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

# Newsletter

**Volume 49, Number 7**

**March 2024**



**Annual Meeting CELEBRATION  
Oswego Heritage House  
10:00 Program  
9:30 Social Time  
Saturday, March 9, 2024  
“A” Avenue and 10th St., Lake Oswego**



## Annual Meeting: Celebrate our branch and its members

- v Introduction of new members
- v Officer Reports
- v Election of Officers\*\*

**Celebration:** Achieving our Early Childhood Scholarship Goal

Women's History Month **Trivial Pursuit**

\*\*Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee candidates are as follows:

Vice President Finance: Anne Redman

Co-Vice President Membership: Diana Fisher

Co-Vice President Membership: Patricia Watkins

Be sure to **attend** to cast your vote!!

## Prez Sez



**Women's History** was an unknown topic. In 1978 the Education Task Force of Sonoma County initiated a Women's History week. The national approach to highlighting women's history began in 1981. For the first five years, it too was celebrated as Women's History Week. Then in 1987, Congress passed a resolution designating the month of March as Women's History Month. Congressional resolutions continued annually through 1994. Every year, since 1995, presidents have issued proclamations in March to celebrate Women's

History Month. Traditionally, the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society are highlighted during the month. It provides us the opportunity to reflect upon the accomplishments made in years past, but also to look at ways to support progress in the future. The ["AAUW Celebrates 125 Years of Fellowships & Grants"](#) produced in 2013 is a wonderful reflection of the work done by AAUW through the years. It is well worth a watch and it will make you proud to be a part of such a vital organization.

The National Women's History Month's theme for 2024 is *"Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion."* Representative Shirley Chisholm once said, "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." For many years women couldn't even get in the door. While the door may now be unlocked, sadly even today women still have to bring a folding chair. Currently, women make up nearly half of the US workforce. However, they continue to earn less than men and remain underrepresented in management roles. They earn less even in industries where they make up the majority of the workforce. The largest pay gap is in the healthcare and social assistance industry. The next largest is in the financial activities. This affects a woman's average net worth, which is less than half that of the average man's net worth. On top of this, women hold nearly two-thirds of the outstanding student loan debt in the US.

This brings us to a discussion of our own branch's PCC scholarship. We give a huge round of applause and thanks to our members for meeting the challenge to donate \$5,000 this year for scholarships. And we did it without a garage sale! JOB WELL DONE!! As we

stated at the beginning, the scholarship helps two women – the one receiving the scholarship and the one needing quality childcare. In a recent survey done by PSU of 3,000 Oregon parents, more than 40% of parents said they or their partner had to quit a job, not take a job, or greatly change a job because of difficulty finding childcare. The percentage was higher for parents of color. Given this data the board has again decided to provide our scholarship to students pursuing degrees in Early Childhood Education.

If you are curious to learn more about women doing amazing things, we encourage you to check out a new online research guide [Women's History Month - Exhibits and Collections](#) which highlights hundreds of sources that tell the stories of women through a wide variety of perspectives and media in the Library of Congress collections. The guide's comprehensive coverage includes historic and contemporary audio and video files, posters, photographs, magazines, sheet music, maps, manuscripts, rare books, and government documents and legislation. Look at some examples of items to be found!

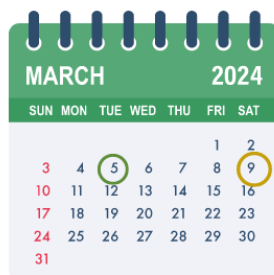
- Article: [Heartbeat: The Voices of First Nations Women](#) by Rayna Green and Howard Bass
- Video: [The Quarter-Century Reign of Mariachi Reyna](#)
- Illustrations: [The Water-Babies](#), by Jessie Willcox Smith
- History: [Mary Church Terrell Papers](#) (Library of Congress) (Additionally you may want to check out a recent webinar by another branch entitled [Mary Church Terrell and the Fight to Integrate AAUW](#))

**EXPLORE** ... you'll be amazed at the woman you'll meet!!

OR ... just come to the Annual Meeting!! Besides the usual meeting stuff, we will be indulging in a treasure trove of celebratory foods AND dynamite women's Trivia. We'll see you there on March 9th!!

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## INTEREST GROUP HAPPENINGS – MARCH 2024



If you are interested in joining any of our Interest Groups, please reach out to the contact listed for each group.

**Lunch Bunch**, 3rd Tuesday at 11:30 am, Contact: Charlene Vojtilla, [charjoy8@gmail.com](mailto:charjoy8@gmail.com)

Date: March 19th, Location: Momo's in Lake Oswego.

RSVP to the invitation email is required to ensure seating.

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

The next Delightful Dining dinner will be in April.

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

Date: March 22st, Book: *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

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

Date: March 13th, Book: *Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone* by Benjamin Stevenson

**Non-Fiction Books**, 2nd Monday at 11:00 am, Contact: Mary Pat Silveira, [mpsilveira@usa.net](mailto:mpsilveira@usa.net)

Date: March 11th, Book: *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers* by Mary Roach

**Thursday Evening Books**, 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm, Contact: Suzanne Kaveckis, [smkaveckis@icloud.com](mailto:smkaveckis@icloud.com)

Date: March 28th, Book: *It Goes So Fast* by Mary Louise Kelly

**4th Tuesday Books**, 4th Tuesday at 11:15 am, Contact: Dixie Kroupa, [dixie.kroupa@comcast.net](mailto:dixie.kroupa@comcast.net)

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

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## **In Spite of Program Cancellation, Lake Oswego AAUW Branch Provides Support**

The severe ice storm that occurred during several days in mid-January was disruptive in a number of ways in our region; property damage, loss of trees and electricity, inaccessible roads, and many canceled plans and appointments. Some of our more vulnerable citizens were put at risk as a result.

Our scheduled program for that Saturday, January 13th, was to feature an activity with the Lake Oswego Hunger Fighters Oregon. In recognition of the MLK Jr. Day of Service, we had agreed to provide, and bag, specific items (feminine protection and laundry detergent pods) to support their efforts in stocking their food pantry. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the program, and because HFO was so busy providing emergency meals to shut-ins, no Zoom option was possible.

Though the meeting was canceled, we were successful in our efforts to provide the requested inventory. The following week, at a well-attended coffee for new members hosted by Susan Shea, members brought their donations which were then delivered to HFO on January 29th. Molly Rodrigano, the director, was impressed at our sizeable contribution and very appreciative at being able to have an ample supply of these highly in-demand items.

Ms. Rodrigano reported that she and Lake Oswego mayor, Joe Buck, had worked together during the crisis to meet the most critical needs of vulnerable residents. Together they discussed the development of a community readiness/crisis framework for disasters in the future.

An article in the [Lake Oswego Review](#) highlighted the growing challenges faced by outreach support systems, like Hunger Fighters Oregon.

**Submitted by Catharine Hojem**

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The director of HFO sent a thank you note to us, expressing appreciation for our generous donations. She reported that as a result, their inventory was now such that she was given a reprieve from trying to obtain these items herself, which are uniquely essential in client's efforts to maintain their personal dignity.

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**February Meeting : Election Integrity Takes All of Us**

presented by Catherine McMullen, Clackamas County Clerk pictured here with Pam Berg, Co-Vice President-Program

Important Dates	Take Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 12 (5pm) – Filing deadline for County Candidates</li> <li>• April 30 – Party Choice Deadline &amp; Voter Registration Deadline</li> <li>• May 1 – Ballots mailed to all eligible voters</li> <li>• May 21 – Presidential Primary Election Day</li> <li>• Sep. 17 – National Voter Registration Day</li> <li>• Oct. 15 – Voter Registration Deadline</li> <li>• Oct. 16 – Ballots mailed to all eligible voters</li> <li>• Nov. 5 – Presidential Election Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verify accuracy, source and intention of information before you share it</li> <li>• Volunteer or make a career move actively advancing democracy</li> <li>• Visit our elections office and be an election observer</li> <li>• Become a temporary election worker and get a hands-on democracy experience. Visit <a href="http://www.clackamas.us/elections">www.clackamas.us/elections</a></li> </ul>



**Board meeting motion**

At the February board meeting a motion was made and seconded to give \$5,000 to the PCC Scholarship Fund this year. Motion approved without objection.



**DEI**

Affordable housing and how to provide it in our communities has come to the forefront in our local communities. The West Linn Alliance in conjunction with the West Linn Public Library, will be hosting The Oregon Humanities Conversation Project program, “*Housing and Belonging*” at 1 pm on Saturday, March 23rd, at the West Linn library. The program will be facilitated by Paul Susi. For more information about this program please go to the [West Linn Alliance](#) website or the [library website](#). For more information about the [Oregon Humanities Conversation Project](#), click on the link.



As many of you have read in the paper, Clackamas County is eliminating the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office. In response, a *Clackamas County Equity Summit* is planned for March 2nd from 1-3:30 at the Lake Oswego United Church of Christ. The program will be in-person and live-streamed. If you live in Clackamas County look for posters about the Summit .

**Marty Maharg, Diversity Chair**



**AAUW ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023**

- More than **40,000 members and donors supported AAUW** — including nearly 450 college and university members and over 700 branches.

- AAUW’s Lobby Corps resumed visits to Capitol Hill, **visiting more than 150**

**congressional offices** to advocate for legislation that uplifts and advances women's equity and access to opportunity.

- AAUW's Two-Minute Activist network sent more than **47,000 messages to elected officials** in support of key legislation to advance gender equity.
- AAUW celebrated 135 years of fellowships and grants and **awarded \$6.1 million to 277 awardees**, keeping us as the nation's largest non-institutional funder of women's graduate-level education.
- Celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act: Lilly and AAUW worked together closely over the years to get this critical legislation passed, and we remain inspired by her tenacity and selflessness. AAUW's CEO Gloria Blackwell and Senior Director of Policy Meghan Kissell were invited to the White House to honor Lilly and this important anniversary. [Watch the recording of the celebration.](#)

## 2023-2024 Branch Officers



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**Our mailing address is:**

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