

The Seaside Branch of the American Association of University Women present **SOME SPRING, SOME BLING AND MORE**

By MARILYN GILBAUGH
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Once upon a time, in the magical kingdom of County Clatsop, in the village of Seaside and its surrounds, a group of women gathered about once a week, sometimes more, sometimes less. With boundless energy, they did good deeds, all the while enjoying themselves.

Their common goal was to further education — and they paid particular attention to the positive effects that women could realize through education.

This tale is, of course, about the American Association of University Women Seaside Branch.

From 2 to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 28, at Astoria Golf and Country Club in Warrenton (33445 Sunset Beach Rd.), the association will host its second annual Spring into Fashion, a fashionable fundraiser and raffle that comes with desserts, coffee, tea, lemonade and a no-host bar.

Attendees can expect royal treatment. Ferried from parking lot to the Club's entry in carriages that look a lot like golf carts, handsome liverymen — that is, gentlemen persuaded to join the fun — set the stage. Upstairs, women, men, teenagers and children strut their stuff modeling spring's latest styles.

All of this is made possible because of local clothiers, sponsors and volunteers.

Sheila Roley: breaking barriers

The organization's Breaking Barriers scholarship award will also be presented during the afternoon event. This year, it will go to Seaside School District Superintendent, Sheila Roley. The award is given to a local woman or girl who exemplifies the association's mission to make a recognizable impact on women and girls in the area through equity and education.

Roley came from Seattle with her husband and their three elementary-aged children. She agreed to give the area a three-year try. That was 27 years ago. The former Seaside teacher and principal was appointed district superintendent in March 2016.

"Caring about our students' education, the community support for it here is remarkable. It's so good at so many different levels. When you look at how many things are always going on: the school board and their great commitment to our kids; the Assistance League providing clothes; the Backpack Program;



Models Rinda Shea and Christine Miles for the Seaside AAUW Spring into Fashion Show.

the Aspire program; the SMART program; one-on-one mentoring for our students; and the business community providing things like the Clatsop County Job Fair. So many pieces come together. The examples go on and on," Roley said.

"I feel very honored to be receiving this award," she continued. "I had no idea. It came

as a total surprise."

Roley will receive a \$500 Breaking Barriers scholarship and plans to award her scholarship to the work Natalie Dyroff is doing at Broadway Middle School.

Dyroff, a counselor, is working with a group of young women exposing them to opportunities beyond their school environ-



DANNY MILLER/EO MEDIA GROUP

Seaside School District Superintendent Sheila Roley — the recipient of this year's Breaking Barriers scholarship through the AAUW Seaside Branch — hugs students during a Seaside High School graduation ceremony at the Seaside Convention Center.

ment. Learning to navigate the world outside of a school setting, she hopes to show them things like the Portland Art Museum, and other things that they wouldn't otherwise be necessarily exposed to.

History of associations

The American Association of University Women is a national organization, founded more than 175 years ago, that works to advance the equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Membership is open to any woman who has an Associate Degree or equivalent.

The association's Seaside Branch was established more than 75 years ago when it broke from the Astoria Branch in World War II because of gasoline shortages. The two branches often combine efforts.

Tickets

Tickets to the afternoon Spring into Fashion are \$30 for adults and \$20 for students. Proceeds go to support the Seaside Branch scholarship efforts.

Fair warning: Last year the event proved to be so popular that it oversold. This year, tickets will not be sold at the door the day of the event; they are available at Beach Books in Seaside, By the Way in Gearhart, Cannon Beach Book Company and at Astoria Golf and Country Club.

For more information contact co-chairs Carol Brenneman at carolbrenneman350@gmail.com or Judy Carder at amejcc@msn.com.

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