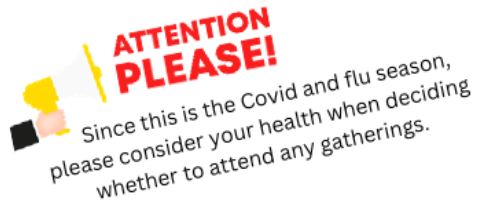


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**Communities include:  
Lake Oswego, Oregon City,  
Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin,  
West Linn, Wilsonville,  
and more**



# Newsletter

**Volume 50, Number 6**

**March 2025**



**INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY**

**Annual Meeting & International Women's Day  
CELEBRATION**

**Saturday, March 8th**

**9:30- Social Time - 10:00- Program**

**Oswego Heritage House  
Avenue A and 10th Street, Lake Oswego**

**Annual Meeting: Celebrate our branch and its members**  
**v Introduction of new members**  
**v Officer Reports**  
**v Election of Officers**  
**Celebration: of Women's Day**

**PICK UP** the April's Lake Oswego Reads book – *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood **FREE** at the March meeting!!

**Prez Sez**



Jeanne Lemieux & Diana Ricks

**REFLECTIONS.**

**JANUARY** we had a most extraordinary branch meeting. [see photos] The meeting started out with the audience being asked by Quinn Brunner, the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) advisor, to reflect on when we were the age of the YLC youth. What activities were we involved in? Then, attending members shared their reflections with each other as the young women spread out to hear what was being said. In addition, individual branch members could share their reflections with the whole group. After the meeting, Quin shared with Catharine Hojem via email: "Our YLCers were beaming walking out of the meeting – both grateful for your genuine interest in their perspectives and marveling at the similarities between their/your high school interests/experiences. One said, "I can't wait to join a group like this!" the rest agreed. Upon opening your thoughtful notes and finding Starbucks gift cards, another exclaimed, "They really know us!" Just a win-win morning for all who were in attendance!!



**FEBRUARY'S** meeting was also VERY dynamic. Dr. Jeffrey Kaye, director of the Division of Aging and Alzheimer's Disease at OHSU, was the speaker. Although he shared, "There is nothing to stop the disease in its tracks," he did talk about the importance of socialization. A reflection from this statement for us was how important participation in ALL the varied activities of the LOAAUW Branch is for the health and well-being of the members. Individuals who attended (a very good showing!) learned this and much, much more!! And ... four individuals who attended the meeting became new members!!

## **WHAT NEXT?**

**MARCH** is our Annual Meeting, and it will happen on March 8th, International Women's Day (IWD)! IWD is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. **Accelerate Action** (the theme for this year) is a worldwide call to acknowledge strategies, resources, and activities that positively impact women's advancement and to support and elevate their implementation.

Looking through all that has been written about IWD, I was struck by an article written by a student writer from the Her Campus at Exeter Cornwall entitled, "[6 Famous Women to Remember on International Women's Day](#)". "You, Me, Us; all Women: It shouldn't seem strange that the sixth woman in this list is you or me or any other women around the world. Despite being ordinary women with no remarkable or influential achievements, we still make extraordinary achievements in our everyday lives, and at every moment. Mothers, wives, daughters, female students and workers; we all meet and confront incredible challenges, and we work harder to realize our dreams and overcome the hardships we encounter." [sic]

So, we hope you can come join us for a festive gathering celebrating women around the world, women in our own "backyard," and ALL the members of the LOAAUW Branch. And ... as always, invite a friend/neighbor who might find belonging to this branch a real addition to the journey of their lives as women! See you soon!!

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## **Membership**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS at ANNUAL MEETING**

At our February branch meeting, the Nominating Committee announced that nominations for officers for 2025-2027 would be presented to the Board on 2/4 for their approval. These nominations are for the offices of President, Program Vice-President, and Secretary. The floor was open for any additional nominations. The slate was approved by the Board on February 4th. Membership will vote for this slate of officers at the March Annual Meeting.

#### **Slate of Officers for 2025-2027**

President  
Susan Shea  
Co-Presidents  
Jeanne Lemieux  
Diana Ricks  
Co-Program Vice Presidents  
Pam Berg  
Lynn Bliss  
Catharine Hojem  
Secretary  
Susan Deeming

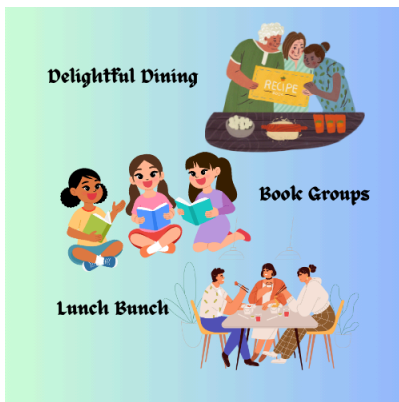
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## Board mtg motions

Sue made a motion to approve the slate of officers as presented. Charlene seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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## Interest Groups



### INTEREST GROUP HAPPENINGS MARCH 2025

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 18th  
Location: Babica Hen, 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)  
Date: No meeting in March. Please contact Jane Taft if you want to receive an invitation to future events.

**Interpretive Books**, 3rd Thursday at 10 am, Contact: Diana Gough,  
[oldgypsy1169@gmail.com](mailto:oldgypsy1169@gmail.com)  
Date: March 20th, Book: *Miss Benson Beetle* by Rachel Joyce

**Murder by the Book**, 2nd Wednesday at noon, Contact: Jane Taft,  
[taft.jane@gmail.com](mailto:taft.jane@gmail.com)  
Date: March 12th, Book: *The Murder of Mr. Wickham* by Claudia Gray

**Non-Fiction Books**, 2nd Monday at 11 am, Contacts: 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: March 10th, Book: *The Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women* by Lisa Mundy

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

Date: March 27th, Book: *Pineapple Street* by Jenny Jackson

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

Date: March 25th, Book: *The Women* by Kristin Hannah



### **INTEREST GROUP SPOTLIGHT ON...4th TUESDAY BOOKS**

This book group has been active since at least 1997. The members have changed, except for one or two, but our literary outlook and reading guidelines have not. To suggest a book, the person needs to have read it already. That's it! Our youngest member is just turning 65, and our oldest turned 99 in December. Although we generally choose fiction — anything from *Lessons in Chemistry* to *2034: A Novel* to *A Gentleman in Moscow* — we've also read non-fiction such as *The Last Slave Ship* or *On Call in the Arctic* or *Grace and Grit*. Our hope is to learn about cultures unlike our own or challenges others have faced, such as in *Pachinko* or *Honor* or *James*.

We meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Szechuan Kitchen on Boones Ferry Road in Lake Oswego from 11-1. The book discussion leader for the month gives us background information about the author, sometimes reads reviews of the book, and then guides our conversation about what we read. Whether a person has read the book or not, she is encouraged to attend to enjoy our community and conversation. Who knows? Maybe the discussion will spark her interest in reading or finishing the book!

Contact Lynda Bigler at [libigler@easystreet.net](mailto:libigler@easystreet.net) if you'd like to join us.

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## **DEI**

### **Do you know what flower is associated with International Women's Day?**

The Mimosa Flower! This is a very distinctive tree that stands very tall and spreads its branches wide. This tree can live for over 50 years. The flowers are quite small and abundant, with a bright yellow color. Honestly, they look like a lovely patch of sunshine! This flower is often associated with problem solvers and can be given as gifts to inspire a solution to a complex problem. The flowers are a symbol of caring for others. They symbolize strength and sensibility.

This seems to be a perfect fit for a flower selection for International Women's Day. This year, the theme for International Women's Day (May 8, 2025) is to accelerate action. Overall, we need to speed up the process to gain progress in gender equity. If we stay at the current rate of change, the Economic Forum has stated it will take 134 years to reach full gender equality. So we are looking at five generations from now!

This year, the theme is focused on the need for urgency in addressing the barriers and biases that women face both in their personal and professional spheres.

Today, we need to focus on what the Mimosa flower is all about – standing tall, caring about others, and becoming problem solvers together. This seems like a good time to engage in the AAUW of Oregon public policy actions. Achieving our legislative priorities is important. We can all take many actions to promote gender equity and improve the lives of women and girls.

**Submitted by Sharon Brabenac**

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## Public Policy

### Oregon Lobby Days 2025 Are Just Days Away by AAUW of Oregon Public Policy Committee

**Thanks to all who have registered!  
If you haven't registered yet, now is the time....**

Get ready to advance legislation that makes a difference! The AAUW Oregon 2025 Lobby Days event will be held over the week of March 17-21 with in-person and virtual meetings over Zoom. We encourage all AAUW Oregon members to participate in this opportunity for advocacy that is essential to achieve our legislative priorities!

The Public Policy Legislative Reporter Committee evaluated new bills introduced in the state legislature which are aligned with two specific areas chosen by Oregon AAUW members: **Education and Healthcare**. We are also following the progress of HB 3187 Anti-Age Discrimination Bill on which we collected petitions earlier and sent testimonies in favor of the bill. Training materials on the selected bills will be posted on the state website prior to the mandatory training session on Thursday, March 13th at 7 pm.

If you are interested in participating, please complete **BOTH** Step One and Step Two by **March 3rd**.

**Step One:** Complete the Lobby Days Event registration form. Register for Lobby Days [HERE](#).

**Step Two:** Register for the mandatory training, which will be held on Thursday, March 13th, 7-8 pm Pacific. Register for the training session [HERE](#).

### **Step Three:** Participate in Lobby Days between March 17 – 21, 2025

#### **After you register:**

You will be assembled into teams of AAUW branch members and matched with your Senate and House districts. For in-person meetings, each team will be scheduled to meet with at least two legislative offices while for Zoom meetings, each team will be scheduled to meet with one or two legislative offices. We can help you set up the meetings with legislators, if desired. Regardless of whether you are in-person or online, each meeting will last for 15 to 30 minutes.

Because legislators have many commitments during the busy legislative season, most Lobby Days meetings will be held with legislative staffers and it is not always possible to schedule AAUW members with their own legislators. However, be assured that these meetings are always impactful: because teams will be representing AAUW Oregon as a supporter, legislative offices will consider these meetings to be as important as constituent meetings. We understand that travel incurs a cost, and we appreciate you considering the in-person option. If you can afford to take a road trip, consider carpooling with your fellow members, and if driving a long distance, sharing accommodations to make in-person Lobby Days a more budget friendly event.

**Lobby Days is a wonderful opportunity to meet with legislative offices and advance bills to promote gender equity and improve the lives of women and girls.**

**We hope that you will join us in this important activity to promote our values. The registration information can also be found on the Oregon website by clicking [HERE](#).**

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## **The Three West Coast Branches Are Invited!**

This meeting has now been opened to all the Metro-Interbranch branches.



Tuesday, March 18th at 7 pm Cherie Sorokin, Board Chair of AAUW National and a member of the California Online Branch, will be the guest speaker at the March meeting of the Oregon Online Branch. California Online and Washington Online are also invited. This is a chance for the three West Coast Online branches to talk with Cherie and learn what is happening at the national level of our

organization.

AAUW of Oregon is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Topic: Oregon Online Branch Meeting - Cherie Sorokin, AAUW Board Chair**

Time: Mar 18, 2025 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87968166277>

Meeting ID: 879 6816 6277

One tap mobile  
+14086380968,,87968166277# US (San Jose)

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## Member Profile

### Lynn Bliss



Lynn was previously a member of the Lake Oswego Branch but moved to Houston and has recently returned to Lake Oswego to be near family. Born in Long Island, New York, she earned a bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Wisconsin. Then, she received a master's degree from Teachers College, Columbia University. After working in New York as a speech-language pathologist, she went to the University of Michigan and graduated with a PhD in Linguistics and Speech-Language Pathology. She then taught at Penn State and was the only female faculty member with a PhD. This was followed by a twenty-year career as a professor at Wayne State University. From there, she was recruited to chair the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Houston.

Upon retirement, Lynn became a docent at the Holocaust Museum of Houston and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. She also was a guide at the Rothko Chapel, a non-denominational chapel filled with artwork and designed for meditation, whose mission includes promoting social justice. In Portland, she volunteers at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. She has begun to provide a series of lectures on museums and various aspects of art, including contemporary female Native American artists. Some of these are offered at local adult community centers. Lynn's hobbies include needlepoint, reading and the theatre. She is looking forward to meeting new people and becoming active in AAUW.

**Submitted by Patti Watkins, Membership Co-chair**

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#### **Are you signed up to be a Two-Minute Activist?**

Members of AAUW's Action Network receive urgent e-mail notices when their advocacy is needed most. With AAUW's online [Two-Minute Activist](#) tool, it takes just minutes and an internet connection to make your voice heard on issues impacting women and girls!

**[2024--2025 Branch Officers](#)**





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**Our mailing address is:**

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