



KEYNOTES

February 2025



UPCOMING DATES:

Branch Luncheon

Monday, February 24

11:30 AM

Elmer's Parkrose Restaurant

10001 NE Sandy Blvd.

Portland, OR

KEYNOTES DEADLINE IS THE FIRST DAY OF EACH MONTH.

Please send information to Barb Kaufman at danbarbkauf@msn.com

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President's Message

By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

As you all know, the mission of AAUW is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. At the state level, the Legislature began its 2025 long session on January 21, and there are, of course, enormous problems and issues for the Oregon legislators to confront. Our January meeting guest speaker, **Claire Berger**, the AAUW of Oregon Public Policy Chair, leads the AAUW charge on the state level to support bills that relate to our mission of equity for women.

Claire enthusiastically told us that there is a new process that will be used this year which includes more inclusion of members statewide – essentially member-chosen campaigns where our membership can have more of a direct influence on the process on bills that impact them and their communities.

- 1 Claire encouraged all of us to get ready to advance legislation that makes a difference. This spring the **AAUW of Oregon 2025 Lobby Days** event will be held over the **week of March 17-21** with either in-person or virtual legislative appointments over Zoom, whichever the particular branch prefers.

- 2 As your Branch President, I hope that all branch members will support me and our Branch Public Policy Director, **Sharron Noone**, and volunteer to participate in our Branch's Lobby Day Event and take the opportunity to advocate for those bills essential to achieving our legislative priorities!

- 3 **Sharron** and I will be signing up the Branch to participate in 2025 Lobby Days with Claire and the AAUW of Oregon Public Policy Committee. Please let Sharron know if you are interested in participating. Do not worry if you have never done any type of advocacy before; training will be available, and there are experienced individuals participating as well.

- 4 Our next **Branch Meeting** will be held on **Monday, February 24, 2025**, at Elmer's Parkrose Restaurant at 11:30 am. Our Membership Vice President, **Arlene Lemieux**, has put together an excellent program for us. Come meet and hear **Doctor Abio Ayeliya**, the Director of Office of Student Life and Civic Engagement at MHCC. Please read Doctor's bio in the article written by Arlene in this issue of the *Keynotes*.

Finally, we are going to celebrate our **54th Branch Birthday in February** – having been chartered by AAUW in 1971. We will, of course, be honoring our Charter Members, and the branch board of directors will be determining how else to make this birthday an event to remember!

Happy Valentine's Day and President's Day and hope to see you on the 24th.

Mary





**AAUW GRESHAM
AREA (OR) BRANCH**
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2024-2025

President:

Mary J. Mayer

VP Finance:

Barb Lintner

Dues Treasurer:

Katie Goodwin

VP Programs:

Barb Kaufman

VP Membership:

Arlene Lemieux

VP Communications:

Sharron Noone

Director of Governance:

Mary J. Mayer

Director of Funds Development:

Mary Jeanne Oliva

Director of Public Policy:

Sharron Noone

AAUW Funds Chair:

Katie Goodwin

Sunshine Chair:

Pat Woolsey

Inter-Branch Council Rep:

Mardy Stevens

College/University Chairs:

Arlene Lemieux

Sharron Noone

MHCC Scholarship Chair:

Mary J. Mayer

NCCWSL Chair:

Sharron Noone

DEIB Chair:

Sharron Noone

Tech Support Chair:

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Barb Kaufman

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Martha Manske

Reviewers:

Mardy Stevens

Alice Linker



Mark your calendar for the Luncheon meeting on

Monday, February 24, 2025**11:30 AM****Elmer's Parkrose Restaurant****10001 NE Sandy Blvd.****Portland, OR****2024-2025 Meeting Schedule**

- * **February 24, Luncheon—Elmer's Parkrose, 11:30 a.m., - Mt. Hood Community Student Services, Doctor Abby Ayeliya**
- * **March 24, Branch Meeting, 4 p.m. - Future of Local Journalism, Chris Keizur, *Gresham Outlook***
- * **April 28, Branch Meeting, 4 p.m., - Successes & Challenges at Rosemary Anderson Alternative High School, Jeffrey McGee, Director/Principal**
- * **May 19, Installation and Awards Banquet: Gresham Olive Garden, 5 p.m.**

February Program

Doctor Abio Ayeliya

Our speaker at the February Luncheon is **Doctor Abio Ayeliya**, the Director of the Office of Student Leader Life and Civic Engagement and Adjunct Instructor of Human Development at **Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC)**. He has been at MHCC for six years. Previous to that, he was at **Eastern Oregon University** as a Communication and Cultural Liaison and at **Salt Lake Community College** in a similar position.

He received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration at Eastern Oregon University and his Master's Degree in Public Administration at the University of Idaho.

Doctor has also provided leadership positions in volunteer organizations in La Grande and Salt Lake City. He is also the founder and CEO of *Sabu Help International*.

Doctor will talk about student life and their strengths and needs at the college. We also hope that he will talk about the faculty strengths and needs. The bond measure that MHCC will put out before the voters will also be on everyone's minds.

Board meeting:
February 11 , 3 p.m.
ZOOM



Membership News



I suspect many of you received the notice of a proposed dues increase of **\$5.00 per year** for the next three years from National and the rationale for this increase. None of us like increases in our yearly expenses, but probably can also understand that providing the research and lobbying necessary to keep working on our goal of equity and education for women and girls has a price tag. There is the opportunity to provide feedback so please do so. One of my mantras is: "you can only complain" if you have taken action.

Katie Goodwin, Membership Finance VP

AAUW Funds

In February, we will be receiving notice of our branch's total giving to AAUW Funds which will then lead to selecting members to be recognized for their contributions to our branch by AAUW of Oregon. Meantime, keep in mind that AAUW Funds support women through American and International Fellowships who are in fields of study that support equity and education for women and girls. They also award Community Action Grants to Branches, State AAUW's, and community non-profits that are engaged in projects that support equity and education for women and girls. There is a big picture out there and we can be proud of our support through AAUW Funds.

Katie Goodwin, AAUW Funds Advocate



Happy 165th Birthday to our beautiful state of Oregon!

February 14, 1959-February 14, 2024



"She Flies With Her Own Wings"



Report from AAUW National Office

DUES INCREASE Proposed annual dues increase: AAUW did not increase dues in FY 2025 and the board is now considering a 5-year plan to increase individual member dues at \$5 each year from 2025 to 2029. More than 6,000 of AAUW's 41,000 members are either Paid Life or Honorary Life Members and do not pay any national dues. Dues cover about 15% of AAUW's budget and do not cover the cost of member support. Consistently raising dues will cover more costs of member support and help offset increases in costs due to inflation. In keeping with AAUW's commitment to financial sustainability and the financial health of the national office, regular dues increases are necessary. I hope you took the opportunity to comment about the dues increase on the website.

DONATION CHECKS There have been complaints about donation checks taking as much as 60 days to be processed. AAUW National asks to remind members that donation checks DO NOT go directly to the AAUW office and staff: they go to a vendor at a separate address. The current vendor has once again experienced year-end delays, which disproportionately impacts donor's contributions. The Finance and Advancement Team put together a task force to prepare for a request for proposal for a new vendor/contractor.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COLLEGE WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS As you know, AAUW has given over this program to another organization. It is anticipated that the national website (www.aauw.org) will have information about this "revised" conference in the coming weeks.

Mardy Stevens
Liaison to National AAUW

Report from the Interbranch Council

I highlighted our branch's "Calling All Angels" fundraiser and the increase in giving over last year, and I recognized that our MHCC scholarship winner spoke at the fundraiser. It is always a pleasure to note to the IBC our branch's programming. Throughout the IBC, programs include resources for homeless women and children, a speaker from the Portland Art Museum, from Oregon Public Policy, from a community college, a female master distiller from Clear Creek Distillery, a Youth Leadership Council, a panel addressing Journalism Today and artificial intelligence. There is also a Great Decisions group in Vancouver.

Mardy Stevens, Branch IBC Rep



Gresham Branch Members
Enjoying Social
Connections at our
January Branch Luncheon





Enrichment Groups Contacts

Between the Covers

Peggy Taylor
pataylor48@aol.com

Bridge Groups

Arlene Lemieux 503-252-8467
t.lemieux@comcast.net

Crafts/Needlework

Arlene Lemieux 503-252-8467
t.lemieux@comcast.net

Trip Takers

Barb Lintner 503-847-1960
barblintner@gmail.com

Bonnie Jepsen 503-442-5426
No email

International Dining

Connie Maguire 503-319-3464
camaguire@frontier.com

Keep Walking, Walking

Arlene Lemieux 503-252-8467
t.lemieux@comcast.net

Public Policy/Community Service

Sharron Noone 503-799-2139
smnrrooe@aol.com

Keep Walking, Walking ... Schedule for walks January to May 2025

All of these walks have ease and distance in mind. For any of them, we can tailor them to our needs. More details about these walks will be communicated.

- * **Tuesday, February 25 - Butler Creek Greenway Trail.** Meet at Ross' at 10 a.m. The trail is in Gresham, but, there is only street parking, we thought we should meet, then carpool over there.
- * **Tuesday, March 18 - Historic Gresham.** This is a trail that is in the "Walk There!" book. The Gresham Historic Society should have an exhibit about Old Gresham. We will stop by with our own experts - Mardy and Peggy - who can tell us the history. Meet at Ross' at 10 a.m.
- * **Tuesday, April 22 - Irvington Classic Homes.** Again, this walk is from the "Walk There!" book. Meet at Arlene's at 10 a.m. to carpool.
- * **Friday, May 30 - Fort Vancouver** and lunch at **Grant House.**



Arlene Lemieux
Keep Walking, Walking...

February 24 Branch Meeting

Gresham Area Branch of AAUW 54th Birthday Party with Cake!





Gresham Area Branch of AAUW, Inc. Book Club
"Between the Covers" 2024-2025

Peggy Taylor
503-661-6996/503-804-9999
pataylor48@aol.com

Second Wednesday @ 2 p.m., Gresham Library

February 12	<i>A Covert Affair</i> , Jennet Conant	(Peggy B.)
March 12	<i>I Have Some Questions for You</i> Rebecca Makkai	(Barb)
April 9	<i>Coming Home</i> , Brittney Griner	(Cynthia)
May 14	<i>The Women</i> , Kristin Hannah	(Martha)

June 11 - Book selections 2025-26 (Peggy T.)
Time/Place TBD





AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision - Equity for all

Values:

Nonpartisan.

Fact-based.

Integrity.

Inclusion and Intersectionality.

Diversity

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

State of Oregon & National Websites:

AAUW of Oregon: aauw-or.aauw.net (password = oregonaauw) AAUW National: www.aauw.org

Gresham Area Branch Address:

Gresham Area Branch of AAUW, Inc.

4233 SE 182nd Ave., #343

Gresham, OR 97030

Gresham Area Branch Website:

TBA

Gresham Area Branch Facebook Page:

AAUW Gresham OR



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Gresham Area Branch 2024-2025 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or CHANGE FORM

Name:	Last	First	Date
Address:	Street	Apt/Unit No.	City Zip+4 Code
Phone:	Primary	Other	Email

The above information is required for new members and will be listed in the AAUW Directory.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Education (highest degree earned): _____
 College/University (required for new member)

Location

Degree

Year

Current Profession: _____

Professional Field(s): _____

Birthday (month and day only): _____

ENRICHMENT GROUPS (Please check activities of interest.)

- ☐ Between the Covers (book group)
 ☐ Crafts
 ☐ Golden Girls (day trips)
 ☐ International Dining
☐ Bridge Group (1)
 ☐ Public Policy
 ☐ Keep Walking, Walking

ANNUAL DUES (Please check box that applies.) Dues are for the fiscal year (July 1-June 30) State and branch newsletters are distributed electronically to those members who have email and by mail to all other members. Dues are partially tax-deductible, as indicated below.

- ☐ **Renewing Member** (\$87 is tax deductible) \$108.00
☐ **New Member** (\$87 is tax deductible) \$108.00
☐ **Life Member** (\$20 is tax deductible) \$36.00
☐ **Dual - GAB Dues are \$20 if your primary branch is not GAB**

_____ I paid online at AAUW.org.

_____ Dues Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS: By check, payable to **AAUW Gresham Area Branch**. Please complete this form and return it with your check to the Gresham Area Branch Vice-President of Membership or mail to:

Membership
 Gresham Area Branch of AAUW, Inc.
 4233 SE 182nd Avenue, #343
 Gresham, OR 97030

Only return this form if you are a new member or have personal information update or changes to Enrichment Groups.