuesday at 11:00, am Contact Lynda Bigler

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



## Equity and Inclusion News

September/October Cultural Calendar:

### **National Hispanic Heritage Month. Sept 15-Oct 15**

HHM has been celebrated nationwide through festivals, community gatherings, art shows, and conferences. It also celebrates the independence days of several Latin American Countries. This year's theme is "Building Prosperous and Healthy Communities".

### **Clackamas County Indigenous People Celebration.**

**Oct 8th - 11 am**  
Clackamas Community College

### **Indigenous Peoples Day - Oct 9th**

(National). President Biden proclaimed the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day, alongside Columbus Day, in 2021. This year's theme is "Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination."

### **Clackamas County Equity Coalition**

Oct 17th 6-7:30 pm via Zoom  
Quarterly Meeting, "Misinformation"  
Presented by Bruce Poinsette. For Zoom link, email [clackcoequityco@gmail.com](mailto:clackcoequityco@gmail.com)

For information on any of these events, visit the CCEC website at <https://sites.google.com/view/clackamascountyequitycoalition/home?pli=1> and click on each event for more information.

The Portland Art Museum exhibition, "Black Artists of Oregon" is ongoing through March 17th. Pam Berg attended this exhibit on opening day and tells me that it is excellent.

**Submitted by Marty Maharg, Equity and Inclusion Chair**



## Requested Follow-up Information from our September Speaker

Our guest speaker, Jennifer Vernon, from PCC's Early Childhood Education reported the following information as requested during her presentation.

In the state of Oregon, Lead Preschool teachers with a BA currently earn \$38,204. The average nationwide runs from \$34,490 to \$43,668.

The following indicates the requirement which all child care providers must adhere to be certified in the state of Oregon.

### **Provider/Child Ratio (Oregon)**

<i>Age</i>	<i>Ratio</i>
6 months to 23 months	1:4 (Max 8)
24-35 months	1:5 (Max 10)

36-Kindergarten 1:10 (Max 20)

Attending Kindergarten or older 1:15 (Max 30)

**For Family Child Care in Oregon State:**

All ages 1:10

At the PCC Child Development Center there are currently 60 children enrolled. There are six classrooms; two for each; Infant, Toddler, and Preschool. Both the Toddler and Preschool classes are at capacity, with openings in the Infant classroom.

Their scholarship process is concluding. Since our branch supported a scholarship in Early Childhood Development at PCC we should soon be informed of the selection.

## **2023-2024 Branch Officers**



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**Our mailing address is:**

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