



# KEYNOTES

## May 2025



### UPCOMING DATES:

**Branch Banquet**

**Monday, May 19**

**5 p.m.**

**Gresham Olive Garden**

**2330 SE Burnside Rd**

**Gresham, OR 97080**

**KEYNOTES DEADLINE IS THE FIRST DAY OF EACH MONTH.**

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

### Inside this issue:

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*2024-2025 Board*

*AAUW Funds & Membership*

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*AAUW of Oregon State Conference Pictures*

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*2024-2025 Membership Form*

### President's Message

**By Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**

Thanks to our Program Vice President, **Barb Kaufman**, we were indeed fortunate to have **Dr. Lisa Skari**, Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) President, and **Diane McKeel**, Chair of the MHCC District Board of Education, as our guest speakers last month! It was incredible how many educational programs –including trade degrees—that MHCC provides to the community-at-large. It is truly a hidden gem in Gresham, and it seems unthinkable that a school bond has not been passed for some 50 years. The school is in desperate need of repairs, and I hope that our branch can help educate many of those potential voters that MHCC is worth every penny of the proposed bond! And some encouraging news! Dr. Skari invited us to talk to her at the end of May about possibly resurrecting an agreement between MHCC and AAUW!

One of the highlights of this year was definitely the **AAUW of Oregon Convention** held in Lebanon, Oregon from April 25-26. Seven of our branch members attended: **Arlene Lemieux, Cynthia Rauscher, Sharron Noone, Connie Maguire, Mardy Stevens, Barb Kaufman, and me**. Celebrating 100 years of AAUW in Oregon, 19 of the 21 branches in the state were represented, and 84 out of the 889 members in the state of Oregon were there.

I can proudly state that **Sharron Noone**, our Public Policy Director, presented an exceptional breakout session on "Passion for Advocacy: A Public Policy Workshop," and **Deborah Arthur** and **Nahlee Suvanvej** gave a highly informative presentation on the "Portland State University Higher Education Prison Program" on Saturday afternoon. I was able to get **LtCol Jessica Bradley, USMC (Ret)**, the Women Veterans' Coordinator at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), to speak to the attendees on "Women Military Veterans: Acknowledging Their Service Through Community and Connection."

At the Dinner and Awards Celebration, our branch was recognized for the largest percentage of members donating to the AAUW Funds in 2024! We ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in total branch donations, and 4<sup>th</sup> in per capita giving. **Katie Goodwin** will tell us more in her article in this *Keynotes*. Our nomination for the AAUW of Oregon Breaking Barriers Achievement Award won, and facilitator and branch member **Mardy Stevens** presented this coveted award to **Deborah Arthur**, Founder, and **Nahlee Suvanvej**, Director, of Portland State University's Higher Education in Prison Program.

(Continued on page 2)



**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:**

Connie Maguire

**Newsletter Editor:**

Barb Kaufman

**Historian:**

Martha Manske

**Reviewers:**

Mardy Stevens

Alice Linker

**Board meeting:**  
**May 13 , 3 p.m.**

**ZOOM**

**President's Message***(Continued from page 1)*

The last branch meeting of this 2024-2025 program year is the **Installation and Awards Banquet**, which will be held on **Monday, May 19, 2025**, at the **Olive Garden** in **Gresham, Oregon** at **5:00 pm**. We have much to celebrate at this event! Certificates from the Convention will be awarded to our five Branch Named Gift Honorees, **Cynthia Rauscher** will install **Barbara Lintner** as our Vice President of Finance and Treasurer, and we will recognize a branch Woman of Achievement. Guest speakers will include **Moriah Marsh**, our MHCC scholarship recipient, and **Shelley McFarland** from the MHCC Foundation and our two NCCWSL students. We will also present **Nahlee Suvanvej** with our branch donation! My thanks to all who donated so generously to this program!!

**Happy Mother's Day** to all of you and hope to see you on May 19.

**Mary**

**Mark your calendar for branch banquet meeting on  
Monday, May 19, 5 p.m.**

**Gresham Olive Garden**

**2330 SE Burnside Rd, Gresham, OR 97080**

**Menu: [olivegarden.com](http://olivegarden.com)**

**New Branch Website**

**We have a new updated branch website. The website is designed to attract new members who want to join our wonderful group in the Gresham Area Branch of AAUW, Inc. If you have any friends, neighbors, or family that might be interested in joining, refer them to our new web address to learn more about us:**

**<https://greshamarea-or.aauw.net/>**





**JOIN US FOR FRIENDSHIP & FUN!**  
**GRESHAM AREA BRANCH of AAUW, Inc.**  
**MAY BRANCH BANQUET**

**OUTLINE OF EVENTS:**

- ◆ Installation of 2024–2025 New Board Member
- ◆ Woman of Achievement Award Recipient
- ◆ Branch Named Gift Honorees
- ◆ Great conversation with fellow branch members

**Hope to see you on May 19!**  
**RSVP to Arlene at**  
**[t.lemieux@comcast.net](mailto:t.lemieux@comcast.net)**



### Membership News

Thank you to the 16 members who have already renewed! National is a bit slower this year as I only receive notice of online payments apparently a month following your payment month. However, we are well on our way with the promptness of so many of you.

**Katie Goodwin, Dues Treasurer**

### AAUW Funds

Gresham Area Branch is truly amazing in their gifting! This year at our State convention we were recognized as the **6<sup>th</sup> branch** in giving and the **4<sup>th</sup> one** in per capita gifting. It only gets better ladies, as we were also recognized for 100% of our 2024 donations going to the #9110 Greatest Need Fund, and brand new award for the largest percentage of members donating to AAUW Funds. I can only say WOW! And thank you.

Not under Funds as such, but we also achieved 2 Star status this year without really trying, but we're working on 5 Star for next year.

And again, thank you for your generosity.

**Katie Goodwin, AAUW Funds Advocate**

**Public Policy**  
**Sharron Noone, Director of Public Policy**

## Legislative Update



One of the bills the Oregon AAUW Public Policy Committee chose for our advocacy in the 2025 Oregon Legislative Session is SB1098 which protects libraries, especially in schools, from being required to remove books or materials if the reason for the removal is the author or content being based on what is called “protected class” in the Oregon Civil Rights Law. Race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation are some of the most typical “protected class” targets of attempts to censor reading resources

This excerpt from an article by Mia Maldonado the Oregon Capital Chronicle tells the story:

### **Oregon bill would protect access to library materials**

Oregon lawmakers are taking steps to protect access to library materials written by diverse authors or that include themes of race, gender or sexual orientation. On Wednesday afternoon, the House Education Committee heard public comments on Senate Bill 1098, which would prohibit schools and library districts from removing books with stories about religion, disability, LGBTQ+ issues or other characteristics of a protected class in Oregon’s anti-discrimination law in public education.

As Republican lawmakers across the U.S. have passed laws to restrict access to certain books and limit discussions around diversity, equity, and inclusion, Democratic Oregon lawmakers are taking steps to ensure that books by diverse authors remain accessible to readers. The bill does not remove existing standards for determining if a book is appropriate, but it adds the additional requirement that a book cannot be excluded or removed because of the perspective it represents, said bill sponsor Sen. Lew Frederick, D-Portland. “If folks only allege there’s inappropriate material when that material is by or about a protected class, then that’s when there’s a problem,” Frederick said. Public libraries and schools saw more attempts to remove books between July 2023 and 2024 than in any year since the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse at the State Library began tracking challenges. Nearly 90% of those challenges were to books written by or about underrepresented groups, according to a letter State Librarian Wendy Cornelisen submitted to lawmakers.

Read more at: [https://oregoncapitalinsider.com/2025/05/01/a-ban-on-book-bans-oregon-bill-would-protect-access-to-library-materials/?utm\\_source=second-street&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=oregoncapitalinsider-rssfeednewsletter&emailmd5=87ee319c2627f79f1dda3b55230192b7&emailsha1=22190252467918314729461082021434922022254218214129169&emailsha256=4990989cb54b488acdf3977d58f20ddaac37c12be5a2367af34e69ac7d536b19](https://oregoncapitalinsider.com/2025/05/01/a-ban-on-book-bans-oregon-bill-would-protect-access-to-library-materials/?utm_source=second-street&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=oregoncapitalinsider-rssfeednewsletter&emailmd5=87ee319c2627f79f1dda3b55230192b7&emailsha1=22190252467918314729461082021434922022254218214129169&emailsha256=4990989cb54b488acdf3977d58f20ddaac37c12be5a2367af34e69ac7d536b19)



## In Touch with AAUW

On March 27, as part of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, AAUW joined with hundreds of civil rights groups urging individuals to **Take an Action Pledge**:

I pledge to take specific action over the next four years to protect our rights and our country:

I will speak up when I see rights under attack in my community

I will attend at least one protest or community meeting this year

I will contact my member of Congress when legislation threatens basic rights

I will support at least one organization working to protect our democracy

I will share information about these threats with at least five people I know

This fight will last four years. I commit to growing stronger in my resolve as the threats intensify.

I will not be silenced.

**Protest Guidelines** - AAUW will release new guidelines for AAUW member participation in protests in these unprecedented times as an AAUW member. Looking forward to seeing something in writing!

AAUW manages \$76M in endowed funds and \$52M in restricted assets, which generate more than \$6M annually for fellowships, grants and other donor-designated projects. Over 10 years the revenue trend is slightly up, and the expense trend slightly down. This year \$6 million+ in fellowships was awarded to 280 individuals and projects, and 45% were STEM-related!

*Historically: AAUW is the oldest non-institutional major funder of graduate women's education, providing \$146 million to over 14,000 women in 152 countries since 1888. It's diverse (75% has gone to women of color), global (international fellows come from 43 countries), and local.*

**MEMBERSHIP** - 10% of branches have up to 10 members; 10% have more than 100 members; 53% have 10-49 members. There are 3,000 Paid Life Members (who pay no national dues), 6,000 Honorary (50 year) Life Members (who pay no national dues) and 41,000 total membership, 71% of whom are branch members.

**LOBBY CORPS** - AAUW's Capitol Hill Lobby Corps volunteers returned to Congress after a hiatus and visited more than 400 congressional offices. More than 35 AAUW members participated in trainings to become Lobby Corps volunteers. Greatest Needs donations helped add more volunteers, who now go twice a month.

**5-STAR PROGRAM** - Participation in the Five-Star program for FY24 grew once again with 320 branches completing the Annual Branch Survey and 15 achieving all 5 stars!

**NCCWSL** - Starting in 2025, NCCWSL will move to trusted friends and longtime partners at NASPA, the professional home for student affairs administrators in higher education. AAUW will be at the conference, and branches may continue supporting students with scholarships.

**SMART PROGRAMS** - Students and faculty at AAUW's 300 member colleges and universities have free access to the Work Smart, Start Smart and Money Smart programs.

**Mardy Stevens**  
**Liaison to National AAUW**





## AAUW of Oregon State Conference in Lebanon Oregon, April 25 & 26



**AAUW of Oregon Past Presidents— Includes our branch members Cynthia Rauscher and Mardy Stevens.**



**Deborah Arthur and Nahlee Suvanvej**  
Breaking Barriers Award Winners pictured here with Catherine Lutes, President, AAUW of Oregon.



Gresham Area Branch of AAUW, Inc. members pictured with **Deborah Arthur & Nahlee Suvanvej**



**Sharron Noone's Public Policy Workshop**



**Gresham Area Branch of AAUW, Inc. members in attendance:** Arlene Lemieux, Mary J. Mayer, Mardy Stevens, Connie Maguire, Cynthia Rauscher, and Barb Kaufman



## 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.

\* **Friday, May 30 - Fort Vancouver** and lunch at **Grant House**.

**Arlene Lemieux**  
**Keep Walking, Walking...**

to





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**

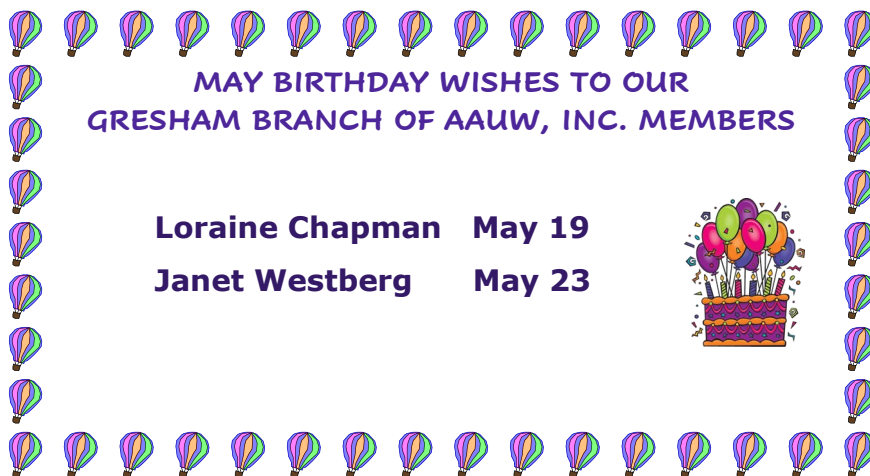
May 14

***The Women*, Kristin Hannah**

(Martha)

**June 11 - Book selections 2025-26**  
**Time/Place TBD**

(Peggy T. )







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](http://aauw-or.aauw.net) (password = oregonaauw) AAUW National: [www.aauw.org](http://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:**

<https://greshamarea-or.aauw.net/>

**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** ..... (\$89 is tax deductible) .... \$110.00

☐ **New Member** ..... (\$89 is tax deductible) .... \$110.00

☐ **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 182<sup>nd</sup> 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.**