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



Newsletter

Volume 50, Number 7

April 2025

**Saturday, April 12th
9:30- Social Time - 10:00- Program
Oswego Heritage House
Avenue A and 10th Street, Lake Oswego**

Commitment, Advocacy, and Compassion



Our speaker is Superintendent Nicole Brown from Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville. Her current role, which oversees Gender-Informed Practices, was created for her in the Fall of 2024. She had spent the previous five years serving as Coffee Creek's sole Administrator, responsible for the only women's correctional institution **and** male intake center in Oregon. The Superintendent appointment is now split.

Ms. Brown previously served in other state prisons and was named the first African American woman to run such a facility here in Oregon. Her degree is in Planning, Public Policy, and Management from the University of Oregon.

Superintendent Brown has an extensive work history in the area of rehabilitation. She discovered her true calling in treatment and recovery practices almost 30 years ago while working with persons needing intervention in Baker City. She has always actively involved herself in all aspects of her job on behalf of inmates, staff, and families. She has implemented programs such as adult-based skills, work-based education, continuing HS-related instruction and apprenticeships, and the leading Victim and Volunteer Services and Family Advocacy Groups.

The [Oregon Way](#) promotes a positive and healthy organizational culture within correctional institutions. It empowers staff to engage actively with adults in custody, guiding them toward rehabilitation and successful reintegration. The practice is based on the Norwegian model of normalizing and humanizing the prison environment, and it was introduced into our state in 2017.

Ms. Brown will present *The Oregon Way* and *Staff Wellness* as AAUW's contribution to the Lake Oswego Reads selection of *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood.

Commitment, advocacy, and compassion are evident in both our speaker's career and in the novel.



Prez Sez

We have two topics for this month's article. They are both informational. **First** are the branch dues for the coming year. At the March 4th board meeting, the board approved a proposal to raise the branch dues by \$5 to \$22 per year. This approval began the 60-day comment period with a final vote at the May 6th board meeting. Our branch dues have



Jeanne Lemieux & Diana Ricks

been \$17 for over eight years, while our expenses, such as Heritage House rental, PO box, insurance, and Zoom subscription, have increased. As we showed at the annual meeting, the current dues don't cover our essential expenses. Please feel free to reach out to us or any board member with questions or concerns you might have prior to the May 6th

meeting.

Second, we are halfway through this year's legislative session. We would encourage you to let your state senator and representative know through email, letter, or at a town hall that you, as a member of AAUW of Oregon, support these bills. You can find more information on the various bills on the state [AAUW website](#). If you don't know who your legislators are or their email addresses, you can visit [oregonlegislature.gov](#), click on "Find Your Legislator," and enter your address to retrieve all the necessary information. Thanks!

Here are the bills that AAUW of Oregon is supporting.

SB1098 – Against Book/Material Banning based on illegal discrimination School library books/materials are removed more frequently now than at any other time. This bill requires a documented process to respond to complaints.

SB694 – Increased Child Tax Credit A 2023 bill created a refundable income tax credit known as Oregon Kids Credit (OKC) with qualifying dependent children under the age of 6. This bill modifies the OKC by increasing the income limit to \$35,000/\$45,000 and maximum amount of credit to \$1,200 per dependent.

HB3011 – Early Childhood Education Oregon is dealing with an urgent childcare crisis. There are only enough childcare providers for 18% of children aged 0-2 and 37% of children aged 3-5. This bill would strengthen the Early Childhood Education programs at Oregon public universities and colleges, increasing the number and skills of early childhood teachers.

HB3212 – Pharmacy Prices There is a lack of transparency and accountability within the pharmaceutical industry. The bill seeks to end the contested PBM practices that raises the cost of drugs to consumers ensuring transparency in drug pricing.

HB2233 – Legal Services for Coffee Creek Adults in Custody Incarcerated individuals have limited access to attorneys and resources to engage in civil legal work while in prison. The bill addresses the need to provide CC inmates facing reentry at the end of sentence, with access to legal services to assist them with reentry and reintegration into local communities.

HB3187 – Anti-Age Discrimination The bill takes a narrow approach to closing the loophole in Oregon law by providing the evidence of salary, length of service, and pension/retirement status can be used to establish a claim for workplace age discrimination.



Membership



INTEREST GROUP HAPPENINGS – APRIL 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

Date: April 15th, Location: Si Señor (formerly Chevy's),
Lake Oswego RSVP to the invitation email is required to ensure seating.

Delightful Dining,

Contact: Jane Taft,
taft.jane@gmail.com

Date: April 5th, 6 pm, Theme: Ina Garten recipes
Please contact Jane Taft if you want to receive an invitation to this event.

The Shared Inquiry Book Group (note change in name),

3rd Thursday at 10 am,
Contact: Diana Gough,
oldgypsy1169@gmail.com

Date: April 17th, Book: *House of Doors* by Tan Twan Eng

Murder by the Book,

2nd Wednesday at noon,
Contact: Jane Taft
taft.jane@gmail.com

Date: April 9th, Book: *Vera Wang's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers* by Jesse Sutano

Non-Fiction Books,

2nd Monday at 11 am,
Contacts: Diana Ricks,
dmricks472@gmail.com
and Cathy Croghan Alzner,
c.croghan.alzner@att.net

Date: April 14th, Book: *Famous Father Girl: A Memoir of Growing Up Bernstein* by Jamie Bernstein

Thursday Evening Books,

4th Thursday at 7 pm,
Contact: Suzanne Kaveckis,
smkaveckis@icloud.com

Date: April 24th, Book: *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride

4th Tuesday Books,

4th Tuesday at 11 am – 1 pm,
Contact: Lynda Bigler,
libigler@easystreet.net

Date: April 22nd, Book: *James* by Percival Everett (may be helpful to read/skim *Huck Finn* by Mark Twain)



INTEREST GROUP SPOTLIGHT ON...NON-FICTION BOOKS

Have you ever wondered about the natural environment? AI? CRIPSR? Are you curious about other people and cultures? Who are the seemingly ordinary people who, even in small ways, become extraordinary? How did one woman bring down the Indiana KKK? How did a diabetic Latina child of an impoverished single mother grow up to be a U.S. Supreme Court Justice?

You are cordially invited to join the Non-Fiction Books group. We meet at 11 am on the second Monday of the month at Szechuan Kitchen in Lake Oswego. If you have questions about the group or would like this year's reading list, please contact Diana Ricks at dmricks472@gmail.com or Cathy Croghan Alzner at c.croghan.alzner@att.net.

As a reminder, all book group reading lists, past and present, can be found on our website, <https://lakeoswego-or.aauw.net/> under the **Interest Groups** tab.



Recent Motions

Sharon made a motion to give \$1500 scholarships to two students and include the 2% administration fee (\$20.00 each) to PCC. Jeanne seconded the motion. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Jeanne to announce at the Saturday meeting that a questionnaire was being developed to help meet the needs of all members of the organization. A google form will be sent to each member. Sharon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Diana F. to raise the local dues \$5.00 for a total of \$22.00. Sue seconded the motion. Motion passed without objection.

Jane Taft called for order for the selection of officers. She asked for nominations from the floor, hearing none, Jane called for a vote by acclamation. Susan Hornung seconded the motion. The slate of officers was elected unanimously.

The slate of officers 2025-2027:

President- Susan Shea

Co Presidents- Diana Ricks, Jeanne Lemieux

Co-Program Vice Presidents- Lynn Bliss, Catharine Hojem, Pam Berg

Secretary- Susan Deeming

Submitted by Sue Morre, Secretary



New Member Profile

Lupita Maurer

Lupita has spent twenty years in various leadership positions with the Democratic Party. These include Commissioner (appointed by Governor Kitzhaber) of the State Commission



on Hispanic Affairs, Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chair of the Western States Latino Caucus, Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon, and four years as the Chair of the Washington County Democratic Party. As a member of the Washington County Gender Equity Team, Lupita mentored middle-school age girls while part of a program designed to encourage girls' involvement in STEM. She was the keynote speaker for a one-day event that included 800 girls.

Born and raised in Mexico City, Lupita moved to the Bay Area of California to attend California State University, East Bay where she received a degree in Computer Science. She then moved to Portland and worked for Tektronix as a Software Quality Engineer. After over twenty years with the company, she took a position with Polar Instruments as a Product Specialist. Four years later she was promoted to Vice President of Operations/General Manager, and then in 2023 to President, a position she currently holds.

Lupita is married and she and her husband, Joe, have six children between them. They enjoy collaborative creation of abstract artwork involving large-scale mixed media. She loves to travel, and has visited many countries in Europe, as well as Australia, Turkey, and Morocco, and will journey to South Africa later this year. Lupita heard about AAUW from Alice Bartelt, a friend and mentor, who passed away a few years ago. Alice was a former AAUW of Oregon state president.

Submitted by Patti Watkins, Membership Co-chair



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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