

# ASHLAND VISION

BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ASHLAND, OREGON BRANCH

AAUW  
ashland-or.aauw.net

NOVEMBER 2018



## Women Veterans and Intentional Inclusivity



Join us at the November 10 Branch meeting to learn about women veterans in Oregon. Our speaker will be Elizabeth A. Estabrooks, the Oregon Women Veterans Coordinator with the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs. Oregon is one of only a handful of states to have a permanent full-time coordinator dedicated to serving the unique needs of women veterans. Their goal is to improve outreach to women who have served in the military, gather better data and research on women veterans in Oregon, participate in policy that is or may be relevant to women veterans, and help improve the level of care women veterans receive.

Liz will bring the "I Am Not Invisible" exhibit to our meeting. The exhibit was developed to bring awareness of women veterans in Oregon and help the community to understand the contributions of women in the military and understand their unique experiences, challenges, barriers, and needs. Liz uses the exhibit to show how we can expand our vision of veterans to include women and to explore how to be intentionally inclusive of women veterans.

**When:** Saturday, November 10, 9:30 am-noon  
**Where:** Diversions Room, Stevenson Union SOU

## AAUW Ashland Branch Holiday Celebration

December 7, 2018, 6-8:30 pm  
Diversions Room, Stevenson Union SOU



*Our Branch will celebrate the holidays this year on Friday, December 7 from 6 to 8:30pm in the Diversions Room in Stevenson Union. The Holiday Celebration committee is asking everyone to bring a special dish to share. We also encourage you to bring your favorite beverage as we will be serving wine, champagne and non-alcoholic refreshments.*

*In addition to being Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7 is also Letter Writing Day, recognizing the endangered tradition and art of handwritten letter writing. To celebrate this tradition, we invite you to bring a letter or old holiday card that you have written or received to share with those who come to our party. No, you won't be asked to read it! We'll display these letters for the enjoyment of our guests and to honor the importance of the written word as part of our decorations.*

*In keeping with the season of giving, our Branch will continue our tradition by raising money for to the Maslow Project, benefiting homeless high school students. You can give by shopping at our Holiday Bazaar or making a cash donation. We invite you to consider contributing to this annual holiday fundraiser.*

*Watch email for an invitation and don't forget to RSVP!*

## Calendar: 2018-2019

**November 10, 2018—**

**SAT., 9:30 am-12 noon**

**Branch Meeting:** Elizabeth Estabrooks, Oregon Women Veterans Coordinator, "Women Veterans and Intentional Inclusivity." Diversions Room, Stevenson Union, SOU

**December 7, 2018—FRI., 6-8 pm**

**Holiday Party & Maslow Project Fundraiser**  
Diversions Room, Stevenson Union, SOU

**January 12, 2019—SAT., 9:30 am-12 noon**

**Branch Meeting:** Public Policy Presentations  
Diversions Room, Stevenson Union, SOU

**February 16, 2019—SAT., 9:30 am-12 noon**

**Branch Meeting:** Samara Diab, the 2018 Judy Shih Scholarship recipient, "The Importance of Funding Higher Education for Women."  
The Gallery Room, Stevenson Union, SOU

**March 14, 2019—THURS., 5-7:30 pm**

**Branch Meeting:** Julie Benezet and a panel of women leaders will discuss "Leading and Succeeding in the 21st Century."  
The Gallery Room, Stevenson Union, SOU

**April 18-19, 2019**

**Upscale Sale**  
Bellview Grange

**April 9, 2019—TUES, 5-7:30 pm**

**AAUW Ashland Annual Meeting:**  
Election and Installation of officers, Florence Schneider & Named Gift Honoree Awards  
The Gallery Room, Stevenson Union, SOU

**May 22, 2019—WED., 5:30-8:30 pm**

**Celebration of Scholars**  
Rogue River Room, Stevenson Union, SOU

**June 8, 2019—SAT., 10 am-2 pm**

**Annual Board Retreat**  
Ashland Public Library, Gresham Room

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## Looking Ahead

November meeting	Nov 10
Holiday Party	Dec 7

**AAUW Mission:** To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



The annual South District meeting including members from Grants Pass, Medford, and Ashland was held in Grants Pass October 12. I attended along with Paula Wiiken, Regina Ayars, and Pam Shay from our Branch. The topic this year was enforcement of Title IX, which has been identified as a priority by the AAUW Oregon public policy team. Title IX is the federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in education. A panel of three Title IX coordinators discussed how their school districts comply with federal requirements. The panel included HR directors from the Grants Pass and Medford districts and the director of secondary curriculum and athletics for Three Rivers School District. Unfortunately, the Ashland Title IX coordinator was ill and could not attend.

Students are made aware of their rights and responsibilities through mandatory posters in all the schools and information on school web sites. All three presenters felt their biggest challenge is dealing with social media issues and encouraging students to speak up about potential problems. They emphasized prevention rather than reaction. When asked how the current political climate is affecting their jobs, they reported an increase in fear among the students, particularly among minority populations. The students perceive permission from adults to hate and be hated. Although not surprising, this was a sobering comment.

The state mandates training for Title IX coordinators plus specific training for athletic coaches. The training includes guidelines on how to protect the victims of sexual harassment or assault as well as the alleged abuser. There is also statewide training for

school boards who must establish district policies. We were impressed with the thoughtfulness and thoroughness of the comments from the panel members. Since an Oregon AAUW objective is strengthening of Title IX, we spent time discussing what changes could be made to increase compliance across the state. Suggestions included curriculum development and analysis, simplification of the reporting process, and availability of independent outside investigators.

Title IX has had many positive effects in schools in the last 45 years but more work remains. Sexual harassment pervades the lives of our students. AAUW research indicates that 56% of girls in grades 7-12 face sexual harassment. Girls still have many fewer chances to participate in sports and only 12% of students starting engineering programs are female. Since passage of this landmark civil rights law in 1972, opponents have sought to weaken it. There are claims that increased opportunities for girls have resulted in decreased opportunities for boys. A 2008 AAUW report found no evidence to substantiate these claims. Because of input across the state from AAUW members, some Oregon state legislators have expressed a desire to strengthen financial support for Title IX. The state currently has only one quarter time employee to address all Title IX issues across the state. Funding is always a tough sell in the legislature but several legislators have expressed interest in sponsoring a budgetary increase to address Title IX enforcement. I think we can be proud of the efforts by AAUW in Oregon to bring attention to Title IX.

—Gretchen King, Co-president

Please notify Chris Licata or Catherine Lutes if you know of any corrections or additions to be made to the Membership Directory. Corrections will be published in the December 2018 Newsletter.

Again, let us remember to celebrate what is good in this world, and continue to be a light for others.

—Catherine Lutes, Membership Chair

**In Our Thoughts**

A card has been sent to Maureen Wilson-Jarrard, who had an emergency appendectomy earlier in September.

A card has been sent to Pam Larsen who is recovering from a moderate stroke in mid-September.

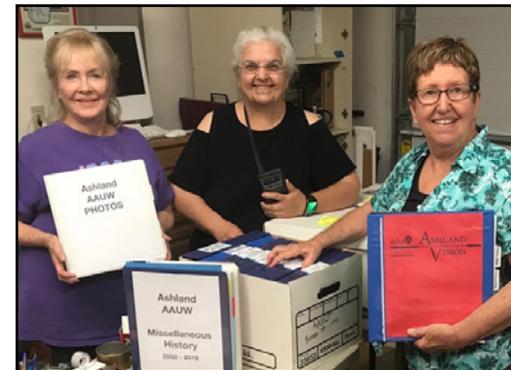
—Rosemary Adalian, Contact Secretary

**AAUW History Finds a Home at Southern Oregon Historical Society**

Alice Mallory, our Branch photographer/historian from 2011-2018, beautifully documented our activities with photographs and captions our monthly Vision newsletter, and kept binders of Branch history, including scrapbooks assembled by Jan Waitt, our previous historian/photographer.

During the past (smoky) summer, Alice, Jean Conger, and Olena Black reviewed and updated the scrapbooks and binders to prepare them for addition to the archives at the Southern Oregon Historical Society (SOHS) in Medford. On September 27 they delivered to SOHS scrapbooks/binders for 1989 - 1999 and 2003-2010, one binder of miscellaneous history, and one binder of Vision monthly newsletters from 2000 - 2003. This collection will be added to the AAUW Ashland archives (1952-1987) deposited at SOHS in 1996 by Branch president Carrie Prechtel. In addition, all of Alice's photos from 2011-2018 were transferred to our current historian/photographer, Olena Black, in anticipation of making them available on our website.

Alice has volunteered to store the membership directories, hard copies of our newsletter from 2011-present, and a binder of miscellaneous history (Garden Tour programs, Celebration of Scholars, yard sales, etc.) from the mid-1990's-present for ready access by members.



Please visit the SOHS at 106 N. Central Ave in Medford whenever you have time to go down memory lane. Hours are noon to 4 pm Tuesday -Saturday.

NOTE: The AAUW Ashland catalogue number at the Southern Oregon Historical Society is MS-732.

— Jean Conger, Olena Black, Alice Mallory,

Left to Right, Jean Conger, Olena Black, Alice Mallory

## In Her Own Words

*We love to share news about our scholarship winners! This month we're sharing a letter received recently by Diana Quirk from SOU student Arismendi Villa-Saucedo.*

Dear AAUW Ashland,

Growing up, I never imagined I would be the first person in my family to attend a university. My biggest memories growing up were my mother's stories about her life in Mexico and how she wanted my siblings and me to have all the opportunities that she never did. I knew my mother wanted to get an education just by the way her eyes lit up when she reminisced about her childhood. Unfortunately, she had to drop out of elementary school to help raise her brothers after her mother passed away. Now, going into my senior year of college, I know I am not only making my dream come true, but my family's as well.

Our dream is becoming a reality thanks to various organizations and people who have seen potential in me. My family and I want to thank you for believing in my dream and allowing me to have one less hardship in my journey. Receiving this scholarship will help me dedicate more time to classes without worrying about how to pay for school as I am busy finishing up my degree. Being a scholarship recipient gives me the sense of hope that I can make it to the finish line no matter the obstacle. I hope to one day be able to give back to the community as a physician's assistant.

Thank you,  
Arismendi Villa-Saucedo

\$1,000,000



### *March to a Million... "Ensuring Education for the Future"*

We invite you to join us in an exciting opportunity! Our Ashland AAUW Branch has been challenged to raise \$500,000 in bequests and cash gifts to the SOU Endowment Fund. A generous, anonymous donor has pledged a \$500,000 bequest to match any monies we raise up to that amount. That means that we could potentially establish a \$1 million SOU Endowment Fund that would annually provide SOU scholarships in perpetuity! Your gift, now, of cash and/or a bequest to the SOU Endowment Fund will continue to have an impact on higher education for women in the Rogue Valley forever! So come join us now and be part of the future! For information on how to give a cash gift or how to set up a bequest to the SOU Endowment Fund, check under Donor section on the AAUW website or contact Jean Conger, Endowment chair.

## More Ways to Give

Do you want to contribute to our March to a Million Campaign? There are many ways to do it!!

**Cash gifts:** This is the easiest way to give and we love it!! Simply write a check to the SOU Foundation and note on the check that it is earmarked for AAUW Endowment. This is deductible if you itemize.

**Bequests:** This means naming the SOU Foundation/AAUW Endowment as a beneficiary of your will or trust. You'll need to contact your estate planning attorney to accomplish this.

**Beneficiary designations:** You can name the SOU Foundation/AAUW Endowment as a full or partial beneficiary on any type of financial account that allows for designation of beneficiaries. This includes life insurance policies, bank accounts, brokerage accounts, and IRAs (traditional and Roth). Contact the appropriate financial institution to designate or change your beneficiary.

**Donate appreciated stock:** If you own marketable securities (such as shares of stock) that have appreciated in value, you can make a direct transfer of the stock to the SOU Foundation/AAUW Endowment. You can take a charitable deduction for the market value of the shares at the time of the transfer and the charity receives the shares tax free. Contact your financial adviser or transfer agent for details.

**Charitable IRA Contribution:** If you are at least 70-1/2 years old the IRS requires that you take minimum distributions from your traditional IRAs, and the withdrawals are generally subject to tax as ordinary income (ouch!). You can donate all or a portion of your annual minimum distribution to a charity such as the SOU Foundation, and the amount donated is NOT subject to income tax. Your financial adviser or IRA custodian can help with the details.

**NOTE:** The Taxpayer Identification Number of the SOU Foundation is 23-7030910.





## Gift Bags are Back!!

Katharine Lang has a new and beautiful batch of fabric gift bags available! They come in a set of three (small, medium, and large) and in a variety of seasonal and all-purpose fabrics. They are an easy way to wrap gifts, are eco-friendly, and you can close them with ribbon or raffia. Best of all, all proceeds will go to the RCC Scholarship Program! The cost is \$20 for a set of three. She'll be selling them at upcoming Branch meetings, or you can contact her directly.

## Calling All Crafters for the Holiday Party Bazaar

Once again, our Holiday Party on December 7 will include a crafters' holiday bazaar that will benefit the Maslow Project. If you are a crafter and want to donate your creations, please call or email Vicky Giffin by November 13. We had a lovely collection of items last year and are hoping to make this year's bazaar even better.

Even if you are not a crafter, you can help by bringing your wallet! Every dollar you spend goes to help girls at Ashland High School who are part of the Maslow Project, which supports homeless children and youths. Learn more about the program at [maslowproject.com](http://maslowproject.com).

Questions about the bazaar or how you can contribute? Call Vicky Giffin.

## Do you hear the Buzz?

AAUW Ashland's giant yard sale now has its official name:

"AAUW UPSCALE SALE, BAKE SALE, AND WINE RAFFLE SUPPORTING EQUITY FOR WOMEN & GIRLS"

For short: "UPSCALE SALE"

We really need storage space for donations. If you have a garage or half of a garage that can be used for storing items, please contact Bessie Azari or Paula Wiiken.

You can make a difference! Some members cannot donate if they can't store because they lack storage at home or will be traveling during our donation days and our sale. The more we store, the more we make for our good causes.

We would be grateful for your help.

—Paula and Bessie, Co-Chairs



## AAUW OREGON NEWS

### AAUW Medford Branch Meeting

Saturday, November 3,  
9:30 am–noon  
Rogue Community Savings

"Technology and Women"

### AAUW Grants Pass Branch Meeting

Saturday, November 17, 10 am  
Fruitdale Grange

"Welcome Home Oregon:  
Life for Post-Prison Women"

Speaker Karen Caskey



## Charitable Partners

These four members have pledged to make a donation to either the AAUW/SOU or AAUW/RCC Scholarship Fund every time an AAUW member uses their services or refers someone who uses their services. We thank them for their generosity and dedication to AAUW.

**Liz Murphy**, CFP MBA/Financial Advisor  
Raymond James Financial Services  
541-779-9907  
[Liz.Murphy@RaymondJames.com](mailto:Liz.Murphy@RaymondJames.com)  
[raymondjames.com/lizmurphy](http://raymondjames.com/lizmurphy)

**Annette Pugh**, Broker  
Gateway Real Estate  
541-840-1455  
[eap@mind.net](mailto:eap@mind.net)

**Dhyan Summers**, Licensed  
Marriage and Family Therapist  
Summers Therapy  
541-930-1100  
[mindfulaction@yahoo.com](mailto:mindfulaction@yahoo.com)  
[Summerstherapy.com](http://Summerstherapy.com)

**Sara Walker**, Broker  
Patricia Sprague Real Estate  
541-951-5454  
[sara@hatsoff2u.com](mailto:sara@hatsoff2u.com) | [hatsoff2u.com](http://hatsoff2u.com)

Make your voice heard by voting.



Candidates need to understand their responsibility to speak to and act on issues important to women because they will be held accountable. AAUW is nonpartisan but it is political. We work for the betterment of women and girls. AAUW of Oregon Public Policy has evaluated the November ballot initiatives and provided their recommendation based on the organization's goal to improve the environment for women and girls and break through the economic and educational barriers so all women have a fair chance. Their conclusions are summarized below. For a more complete explanation and the pros and cons of each measure consult your Voters' Pamphlet. After you have voted consider amplifying your voice by lobbying with fellow AAUW members in Salem this spring. Since the state convention will be held in Salem in 2019, Lobby Day will be held in April this year during the week of the convention.

**Vote NO on Measure 103**

This Measure seeks to amend the Oregon constitution by prohibiting taxes or fees on the sale or distribution of groceries. This would include restaurants. This is confusing since there is currently no conversation to impose a state sales tax. The Measure includes a confusing retroactive clause. The main groups pushing this Measure are manufacturers of sugary drinks and sodas.

**Vote NO on Measure 104**

This Measure would extend the requirement for a 3/5 majority vote in both the house and senate to enact tax exemptions, credits, and deductions. Currently Oregon requires a 3/5 majority to raise revenue. The primary reason AAUW Oregon opposes this measure is that it does not make sense to mandate fiscal policy by a constitutional amendment.

**Vote NO on Measure 105**

This Measure would repeal Oregon law forbidding state moneys from being used to apprehend persons violating federal immigration law. Passage of this Measure would encourage racial profiling, reduce the likelihood of immigrant populations to report a crime, or get help from health care providers. It would support separation of families and increase fear among legal immigrants. Nothing in the current law prevents federal authorities from arresting anyone violating federal immigration law.

**Vote NO on Measure 106**

This Measure would restrict public funds for abortion and thus restrict reproductive freedom and access to the full spectrum of reproductive services for those who receive health care through the Oregon Health Plan. This would result in a two-tier health service for Oregon women based on their economic status. National and State AAUW support quality affordable and accessible health care including reproductive health care for all women, regardless of ability to pay.

—Gretchen King, Public Policy Team



**There are no Board Notes for September**

**Correction to August Vision Board Notes:**

**Endowment Committee**

*“\$14,565 from the Annual Fund has been invested in the Endowment Fund.”*

There has not been a decision whether or not to donate a portion of the total amount in the Annual Fund (\$14,565) in the SOU Endowment Fund.

Jean Conger made a recommendation to consider moving a portion of the SOU Annual Fund to the SOU Endowment Fund to increase the principal which results in additional interest available for SOU scholarship recipients.

The final decision should be made by the Scholarship Committee with Board approval.



## INTEREST GROUPS

Contact the Coordinator to join a group.

### Arts and Language

**AFTERNOON MOVIE GROUP** meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month to watch a movie at the Varsity or Ashland Street Cinemas. We meet in the lobby 10 minutes before the selected movie begins. If you wish, we can discuss the movie at a local hotspot afterward. The selected movie and the time are announced by email. *Coordinator: Jean Conger*

**MUSICALS** meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 4:30 pm, usually at the home of Ed Perkins. Look for a group e-mail. *Coordinator: Diane Novak*

**OPERA** meets the first Tuesday of each month at 4 pm. Our next meeting is November 6 at the home of Ed Perkins. We will watch the Met's 2018 production of "Luisa Miller." Bring an appetizer or potluck dish, and wine or other beverage to share. *Coordinator: Nancy Kramarenko*

**PLAY READING** will meet on Friday, November 23 at 4 pm at Annette Lewis's house. We are reading "Vanya, and Sonia, and Masha, and Spike" by Christopher Durang. Find copies at Bloomsbury, Tudor Guild, and online. Bring a beverage and nosh if you choose. *Coordinator: Annette Lewis*

**SHAKESPEARE AT OSF** meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 12:30 to 3:00 pm at Barbara Willson's. This month we are reading "As You Like It." For more information, contact Michaelae Rae. *Coordinators: Michaelae Rae and Peggy Audibert*

### Book Groups

**BRAIN BOOKS** will meet on Tuesday, November 27 from 1:30-3:30 pm at the Ashland Public Library to discuss "The Great Leveler: Violence and the History of Inequality from the Stone Age to the 21st Century" by Walter Scheidel (2017). What does human history tell us about how change happened during eras when people actually became more equal? Mass violence and catastrophe seem to have been key. *Coordinator: Sandra Coyner*

**DAY NONFICTION** We meet on the 1st Wednesday at 1 pm. Our next meeting is on November 7 at the home of Debbie Barth. She will lead us in discussing "Midnight in Broad Daylight: A Japanese Family Caught Between Two Worlds" by Pamela Rotner Sakamoto. *Coordinator: Linda Lipkind*

**DAYTIME FICTION** meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in members' homes. Currently we are not accepting new members due to the size of the group. For information please call Kate Wolf-Pizor.

**EVENING NONFICTION** meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. On November 14 we will meet at the home of Mary Coombs to discuss "When Breath Becomes Air" by Paul Kalanithi. *Coordinator: Ellen Fowler*

**MONDAY EVENING BOOKS** meets on the 2nd Monday at 7 pm. On November 12 we will meet at Linda Lipkind's home to discuss "I Always Loved You" by Robin Oliveira. Linda will also lead the discussion. *Coordinator: Shannon Stuver*

**THURSDAY EVENING MYSTERY** will meet on Thursday, November 8 at 7 pm at the home of Chris Donchin to discuss "Blind Goddess" by Ann Holt. *Coordinator: Rosemary Adalian*

### Games, Genealogy, Knitting & Dining

**BOARD GAMES** meets the 4th Wednesday at 7 pm. On November 28 Fran Adams will be hosting. *Coordinator: Marcella Theeman*

**GENEALOGY GROUP** We usually meet at 1:30-3:30 pm on the 4th Thursday at the Jackson County Genealogy Library, 3405 S. Pacific Hwy., Medford. Please note that due to Thanksgiving our November/Holiday meeting will be on November 29. Please bring a soft drink for yourself and a holiday goodie to share. Any AAUW Ashland member interested in genealogy is invited to join us in sharing family histories, stories, photos, and research tips. Beginners and experienced family researchers are equally welcome. *Coordinator: Linda Lipkind*

**KNITTERS AND STITCHERS** meets on the 2nd Thursday at 1 pm. On November 8 we'll meet at the home of Peggy Audibert. Please RSVP to Peggy and bring a hand project to work on. *Coordinator: Peggy Audibert*

**POTLUCK DINNERS** will get together on Thursday, November 15 at 6 pm at the home of Elaine Sweet. Please bring a dish to share and a bottle of wine (if you drink wine). The potlucks are casual but you do need to RSVP to Elaine if you want a chair to sit in at the table. *Coordinator: Elaine Sweet*



October 2018



Michelle Carter's book, "From Under the Russian Snow" was on display.



Presenter, Dr. Kimie Oshima



Laurie Carter at our welcome board



Attendees at the October 18 Branch meeting in the Gallery Room



**Ashland Vision**

is a monthly newsletter of the Ashland, Oregon, Branch of AAUW

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**Co-presidents:**

Gretchen King and Pam Shay

**Financial Officer:**

Sonja Friedman

**Recording Secretary:**

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Catherine Lutes

**Public Policy Chair:**

Paula Wiiken

**Contact Secretary:**

Rosemary Adalian

**Newsletter Team**

**Editors:**

Pat Brewer and Ellen Fowler

**Designer:**

Chris Licata

**Photographer:**

Olena Black

**Readers:**

Margaret Karsten,  
Alice Mallory,  
Rae Otto, and  
Sylvia Whitman

Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month. Photos of interest group activities are welcome.

AAUW Ashland Website:

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

In principle and in 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.