



Branch website: <https://tigardarea-or.aauw.net/>



**Wednesday, February 10th  
7:00 p.m. via Zoom**

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE IN EDUCATION**



**Christy Wilson**

The speaker for our February meeting is an educator, an author, and an advocate for social justice. Christy Wilson has been a teacher for 27 years. Her role as an educator has led to her awareness of the many needs and challenges in the schools. Among these are behavioral challenges/concerns, trauma, poverty, addiction, incarceration, and deportation.

Christy will discuss how education is changing and must change to meet the needs of society. Some questions she will pose are:

- What has our system been about and who has it served (in my lifetime and before)?
- Who has it oppressed and alienated?
- What are we discovering, shifting, and prioritizing now (and why)?
- Why is it both crucially important and difficult to make necessary changes?

Christy currently is serving on the Oregon Department of Education Ethnic Studies Committee, the Beaverton School District Superintendent's Advisory Committee, and as a community activist for social justice. She has an administrative license and experience as a school leader (mostly AP work and a lot of staff training and discipline responsibilities). She has Restorative Justice training and leads Professional Development on this topic and other issues.

Christy has written a book about her work and journey in education, entitled "Teacher Interrupted, My Journey Through Challenge Toward Courage." It is available in print form and Kindle on Amazon, To check it out click [here](#).

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## President Message

Early in January, I was asked to present a session for the state Continuing Education series on revitalizing a branch. I told the story of how our branch rebounded from the 2017 vote to disband. The vote had been taken because no one agreed to be branch president. Although I was still co-president of the Portland Branch, I took on this presidency because I did not want our branch to fold. Thanks to a few very determined members, we were able to revive our affiliate.

The strengths of the branch were excellent programming and that we had leaders, but the membership numbers had taken a big hit. In my presentation, I described the steps we took to grow the membership. One of these was to print and hand out business cards. When you hand out a card you need your "elevator speech" ready.

What is an "elevator speech?" It's what you say when someone asks, "What is AAUW?" It's a statement as brief as the time it takes to travel between floors on an elevator. Have your response on the tip of your tongue and be able to say it without reciting the AAUW Mission by rote.

--Start with, "It's the American Association of University Women. We work for advancement for women and girls."

--Then follow with a fact. "We give a scholarship at the college."

--Or "We were instrumental in passing Oregon's fair pay law."

--Then ask the person a question and engage in as much conversation as time allows.

--Finish by handing them a business card and encouraging further contact.

Our membership numbers increased then and have remained steady ever since. I believe we can continue to grow, stay engaged, and offer excellent programs to benefit women and girls. **Is your "elevator speech" ready?**

***Submitted by Ilga Ross***

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## Calendar

Branch general meeting by Zoom, Wednesday, February 10th, 7 pm  
Book Group by Zoom, Tuesday, February 23rd, 7 pm

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### [AAUW of Oregon Continuing Education Series on Zoom](#)

Click on the link above to find future events in this series.

February 24th at 7 pm, Anti-Racism series - Regarding persons who are unfairly marginalized including Oregon farmworkers and working Latinx families

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## Public Policy Winter 2021

Public Policy state chair Patricia Garner recently shared some of her insights as to what is happening in the legislature at this time. One of the changes this year is the announcement that there will not be an in-person Lobby Day. Having attended this event both with my Seaside and Tigard colleagues, I can verify what an outstanding event this has been in the past. It is a rare opportunity to exchange views with legislators and find out what laws are being considered. The event this year is tentatively scheduled for March and will be a virtual event. I will let you know when a date has been determined. A panel of legislators is planned so if you have some particular concerns about what is happening, let me know, and I'll pass it on.

Other legislation being introduced deals with equity in schools, courts, and policing. Environmental concerns are also being addressed. Of interest to pro-choice women are four different bills limiting abortions. A major health care concern has to do with the ability of parents to decline required immunizations. Also of interest are several bills relating to firearms and police accountability.

State Co-President Pat Lehman has organized a series of anti-racism programs. The next will focus on persons who are unfairly marginalized including Oregon farmworkers and working Latinx families. It will be held on Feb. 24th, 7 PM. If interested, please contact Trish Garner at [garner37@me.com](mailto:garner37@me.com) and she can get you registered.

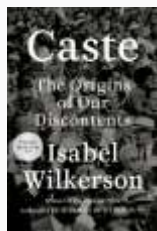
Another policy issue involves open enrollment in AAUW to all who support AAUW's mission rather than requiring a degree of some sort. National AAUW Director Kim Church has indicated this is supported by National and she urges you support it. This will be on the ballot in May. Support for this has been growing throughout Oregon according to State Membership Chair Gini Dideum, so I am confident this will be an issue talked about individually and at meetings throughout the state.

**Submitted by Carol Brenneman**

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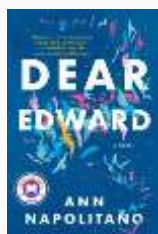
## Book Group

As we enter 2021 we have renewed hope as the distribution of the vaccine is slowly but surely coming our way. We will have to continue to maintain social distancing, wearing masks, etc. so reading and sharing our thoughts on the chosen selections via Zoom will be one way to maintain connections. That being said, we have already chosen our selections for the months of February and March as noted below.



***Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*** by Isabel Wilkerson

Tues, 2/23 @ 7:00 pm Leader - Randa Blanding  
A brief history of racism, sexism, classism, ageism, homophobia, xenophobia, and the reasons for them.



***Dear Edward*** by Ann Napolitano

Tues, 3/23/ @ 7:00 pm Leader - Judy Silverforb  
The story of a boy who is the lone survivor of a plane crash and his coming of age.

The following books have been suggested as options (NOT the final choices) for our April and May reading selections. Please look at these and send me your thoughts about choosing these or any other selections that you would like to put forth for consideration. Just because you suggest a book doesn't mean you are required to present the book, although volunteers are always welcome! Please give me your feedback by mid-February so we have time to finalize the choices and I can send out a letter to the group so everyone has time to obtain a copy and read the book.

***The Story of Arthur Truluv*** by Elizabeth Berg - The Story of Arthur Truluv is a beautiful and moving novel of compassion in the face of loss, of the small acts that turn friends into family, and of the possibilities to achieve happiness at any age. (from Chicago Tribune review)

***Counting By Sevens*** by Holly Goldberg Sloan - The fictional story of a 12-year-old girl whose

adoptive parents were killed in a car crash and how she moved through her grief journey.

***Bad Blood*** by journalist John Carreyrou - The true story of the rise and fall of Theranos, a silicon valley startup company that claimed to be able to do lab tests with a very small amount of blood but was in fact a massive fraud. The woman at the helm of the company was touted as a genius and a female Steve Jobs but is now facing a federal trial this year and, if convicted, a possible 20-year prison sentence.

***The Vanishing Half*** by Brit Bennett - A NY Times fiction bestseller about a set of light-skinned black twins who take separate paths as adults with one living her identity as a woman of color and the other passing for white.

***Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family*** by Robert Kolker. It's about a family of 12 children, six of whom are diagnosed with schizophrenia. The New York Times best-selling author of *Lost Girls*, tells the riveting, heartrending true story of an extraordinary family that became science's great hope in the quest to conquer an elusive disease.

**Submitted by Dorothy Wilson**

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**Mission Statement – To advance gender equity for women and girls  
through research, education, and advocacy**  
**Vision Statement – Equity for all**  
**Value promise – Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and  
Intersectionality.**



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