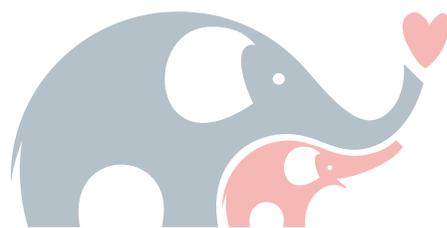


ASHLAND BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS VISION

MAY 2019

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ASHLAND, OREGON BRANCH



Happy Mother's Day

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Looking Ahead

Upscale Sale	May 18-19
District Election	May 21
Celebration of Scholars	May 22
Annual Board Meeting	June 29

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



AAUW Ashland 2018 Scholarship Recipients

AAUW Ashland Celebration of Scholars

You won't want to miss this year's Celebration of Scholars! This event is the highlight of the AAUW year, when we hear the stories of the wonderful young women from SOU and RCC who have been awarded scholarships by our Branch. This year the event will be Wednesday, May 22, 5:30-8:30 pm at the SOU Stevenson Union, Rogue River Room. We will begin with some refreshments, then hear from the students, and finish with more refreshments and a time to interact with the students, their families, and each other. At the April Branch meeting we had an impromptu and inspiring presentation from one of our former RCC awardees who is now graduating from SOU. Our scholarship was integral to her success in her education. Come hear other stories from these successful women. Free parking is available in the SOU lot across from the Music Recital Hall.

We encourage all AAUW Ashland members to attend this lovely and inspiring event, and to volunteer to help make it memorable.

—Sherri Morgan and Sandy Theis, Co-chairs

When: Wednesday, May 22, 2019
Time: Doors open at 5:30 pm, Program starts at 6 pm
Where: SOU Stevenson Union, Rogue River Room

Save the Date: Annual Board Retreat

Mark your calendars for the annual Board Retreat on Saturday, June 29. (NOTE DATE CHANGE!) Although this event is called a "Board" retreat, it's open to all members of our Ashland Branch. It's our opportunity to step back and discuss our long-term priorities and goals for the upcoming year, including our strategic plan, results of the recent member survey, and program suggestions. We're meeting this year at a new location: the Ashland Community Hospital Board Conference Room. The meeting will be held from 10 am-2 pm and we'll break for a potluck lunch so bring something good to share. If you can't attend but would like to express your concerns or wishes to the Board, please contact Pam Shay.

When: Saturday, June 29, 10am -2 pm

Where: Ashland Community Hospital, Board Conference Room.

Calendar: 2018-2019

May 18-19, 2019

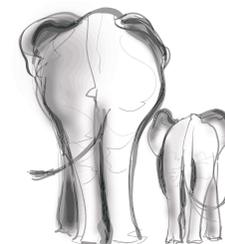
Upscale Sale
Bellview Grange

May 22, 2019-WED., 5:30 pm

Celebration of Scholars
Rogue River Room, Stevenson Union, SOU

June 29, 2019-SAT., 10 am-2 pm

Annual Board Retreat
Ashland Community Hospital, Board Conference Room.



There is not a woman among us that is not a leader in her own right. Borrowing the words of the wise, wonderful Dolly Parton, "If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, then you are an excellent leader."



I invite each member to join me in actively celebrating, renewing, and recreating the legacy of the AAUW Ashland Branch by attending the planning retreat this June. The meeting is essential for planning our future. Our more immediate concerns will be discussed in the light of the recent survey results and our future concerns will be discussed in light of the strategic planning process led by Sandra Coyner. Be sure to respond to the Branch survey that was sent out on April 12. It only takes five minutes and will be invaluable in helping our Branch move forward.

To truly create a viable legacy filled with inspiration, dreams, and courage, we need you to be there! I promise it will be energizing and fun, so don't hesitate to come and spend a few hours with us in dialogue and planning.

Thank you.

—Pam Shay, Co-president

Did You Complete Your Survey?

If you haven't already done so, please complete the Branch survey that was emailed to you on April 12. It really only takes a few minutes. The results will be presented and discussed at the annual Board retreat on June 29 and will help make our Branch even better!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PY3S7ZK>



April 9 was our Presidents' Branch meeting. Details about new board members and officers, as well as the Florence Schneider Award recipient and Named Gift Honorees can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Congratulations to all who make this Ashland Branch such a special place!

Membership renewal forms were distributed at the meeting's registration desk, and if you were not able to pick yours up at the meeting, look for it in the mail. Please return them with your checks as soon as possible, as we are starting to work on next year's directory and want to be sure to include everyone. Please contact Chris Licata if you'd like to have your photo in the directory. We are hoping to have all renewal forms on or before June 30, so expect someone from the membership team to remind you via a phone call if we haven't received your form by the middle of June.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Upscale Sale in the Bellview Grange on May 18 and 19, and then at the Celebration of Scholars on May 22!

—Catherine Lutes, Membership Chair

Renew Your AAUW Membership Now!

Deadline June 1, 2019

Please return your membership renewal form as soon as possible so that we can include you in the 2019-20 Directory!

Carol Custodio



Carol Custodio, a longtime AAUW member, passed away on Saturday, April 20, after a long battle with lung cancer. She joined our Branch in 2004 after moving to Ashland from northern California with her husband, Clark. In 2005–2006 Carol served as co-chair for the SOU Honors Brunch, and in 2007–2008 Carol was Membership co-chair. She also chaired an Interest Group called "Tasting Adventures," which tasted everything from tea and chocolate chip cookies to beer and sausages.

Carol's life was a real gift to the many communities of which she was a part. In addition to her AAUW work, she chaired the Congregational Church's adult education program for many years, helping to bring to Ashland major progressive Christian scholars, such as Marcus Borg. She was competitive, as anyone who ever played bridge with her can attest. She kept in touch with family and friends far and near and was able to spend good times with all of them over the past years of her illness.

We will miss Carol's support, friendliness, energy, and zest for life. Rosemary Adalian has sent a condolence card on behalf of the Branch to Clark.

\$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 several 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, please email or call Jean Conger, Endowment Committee Chair.



Sandy Theis Receives Florence Schneider Award

Sandy Theis is always looking for her next project – to be of service and to contribute in so many ways to make our community better. She is a shining example of the qualities that exemplify this award.



In her many years with our Ashland Branch she has always stepped up to serve when needed. She was co-president for 2 years and established a succession plan to assure continuity of leadership. She has been scholarship co-chair, a coordinator for the \$\$\$4Scholars sale, and always volunteered for the Garden Tour. In 2017 Sandy was a named gift honoree, the highest honor recognized by National and Oregon AAUW. She was co-chair of the Celebration of Scholars in 2012 and 2016, and again in 2019! For fun, she was the coordinator of the Mystery Book Group, and still loves a good mystery!

Sandy also exemplifies the values of Florence Schneider in her service throughout the community. She is a tireless volunteer with OLLI, serving as an instructor, council member, and chairing the curriculum committee. And taking classes! Her distinguished career in nursing and nursing education has led her to serve on the board of the Ashland Community Hospital and the Asante Quality Control Committee, and she recently received the Distinguished Service Award from the Hospital's Foundation. She's currently the chair of the Senior Program Advisory Committee for the City of Ashland.

And, she finds time to volunteer with OSF and her church! Perhaps she can share her secret for finding so much energy!

I congratulate Sandy, my good and valued friend, on this well-deserved award.

—Chris Donchin

Two Named Gift Honorees Are Announced

Each spring AAUW branches across the country select members who have provided service above and beyond their job descriptions to receive the Named Gift awards. These members are selected by vote of the Executive Board. This year the Ashland executive board unanimously selected Bessie Azari and Paula Wiiken as the 2018 Named Gift Honorees. These two women, hearing that we had a potential financial shortfall for 2018-19 and desiring to secure additional funds for scholarships, volunteered to organize a major fund raiser. We know this fund raiser now as the Upscale Sale which will be held May 18-19. Bessie and Paula have spent countless hours organizing and planning for the May event. They have meticulously outlined all aspects of the sale. Our Branch greatly appreciates their continued support of the AAUW mission.



Bessie Azari



Paula Wiiken

Award for Chris Licata

Another well-deserved award was given at our April meeting: Chris Licata received our "Behind the Scenes" award for her beautiful professional work on our newsletter. She creates harmonious order out of all the disparate stories, and she dazzles us with themes. The Vision reflects Chris's visual flair and design skills in every issue. Chris also edited and designed the Directory last year, adding photos of members, giving us a new look, and bringing in advertisers to pay for the color cover.

Thank you, Chris!



DO YOU HEAR THE BUZZ?



Our AAUW mission advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. Our commitment to our mission is reflected in all aspects of our work. The Upscale Sale at the Bellview Grange increases our visibility in our Ashland community. We raise scholarship dollars for the continuing education of women and girls at SOU and RCC. Two or three additional scholarships will be awarded next year and the year after as the result of this event! We make a difference!

Drop off your donations at the Grange:

Wednesday, May 15, 1-4 pm
Thursday, May 16, 10am -2 pm

Shop the sale:

Saturday, May 18, 9am -3 pm
Sunday, May 19, noon – 2 pm

You will receive an email blast a week before the sale. Please blast the flyer forward to your Ashland friends and neighbors.

Thank you for your participation.

—Bessie and Paula



AAUW Medford Branch

Saturday, June 8, 10 am to 4 pm

Spring Garden Tour

This year's tour features two gardens in Jacksonville and four in East Medford. The six gardens are mostly newly designed with attention to sustainability and drought tolerance—key qualities necessitated by hotter summers and limited rainfall.

Tickets are \$20 (free for children 12 and under) and will be available in early May. Tickets can be purchased at any Grange Co-Op Retail Store, at the Blue Door Garden Store in Jacksonville, at Penny and Lulu's Studio Florist in Medford, **and at any of the gardens on the day of the tour.** Gardens can be toured in any order. Please, no pets.

AAUW Grants Pass BranchSaturday, June 15, 10 am to 3 pm
Riverside Park**Frog O'Faire Children's Festival**

The festival is the Grants Pass Branch's gift to the community, providing free entertainment and educational enrichment opportunities for Grants Pass children. More than 25 activity booths provide children with a day full of fun.

AAUW Oregon's Convention

With opportunities to exchange ideas with other branches and inspired by workshop presentations, four members of Ashland AAUW (Pam Shay, Paula Wiiken, Bessie Azari, and Gretchen King) thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie of the annual meeting in Salem April 12-14. The weekend began with enrichment activities around the Capitol. A favorite was the Deepwood Museum and Gardens. Val Hoyle, newly elected Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, opened the meeting and impressed the audience with her accomplishments and commitments to civil rights during her short 13-week tenure. The Saturday sessions included topics on leading with boldness and courage, age discrimination in Oregon, and the Oregon Commission for Women. These were followed by another trio of speakers addressing the gender leadership gap, access to reproductive rights, and leadership styles. Trish Garner, our tireless Oregon Public Policy chair, is always a popular speaker. She provided insight and updates on the current legislative session.

Perhaps the highlight of the weekend was the address by Kimberly Churches, CEO of AAUW. Kimberly is a young, effervescent, and self-confident leader. Kimberly has prioritized economic security as AAUW's #1

focus because is vital to women throughout their lives from the classroom and first job to retirement. AAUW is the only organization tackling the gender pay gap from all directions (policymakers, employers, and employees). Kimberly was able to attend our conference because she was in Seattle working with Starbucks on their leadership gap at their request. AAUW under Kimberly has received widespread media coverage and is now a leader at the table to address and correct leadership issues. She was invited to attend the State of the Union address in February where she appeared with other female leaders dressed in suffragette white.

We're closing the education gap but not the pay gap. AAUW is now recognized as the expert on paycheck fairness. Kimberly has been working with Congress to promote the Paycheck Fairness Act which recently was passed by the House. This bill will close the loopholes which allow employers to avoid the responsibility for discriminatory pay and punish employers who comply with the law with unfair competition.

As another convention closed, I think we all felt pride in our organization's role in elevating women at this pivotal time in history. As our CEO stated, this is our moment!

—Gretchen King

March 25, 2019**Member Survey**

Sandra Coyner has developed an All-Member Survey which will be emailed to the membership by the co-presidents. A two-week return will be requested from the membership with results to be discussed at the June Retreat on June 29.

Branch Positions

Pam Shay is seeking members to fill branch positions for the 2019-2020 year. Positions remaining open are Photographer, Program Chairs, Holiday Party Chair, and Members-at-Large. If you are interested in serving in any of the above, please contact Pam as soon as possible.

Banner

As April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Mimi Pippel has requested that AAUW sponsor a banner to be hung over East Main Street for a week during that time. Please look for it, and thank you, Mimi.

—Peggy Audibert,
Recording Secretary**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
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Liz.Murphy@RaymondJames.com
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Annette Pugh, Broker
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Dhyan Summers, Licensed
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Summers Therapy
541-930-1100
mindfulaction@yahoo.com | Summerstherapy.com

Sara Walker, Broker
Patricia Sprague Real Estate
541-951-5454
sara@hatsoff2u.com | hatsoff2u.com



Why the Equal Rights Amendment is Relevant in the 21st Century

AAUW is committed to the passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Most Americans mistakenly believe that women and men have equal rights under the Constitution. The 14th Amendment only mentions men, so women's equality remains illusory because these laws can be changed or even revoked at the whim of legislators and judges. The unfortunate truth is that despite a series of important legislative gains and court rulings over the last half century prohibiting discrimination and improving economic opportunity, women remain second-class citizens. Passage of the ERA would provide the constitutional guarantee that all men and women are truly equal under the law and that these rights cannot easily be abridged.

The ERA was first introduced in Congress in 1923 and was reintroduced every year until its passage in 1972. In order to be fully implemented, three-fourths of all states are required to ratify the amendment. By the time the final deadline passed in 1982, 35 states approved the ERA, three states short of ratification (Oregon was one of the 35). In 2017, Nevada became the 36th state to ratify the ERA, and in 2018, Illinois followed suit and became the 37th state, just one short of the three-fourths requirement.

The lack of constitutional equality reaches every aspect of women's lives. The ERA would clarify, once and for all, that sex discrimination is a violation of women's constitutional rights as Americans. The ERA would provide the opportunity to seek legal recourse when an individual faces sex discrimination. Even though the deadline for ratification is past, there is precedent that it still could be re-introduced and passed. Today women are mobilizing politically in a

way reminiscent of the feminist activism of the 1960s and '70s.

Why is this important? Unfortunately, despite the gains attained, women are still disproportionately poor, suffer from widespread gender-based violence, endure extensive regulation of their reproductive lives, experience sex-based pay discrimination (21.7% wage gap) in all occupational categories, are sexually harassed and subjected to biased consideration in hiring and promotion, subjected to discriminatory treatment by employers in pregnancy and motherhood, among numerous other practices that seek to subjugate women.

There have been gains made over the past forty-plus years, but many of those advances are coming under increasing attacks from the growing strength of arch-conservative politicians at state and national levels. Hundreds of laws have been passed greatly restricting women's access to reproductive health care, and lawmakers have refused to expand health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act, opposed equal pay laws and minimum wage increase measures, opposed paid sick and family leave, cut state funding for public sector employment where many women are employed, repealed worker protections that benefit women, and have passed numerous socially-regressive laws which disproportionately harm women and their families.

According to a recent *New York Times* article, research consistently shows that in American workplaces, women tend to be promoted once their managers see them perform well; men are promoted if managers believe in their potential to do well. The

same discrimination is seen in politics. Voters, donors, and journalists are all excited by the potential of men who leapfrog up the political ladder. They expect women to prove themselves first. And so women don't move forward as quickly. Women are more likely than men to enter politics later in life, having spent years shoring up the experience necessary to be considered credible contenders for higher office. In a political environment where "fresh faces" are rewarded, men have an advantage. We want something new, but for women, unfamiliarity and youth end up being tied to incompetence. Women are seen as too young and inexperienced right up until they are branded too old and tedious. So, when, exactly, is a woman supposed to go to the White House?

The passage of the ERA would even the playing field. That's why AAUW is encouraging women to continue the fight for its passage.

—Sonja Friedman
Public Policy Committee

Vote by May 21!

Voters' Pamphlets for the District Election were mailed April 22, so you should have yours. Call the Elections Office if you don't: 541-774-6148.

Ballots will be mailed May 3. On the ballot: candidates for Rogue Community College District, School Districts, Fire Districts, Water Districts, Library District, Rogue Valley Transportation District, and Southern Oregon Education Service District.

Ballots must be received by the Elections Office or deposited in an Official Ballot Drop Box by 8 pm on Tuesday, May 21. VOTE!



Lobby Day Was Fun!

AAUW of Oregon Lobby Day was fun and informative this year. Three education experts discussed HB 2019, the bill intended to create a Fund for Student Success. The panelists described how the money would be allocated, the progress of the legislation, and the compelling need to improve Oregon education.

After this inspiring session, attendees left to lobby their legislators about two other bills that would affect Oregon women. I lobbied for HB 2562 which would fund two full time Title IX Coordinators at the Oregon Department of Education (up from the woefully inadequate funding for .25 FTE Coordinator position we currently have). My fellow lobbyist advocated for SB794, a bill that would collect data from students about whether or not they are parents. Women with children struggle to complete college. This data could help support parents with policy interventions such as more campus child care facilities.

It is challenging and empowering to interact with our representatives in Salem!!

—Paula Wiiken, Public Policy



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 at the home of Ed Perkins. On May 7 we will watch "Sampson and Delilah." Bring an appetizer or potluck dish, and wine or other beverage to share. *Coordinator: Nancy Kramarenko*

PLAY READING will meet Friday, May 24 at 4 pm at Annette Lewis's home. We will be reading "Indecent" by Paula Vogel. *Coordinator: Annette Lewis*

SHAKESPEARE AT OSF meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 12:30 to 3 pm at Barbara Willson's home. We read aloud those plays being performed at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and share interesting information regarding both the subject being read and the writing itself. This month, we begin "Comedy of Errors." We invite everyone to join us from 12:30-3 pm, and enjoy a social time ½ hour before we

begin. If you would like further information or join our group, please contact Barbara or Peggy Audibert. *Coordinators: Michaelae Rae and Peggy Audibert*

Book Groups

BRAIN BOOKS meets on the 4th Tuesday from 1:30-3:30 pm at the Ashland Public Library Guanajuato Room. On May 28 we will discuss "The Value of Everything: Making and Taking in the Global Economy" by Mariana Mazzucato (2018). This book challenges conventional wisdom ("they earned it") about where wealth comes from and narratives that disparage "takers," using lots of history, theory, and evidence. *Coordinator: Sandra Coyner*

DAY NONFICTION meets on the 1st Wednesday at 1 pm. Our May 1 meeting is at the home of Jean Conger. Jean will lead us in discussing "Born a Crime" by Trevor Noah. Please note the switch in date and place. We will be meeting on June 5 at Terrie Jensen's to discuss "The Birdman and the Lap Dancer" by Eric Hansen. *Coordinator: Linda Lipkind*

DAYTIME FICTION meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in members' homes. In May we will read "Exit West" by Moshin Hamid. Currently we are not accepting new members due to the size of the group. For information, please call *Colleen Patrick-Riley*.

EVENING NONFICTION usually meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. On May 23 we will meet at the home of Kori Calvert to discuss "Destiny of the Republic" by Candice Millard. *Coordinator: Ellen Fowler*

MONDAY EVENING FICTION On Monday, May 13 at 7 pm Diane Novak will host and Margaret Dole will lead the discussion of "The Master Butchers Singing Club" by Louise Erdrich. *Coordinator: Shannon Stuver*

THURSDAY EVENING MYSTERY On Thursday, May 9 at 7 pm, the group will meet at the home of Sally Grady to discuss "The Lake House" by Kate Morton. *Coordinator: Rosemary Adalian*

Games, Genealogy, Knitting & Dining

BOARD GAMES will meet on Wednesday, May 29 at 7 pm, with Cheryl Goldman hosting. *Coordinator: Sylvia Whitman*

GENEALOGY GROUP We meet at 1:30-3:30 pm on the 4th Thursday at the Jackson County Genealogy Library, 3405 S. Pacific Hwy., Medford. Our next meeting will be on May 23. 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

We meet on the second Thursday of each month from 1-3 pm, at the home of a member, where we work on hand projects and talk about the news of the day. On May 9 we will meet at Peggy Audibert's home. If you would like more information, or to join our group, please contact Peggy Audibert. *Coordinator: Peggy Audibert*

POTLUCK DINNERS will not meet in May. Our final Potluck Group Dinner of the year will be held on Sunday, June 23 at 3 pm at the Sweet's. The Sweets will BBQ the meat (bring a vegetarian option if you need it) with the rest bringing salad, beans, potato, vegetables or dessert. Please bring wine or beer if you drink them. As always, you need to RSVP in order to have a chair for your use. *Coordinator: Elaine Sweet*



Ashland Vision

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

Vol. 33, No. 8 — May 2019

Co-presidents:
Gretchen King and Pam Shay

Financial Officer:
Sonja Friedman

Recording Secretary:
Peggy Audibert

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Public Policy Chair:
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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.



April 2019

AAUW Ashland Annual Meeting:
Florence Schneider & Named Gift Honoree Awards



Erin Finklea and Ellen Fowler greeted members at the door



Chris Donchin, our 2018 Florence Schneider Award recipient, introduced this year's recipient, Sandy Theis and presented her with the 2019 Florence Schneider Award.



Bessie Azari and Paula Wiiken were this year's Named Gift Awardees



We had a lovely surprise visit from Jocksana Corona, one of our scholarship recipients, who gave us a powerful reminder of the impact our scholarships have on the lives of the recipients.



Sandy Theis gave a presentation on Ashland specific issues for aging Adults.



Our wonderful Co-presidents, Pam Shay and Gretchen King



Pat Brewer presented Chris Licata a "Behind the Scenes" award for her work on the newsletter and Directory



Mimi Pippel had fun selling tickets for the Upscale Sale wine raffle.



Paula Wiiken encouraged participation in the upcoming Upscale Sale.



Nancy Kramarenko and her bakers provided a tasty preview of the offerings available at the Upscale Sale.



Irene Kai reported on her presentation to the Oregon Senate about the Ashland Culture of Peace Commission.