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

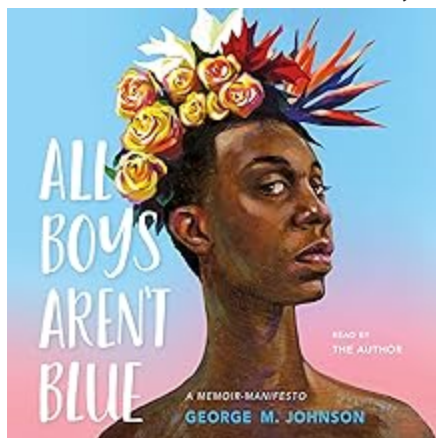
# Newsletter

**Volume 50, Number 2**

**October 2024**



**Banned Books #2**  
**Saturday, **October 19th**, 2024**  
**9:30- Social Time - 10:00- Program**  
**Oswego Heritage House**  
**Avenue A and 10th Street, Lake Oswego**



As many of you may recall, for last October's program, we had a panel discussion with three informed speakers: Greg Martin (librarian) from Wilsonville Public Library, April Younglove (librarian) from Lake Oswego Public Library, and Will Peters, the owner of Mollie Bloom Bookstore in Multnomah Village. They shared their perspectives about the alarming growth of book censorship and then engaged the audience in an informative Q and A session.

The topic was so well received and, unfortunately, remains still so urgent that, as program chairs, we had intentions to revisit this issue again this year. To our great delight, Lake Oswego Public Library is already leading the way. They have developed an entire program highlighting the scope of the book-banning trend, followed by identifying and celebrating our abilities to counter this with Freedom to Read Month. Please see [www.lopl.org/freedomtoread](http://www.lopl.org/freedomtoread) for their list of proactive events.

The program plan is to generate a thought-provoking discussion about one of the most banned books in the US, *All Boys Aren't Blue*, by George M. Johnson. Before we dive into the book, LOPL librarians will provide a brief overview of the current book-banning landscape, including recent efforts to target books with minority characters and authors, book challenges locally, and information about how you can support intellectual freedom.

Please join us as LOAAUW and the Heritage House host The LO Public Library's discussion of *All Boys Aren't Blue*. Don't miss this opportunity to explore a controversial book and learn how to protect our right to read.

Note that there are currently free copies of *All Boys Aren't Blue* for those who wish to attend the discussion. They are available for pick-up at the library.



## Prez Sez



Jeanne Lemieux & Diana Ricks

What is community? It is defined as a feeling of fellowship with others, a social, religious, occupational, or other group of any size that shares common attitudes, interests, and goals. Lake Oswego AAUW is a community that advocates for women – young, old, or in-between. We are a group that shares numerous



interests. Each of us is also part of a larger community, the one in which we reside. This encompasses not only Lake Oswego but also West Linn, Tigard, Tualatin, Sherwood, Newberg, and Oregon City. In these larger communities, we also share common interests with our neighbors – education, housing, and public safety.

How do we, as an organization, engage with these larger communities? To begin with, we engage through our monthly programs. This is usually passive involvement, where we learn about other organizations and local issues. In September, we learned about misinformation and disinformation and how to determine what is fact during the election cycle and beyond. The speaker provided a handout with tips on ways to become a better news consumer. In October, we will host the Lake Oswego Library banned book event. In the past, we have hosted Lake Oswego Reads events. This is a further commitment to this vital part of our community. The branch also has decided to be one of the sponsors for the West Linn High School Robotics team. This group provides a STEM opportunity for high school students. In addition, both the team robots and shirts will display the AAUW logo. Through our college scholarships, we are a part of another community - the PCC (Portland Community College) Foundation. Students pursuing degrees in Early Childhood Education, who apply for our scholarship, will get to know about AAUW.

As an organization, it is important for the community to get to know us. Who we are, what we stand for, and where we want to invest our energy and put our mark. Are there other

community efforts that could benefit from our involvement? We invite you to share your ideas. Let's make this year a focus on community and the issues facing that place where we live.



-  Board Mtg
-  General Mtg

## INTEREST GROUP HAPPENINGS – OCTOBER 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: October 15th, Location: Din Tai Fung, Washington Square

RSVP to the invitation email is required to ensure seating.

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

Date: October 19th, Theme: My Favorite Foods  
Please contact Jane Taft if you want to receive an invitation.

**Interpretive Books**, 3rd Thursday at 9:30 am. Contact Diana Gough, [oldgypsy1169@gmail.com](mailto:oldgypsy1169@gmail.com)

Date: October 17th, Book: *James* by Percival Everett

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

Date: October 9th, Book: *Murder at Westminster* by Magda Alexander

**Non-Fiction Books**, 2nd Monday at 11:00 am. Contact: Diana Ricks, [dmricks472@gmail.com](mailto:dmricks472@gmail.com) and Cathy Croghan Alzner, [c.croghan.alzner@att.net](mailto:c.croghan.alzner@att.net)

Date: October 14th, Book: *One Long River of Song* by Brian Doyle

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

Date: October 24th, Book: Sharing books on the topic of survival

**4th Tuesday Books**, 4th Tuesday at 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, Contact: Lynda Bigler, [libigler@easystreet.net](mailto:libigler@easystreet.net)

Date: October 22nd, Book: *Honor* by Trinity Unregar

## INTEREST GROUP SPOTLIGHT ON...LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch is one of our most social interest groups. The group meets monthly at a local restaurant for good food and socializing...that's all! There's no need to read or analyze a book or cook anything (not that there's anything wrong with those activities!) Once you have asked to join Lunch Bunch, you will receive an invitation email each month with the details of that month's meeting. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:30 am. If you enjoy exploring restaurants and want an easygoing way to get to know some of your fellow Lake Oswego AAUW members, consider joining Lunch Bunch. To be placed on the mailing list, send an email to Charlene Vojtilla, Lunch Bunch Coordinator, at [charjoy8@gmail.com](mailto:charjoy8@gmail.com).



## Membership Profile



Diana was an army brat so grew up in Germany, Greece, and Turkey as well as in El Paso, Texas, where she earned her B.S. in Mathematics at the University of Texas, El Paso. After completing her degree she married and moved to Montana for 12 years, and earned her Masters degree, again in Mathematics, at the University of Montana. Eventually she and her husband moved to Beaverton, where they have lived for 35 years and both have worked in the Portland Public School (PPS) system (namely Franklin High School and (also, for Diana only) Wilson High School (now Ida B. Wells HS). In these schools, Diana pioneered the use of System Dynamics

(SD) modeling of dynamic feedback systems in her mathematics classes and in a year-long SD modeling course, both for 20 years. For this work she received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics, first place in Intel's Innovation in Teaching Award, and was awarded two National Science Foundation grants (firsts for PPS) where she was the director and principal investigator. She has published five books, the last two in SD (which are still in print). After retiring from high school teaching, she returned to school and earned a Ph.D. in System Science from Portland State University and now is the VP of Precollege Education for the System Dynamics Society focused on bringing Systems Thinking lessons and SD modeling lessons to precollege education (from preK-12). She has presented SD modeling techniques globally for about 30 years, many places in Europe, Turkey, South Africa, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Mexico, and Canada, as well as many places in the US.

Diana has two children and soon-to-be her third grandchild. She believes family is the most important job for any parent and loves to interact with her grandchildren.

Diana joined AAUW (both the Portland and Lake Oswego Branches) about a year ago and is currently co-chair of Membership for the Lake Oswego Branch. She also attends two book groups and the lunch bunch in the Lake Oswego Branch. She is enjoying the very interesting ladies she has met in the AAUW.

**Diana Fisher**

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## Scholarship

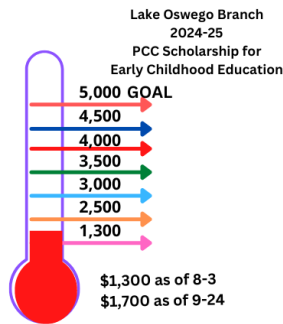
Thank you for joining in to support the LO AAUW scholarship fund last year. Your belief in student success is important. The PCC Foundation has provided us with a letter of gratitude from each of the two students that the scholarship fund supported. The letter below is from Joseph, and he explains how the scholarship has validated his goals in life.

"Thank you so much for this scholarship. I'm not someone who comes from wealth, let's say, so having this kind of funding for my studies means the absolute world to me. I'm eager to use the money to complete my time at PCC with flying colors before I move on to a four-year university.

Education has been my dream career since I was a teenager. Becoming someone who kids could look up to and being able to help them grow into better people, especially if they might not have the best role models at home, is such an important goal for me as someone who grew up with most of my only friends being my teachers. I dropped out of high school because I felt like no one cared for me – I

want to prevent kids from feeling that way when they reach their teen years and give them confidence that they can reach out to someone because I was there to help them early on.

Thank you again so, so much for this opportunity. Finishing college has felt like a pipe dream to me for years, and I never thought I would earn any scholarships to help me along the way. Knowing that there are people in this world who want to help ensure educators are able to follow their dreams is extremely heartwarming, and I'm forever grateful."



We are building a brighter community with our efforts. Currently, we are at \$1,700 for our goal of \$5,000 for this coming year. Please consider making a gift to the LO AAUW Scholarship Fund. You may visit the [LO AAUW website](#) to make a gift online or locate the mailing address for sending a check. Thank you!

**Submitted by Sharon Brabenac, scholarship chair**

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

West Linn Alliance  
presents  
a staged reading of

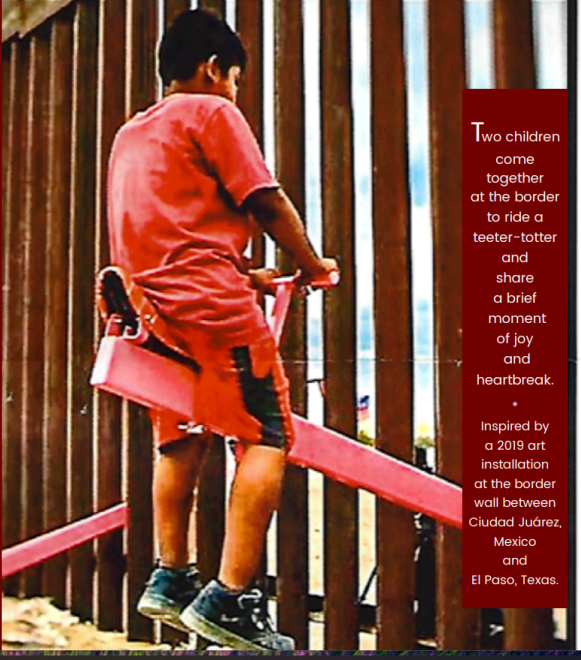
# Sube y Baja

(The Teeter-Totter)

by  
Francisco García

**Mon., October 14th, 7:00**  
West Linn Lutheran Church  
20390 Willamette Dr

**Free Admission**  
(recommended for age 12 and up)

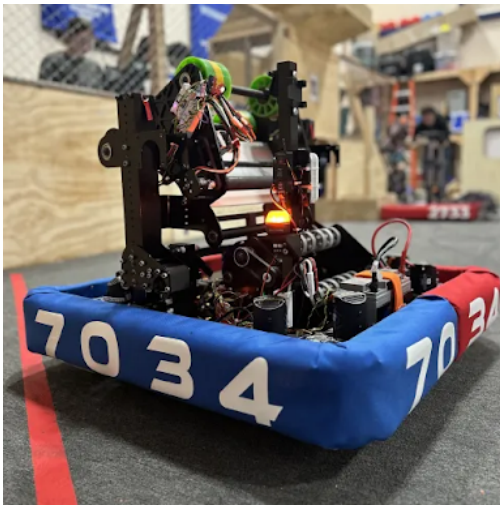


Two children  
come  
together  
at the border  
to ride a  
teeter-totter  
and  
share  
a brief  
moment  
of joy  
and  
heartbreak.

Inspired by  
a 2019 art  
installation  
at the border  
wall between  
Ciudad Juárez,  
Mexico  
and  
El Paso, Texas.

**Submitted by Marty Maharg**





## WLHS Robotics Team Thanks You

Hello,

We've received your check. Thank you so much, we appreciate your support and allowing us to present to your community. It means a lot to our team. With your support we'll be able to make this year a great success!

Louis and Team 7034

### 2024--2025 Branch Officers



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**Our mailing address is:**

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