

January 2016

<http://eugenelane-or.aauw.net>

AAUW Eugene-Lane Branch Meeting

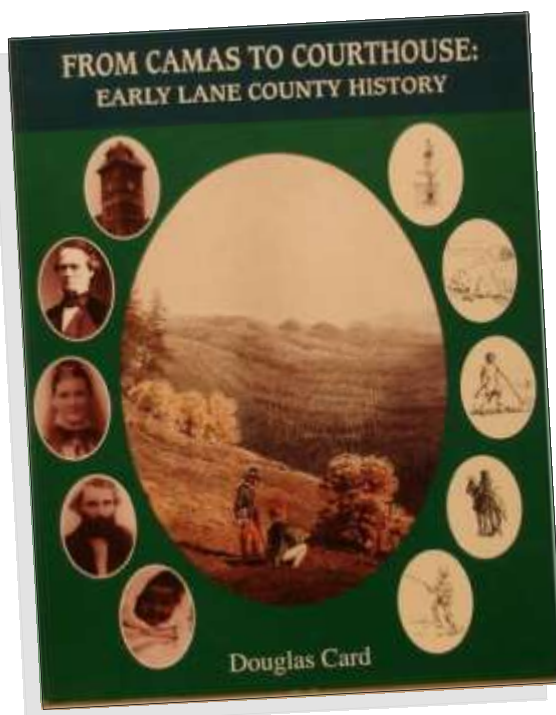
Saturday, January 9

Dr. Douglas Card to Speak on Local History

Westminster Presbyterian Church
777 Coburg Road, Eugene

Social time: 9:30 am
Hostesses: Elleen Levy & Gorgie Hofma
Business meeting: 10 am
Speaker: 10:30 am

Dr. Douglas Card is a retired sociology professor from UO, a freelance social historian, writer, researcher and lecturer on early Oregon history. He is also a social activist in support of democracy and community livability while opposing extremism. Dr. Card recently published ***From Camas to Courthouse: Early Lane County History*** featuring stories of the politics and personal lives of early Lane County, Oregon. He will speak to us about local history with a special emphasis on women.



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Carene's Contemplations

First, I just talked on the phone with Jo Brew. She sounds wonderful. Her recovery from surgery is going very well and she feels better than she has in months. She plans to be back at branch events soon.

Second, I'm thinking about the new section on our website designed by Wendy Cook that features extensive information about our CHiPS Project. Check it out!
<http://eugenelane-or.aauw.net/>

Third, I just reviewed the 2015 AAUW Annual Report. What a list of accomplishments! You can read about how AAUW is helping women close the gender pay gap and negotiate fair salaries; how students are fighting stereotypes on their campuses; about inspiring girls to pursue STEM careers; and much more. Go to:
<http://www.aauw.org/who-we-are/annual-report/>

Last, I'm contemplating the coming New Year and my resolutions. I found a great article on the AAUW website. It is printed on the following page of this newsletter — **7 Feminist Resolutions for the New Year** from a blog by Bethany Imondi, AAUW's development associate. Take a look. I think you will find it thought provoking.

In addition to those resolutions, this year I'm going to follow Mark Twain's advice:

Life is short, break the rules.

Forgive quickly, kiss slowly.

Love truly.

Laugh uncontrollably and never regret anything that makes you smile.



Here's my list of resolutions:

Laugh louder and longer
 Smile bigger and more often
 Love deeper and wider
 Share my love and joy openly

HUG



Pass it on!

From **Bethany Imondi's** blog on aauw.org. Bethany is the AAUW development associate, wearing three different hats as she works under the chief strategy officer, the vice president of business development and marketing, and the vice president of corporate development. Previously, she served on the AAUW National Student Advisory Council and as an intern for the public policy department. When she's not fighting the patriarchy, she spends her free time logging miles on her sneakers and eating at restaurants on her D.C. bucket list.

7 Feminist Resolutions for the New Year

1. Be confident, not sorry.

We still live in a world where women are paid less, underrepresented in high-paying fields, and openly harassed, so it is no wonder they feel they have to apologize for every little thing. Instead of succumbing to the stereotypes that women are submissive and weak, resolve this year to fight back. In your next class or meeting, think twice before you start a sentence with "sorry." The world won't stop turning when women assert themselves and refuse to be overly apologetic, #sorrynotsorry.

2. Register to vote.

Regardless of your political affiliation, 2016 is an especially important year for voting. Whether a woman will be on the presidential ticket is to be determined, but it is likely that women's issues such as reproductive rights, paid family leave, and equal pay will be among the hot topics in local and national election contests. For 2016, resolve to make women's voices heard by registering to vote and turning out to the polls.

3. Negotiate your salary.

Women working full time in the United States typically are paid just 79 percent of what white men are paid, a gap of 21 percent — and it's even worse for women of color. Women who negotiate can earn higher salaries and better benefits, and these advantages add up over time, helping to close the wage gap. Negotiation ensures that women put a fair price on the quality of their work and sets a benchmark for future salary increases. Whether you're entering the job market for the first time or already a working professional, AAUW can help make 2016 the year you negotiate for an equitable salary.

4. Love your body.

Research has proven the damaging consequences of stereotypes, especially on self-esteem and confidence. But beauty takes countless forms, and it's time to embrace all of them! Not only can 2016 be a year for celebrating body positivity, but it can also be a time to confront the hypersexualization of women in society, combat negative body comments, and discourage perfectionism.

5. Help young women find their voices.

While women have made great advances in leadership over the decades, women's elevation to top positions is relatively rare. Research has found that college women often doubt their leadership potential, so it's important to help empower these women early. By encouraging young women, during and after college, to seek out opportunities to practice their leadership skills, we can strengthen the leadership pipeline for women. Tell a woman in your life to consider taking on a leadership position, and connect with a new group of women in your area.

6. Be an ally.

In order to create real change, social justice movements need to involve people beyond the affected communities. These movements can succeed with supportive allies who advocate for equality. In 2016, resolve to be a good ally by doing your research, recognizing privilege, and listening to others' opinions.

7. Carry the mantle of feminism.

The "f-word" has become a hot topic. Some embrace the term, while others reject it. This year, rather than simply claiming or rebuffing feminist labels, encourage more intergenerational and intersectional collaborations around identity issues like sex, gender, race, and class. Engage in conversations with women and girls of all ages and backgrounds to learn from each other, and talk about how to make the lives of future generations of girls easier. The next step? Resolve to get involved and take action.





Ruth Nelson
1926-2015
AAUW Honorary
Life Member

Ruth Nelson passed away on Saturday, November 28, 2015 at the age of 89.

She was born Erma Ruth Bales on January 5, 1926 in Sheridan, Wyoming to Walter and Elizabeth Bales. Her father homesteaded a ranch outside Sheridan and she grew up on ranches in the area.

Ruth graduated from Sheridan High School in 1942 and then from the University of Wyoming in 1947 with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and minors in English and Spanish. She also received a Masters in Education with a major in Mathematics from Bemidji State University in 1970.

Ruth was an intellectually vibrant and active woman. While she and her husband Jerry raised three remarkable sons, she was also a mathematician, teacher, businesswoman, gardener, bridge-player, lover of nature, avid reader, community volunteer—an Honorary Life Member of AAUW due to her more than 50 years of service. Donations in Ruth's name have been made to AAUW Funds by numerous members.



Out-to-Lunch Bunch will meet Wednesday, January 13, 2016 ~ 11:30 am

Los Potrillos Mexican Restaurant

2840 Crescent Avenue (just east of Coburg Road, on the right after the OMG Clinic
in the same building as the State Farm office which you may spot first)

Restaurant phone (541) 357-4818

Please RSVP to Ellen Otani (541) 485-0804 or eotani65@gmail.com



AAUW PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

January 2016 — Kappy Eaton

Following are some AAUW OREGON Public Policy priorities for 2016

*Lobby Day during the 2016 legislative session will be on February 10, and Registration Forms will be sent to branches early in January. This is an opportunity to have an appointment with your Senator or Representative as well as to attend committee hearings. It would be great to have a carload from Eugene Lane Branch! Let me know at the January Branch meeting or sooner – 541-344-2027.

*The effort for an Oregon Fair Pay Act continues. It probably wouldn't get a hearing in the short 2016 legislative session, but could start the conversation for 2017 and carry over from the start in 2015.

*The Minimum Wage discussion will be on the 2016 agenda as legislators react to the initiative proposals for \$15. There is support for levels of \$12 and \$13 per hour.

*The initiative efforts to increase the corporate minimum income tax could create problems, and the session may discuss various ways to mitigate the negative impacts of passage.

STATE OF THE STATE

Fiscal Policy

On December 1, Oregon's state economists presented the Interim Senate and House Revenue committees with a stable revenue forecast for 2016, but concluded with a warning that a sharp decline in 2017 should be on the fiscal radar screen. That concern is related to the PERS problem created by the Supreme Court's ruling that the "Grand Bargain" adopted in 2013 was unconstitutional. Unless the Legislature provides a revenue source, the costs to the

state, school districts and local governments for employee pensions will rise significantly and endanger budgets. There could be a shortage of \$500 million for the 2017-19 biennium.

The current positive financial figures show General Fund gross revenue up \$31 million from the estimate at the close of the 2013-15 biennium, with corporate tax revenue increased by \$34.7 million and personal income tax receipts down \$1.1 million. No Kicker is projected for 2017, but this year's payout will be \$402 million, given as a tax credit on the 2015 income tax forms. Combined General Fund and Lottery resources increased by \$56.3 million from the September projection. The projected Reserve Funds for June 30, 2017 include the Rainy Day Fund at \$388.2 million; the Education Stability Fund at \$367.3 million; and the General Fund at \$299 million.

Leadership Summit

The 13th annual Oregon Leadership Summit was held December 14 in Portland. It is produced by the Oregon Business Plan and sponsored by Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, Governor Kate Brown, Senate President Peter Courtney and House Speaker Tina Kotek. Goals of the Plan include a net of 25,000 new jobs per year through 2020 (32,000 added this year), per capita income above the national average (2% below) by 2020, and a reduction of poverty (1% above national level) below 10 percent by 2020. Current targets for attention discussed include low income housing availability, minimum wage, and PERS.

Senator Courtney gave a powerful political speech addressing initiative proposals which he believed would significantly divide the state. He compared the issues as creating a

Continued, p. 6

AAUW Public Policy Update, continued

civil war between business, labor, and governmental decision makers, using the battles of Antietam and Appomattox as examples of horrendous outcomes. These proposals concern clean energy, minimum wage, corporate income tax, and union dues for political purposes. Courtney urged the business community, labor, and human services advocates to come together with the 2016 Legislature to compromise and reach consensus rather than spending millions of dollars on campaigns which would be detrimental to the public and the state.

For reference, go to OLIS and look up the Secretary of States initiative proposals #s 1, 28, 32-36 and 41.

In her keynote address, Governor Brown stated her vision for Oregon with an emphasis on diversity, opportunities for children, and getting the state “back in track.” She stated three priorities:

- * job creation – including government and private cooperation, world-wide promotion of Oregon, cutting red-tape, rural areas
- * state government transparency and accountability – including improving ethics, state agency management, outcome-based funding
- * education investment – including cradle to career programs, pilot projects, economic grants, work force training, better schools

During the lunch break Representative Kotek spoke to the issue of the lack of affordable housing, labeling it as a crisis, and a group of legislators cited the need for a transportation package that was not passed in the 2015 session. Oregon’s infrastructure is crumbling, and while the new federal dollars will help, state funding is critical also. Implementation of a driver/miles to replace the current gas tax received support.

Both Senators and Congressional Representative Suzanne Bonamici discussed federal issues. These included the new transportation package, tax code reform, security and safety policies, clean energy, bridges over the Columbia, and STEM with an addition of the letter A (STEAM), adding arts to the programs. There were numerous breakout sessions available, starting with breakfast.

At the Cannabis group, the discussion focused on the growing industry and moving the economy forward. With the already medical dispensaries and the full implementation of legal marijuana use on January 1, 2016, the fiscal impact is expected to be \$2 billion almost immediately. The areas reached include biotech, agricultural areas, academic

research, medical trials as well as taxation and public health issues. Senator Ginny Burdick spoke to the necessary changes to the initial tax legislation which must be addressed in 2016 and consider production, distribution, tourism, events, restaurants, and marketing, among others. The state tax must be reasonable, and also allow for a local option tax. Both federal Senators pointed out the need for cannabis banking services.

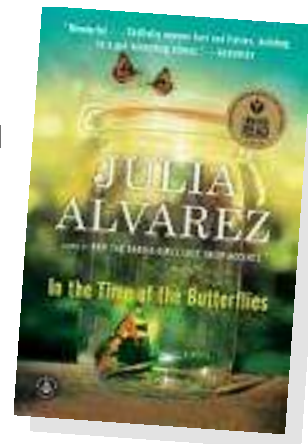
The PERS problem was a part of a limited fiscal panel discussion and a breakout session, but the looming serious fiscal impact is clearly identified in the 2016 Oregon Business Plan itself. Retirement benefits currently come from member (5.55%), employer funds (20.65%) and investment earnings (73.8%). Future benefits and the contributions and earnings don’t align. Without changes, the cost to employers (state, school districts, cities and counties) will escalate dramatically by 2017 because of decreased revenue growth. In its decision, the Supreme Court said that benefits already earned cannot be compromised, but that benefits yet to be earned can be changed. Current employees could contribute to their retirement plans or by accepting lesser benefits in the future. Three possible solutions include (1) the principle that increases in public employee compensation should keep pace with, but not exceed the rate of compensation increases in the private sector; (2) renew efforts to moderate future cost increases for the PERS retirement system; and (3) monitor transparency and accountability in collective bargaining and managerial pay practices. The bill for underfunded retirement benefits and rising health care costs is now coming due. The 2016 legislative session can’t kick this can down the alley any longer.

2016 Legislative Days and Session

Final discussions of bills and organization of committees is scheduled for January 13-15. The actual session starts February 1 and can conclude anytime up to March 8. Each member can submit up to two bills and committees up to three, allowing for more than 200 to be drafted. This was a problem in 2014 because there are only three days allowed for discussion and determination to forward proposals to the appropriate chamber for a vote. The result was use of the procedure to introduce an idea with the intention of beginning a discussion prior to the next longer session. There are serious proposals already in draft for issues such as the minimum wage increase, and some of the initiative proposals will be discussed, with possible action to defer them.

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the Afternoon Book Group is January 18, 2016 at 2 PM at Gail Goshert's house, 4055 Royal Ave #108 Eugene (SongBrook). We will be discussing ***In the Time of the Butterflies*** by Julia Alvarez, a historical novel relating an account of the Mirabal sisters during the time of the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic. The book is written in the first and third person, by and about the Mirabal sisters. First published in 1994, the story was adapted into a feature film in 2001. All are welcome!



Funds Donated by Members to be Matched!

As of December 21 Eugene-Lane Branch members have donated \$1,255 to the AAUW Funds.



AAUW National received a donation of money to match any funds given before the end of the year. I checked with headquarters and all I had to do in order for all our donations to go to the matching fund program was to include a note on the Contribution Report. I indicated that all of our funds were to go toward the year-end matching fund gift effort, so the amount of our branch contribution should double this year.

Thank you for your generosity!

Ardith Hinman
AAUW Funds Chair

BRANCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Jo Brew, our Advertising Manager, needs business cards that you gather from those places you frequent. Just hand her the cards—she does all the rest!

VISION

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

MISSION

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

VALUE PROMISE

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

DIVERSITY

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

The News

is published monthly, September through June, by AAUW Eugene-Lane Branch. It is distributed to members by e-mail or regular mail.

Deadline is the 20th of each month, August through May. Items are to be submitted to the editor by that date.

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2 Jill McCleary
 11 Janice Strupp
 12 Elleen Levy
 12 Lynette Saul
 15 Rita Wirtz
 25 June Smith

Interest and Project Groups

Branch members are invited to join any group. Please call the contact person for details. If you're interested in forming a new group, please contact the branch president.

Afternoon Book Group—3rd Monday at 2 pm

Meets in homes of members.
 Contact Cindy Parker, 541-344-4572

Alpha Bridge—Every Tuesday at 1:30 pm

Willamalane Senior Activity Center, Springfield.
 Contact Ardith Hinman, 541-747-4310

Monday Bridge Group at 1 pm

Contact Barbara Gault, 541-746-0916

Out-to-Lunch Bunch

Contact Carol Hildebrand, carodane@aol.com,
 541-344-4267

Readers' Theatre

Contact Kappy Eaton, gopher44@comcast.net,
 541-968-0143

Monthly Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are held on Tuesdays at 11:30 am at the Falcon Wood Village Clubhouse, 1475 Green Acres Rd., Eugene. All members are welcome.

January 5, 2016	April 5
February 9	May 10
March 8	June 7

Monthly Branch Meeting Schedule

Monthly program information is available in the branch newsletter and on the website <http://eugenelane-or.aauw.net/Newsletter>.

January 9, 2016 — Dr. Douglas Card, retired UO Professor of Sociology: Local History

February 13, 2016 — Susan Shaw, Oregon State University: STEM

March 12, 2016 — Renae DeSautel, Director of Crisis Intervention and Sexual Violence Support Services, University of Oregon

April 9, 2016 — TBA

May 14, 2016 — Annual Meeting

June 11, 2016 — Readers' Theatre



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