

ASHLAND BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS VISION

JUNE 2020



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Looking Ahead

Annual Board Retreat	June 27
Membership Renewal	June 30
Directory Deadline	June 30
September Branch Meeting	Sept 12
Celebration of Scholars	Sept 30

Annual Board Retreat

AAUW Ashland will be holding our Annual Board Retreat to discuss strategy, goals, and dreams. An ad hoc committee is meeting via Zoom to determine whether the retreat will be virtual or in person.

There is one possible venue if we feel it is safe to gather together: the chapel at the Methodist Church, assuming it is open to us at that time. If we hold an in-person meeting, we will practice social distancing and careful adherence to state rules.

Once the retreat committee makes a decision about how to proceed, we will inform you with an all-member e-mail and post information on our website. Details will include how we will meet, time of the retreat, and overall themes.

However we come together, we hope many of you will join us as we get our bearings in this new environment and plan for the Ashland Branch's future. Be well and watch for more information in June.

When: Saturday June 27

Where: TBD

Calendar: 2020

June 27, 2020, SAT., 10 am - 2 pm

Annual Board Retreat, Location TBD

September 12, 2020, SAT., 10 am - 2 pm

September Branch Meeting

Location TBD

September 30, 2020, WED., 5:30 - 8:00 pm

Celebration of Scholars

Location TBD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ASHLAND, OREGON BRANCH

AAUW
ashland-or.aauw.net



Congratulations! Connecting Our Pioneer Scholars

We are honored to present your 2020-2021 AAUW Ashland Scholars!

We introduce these scholars in the newsletter so you can meet the extraordinary students from RCC and SOU who are awarded an AAUW Ashland scholarship. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, our scholars persevere through their own adversities, work to support themselves, and care for and home school their children while conducting their studies online.

Our pioneering students take on the world with brains and heart, and they are good leaders and community members on the path to a post-pandemic world. After all, there will always be new challenges with twists and turns where our pioneering scholars will be equipped to face the demands.

In our shift from in-person to on-line, our Scholarship Committee members joked about being Oregon pioneer women. And yet, that is pretty much what AAUW Ashland has always been—women who understand that standing and working together benefit our society and us more than anything we could do alone. We are on the frontier of growing inclusion for women in a society that still needs to be mindful of that march to equality and equal standing for all.

As we celebrate 30 years of our AAUW Ashland scholarship program, we thank all of you. We appreciate our members who pioneered in your professions, honored those

that inspired you, and introduced additional donors to our scholarship funds, and more. We share with you some of those stories from our Scholarship Committee members (also mentors!) that connect our past with the present—our scholars who work diligently and will continue on to graduate school!

We hope to have our traditional Celebration of Scholars in September. Whether an in-person celebration or not, our pioneer scholars will be moving forward with our hopes and truly good wishes for each of their journeys.

—Kate Wolf-Pizor
and Wanda Chin,
AAUW Ashland Scholarship
Co-chairs



We acknowledge the **enormous challenges** that are ahead for our partner schools and their leaders: Thank you! SOU President Linda Schott and RCC President Cathy Kemper-Pelle; Janet Fratella and Cristina Sanz at SOU Foundation; and Judy Basker and Anna Manley at RCC Foundation.

Mission

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

Vision

Equity for all.

Values

Nonpartisan.
Fact-based.
Integrity.
Inclusion and Intersectionality.



Digging down deep. Looking for the reasons. Staying open to new ideas and new ways of being. The challenge of living life deepens.

We need one another now more than ever.

If you have any doubt about joining our Branch next year, please do reconsider. Your Ashland leadership team is working diligently to maintain continuity in the face of “viral changes.” Ultimately, the mission of AAUW is still essential to the progress of women in our country, and our fun-loving, engaging Ashland members must remain steadfast—until we can safely be together again.

To restate my plea, I ask you to be engaged with us next year as we evolve through this crisis. As this newsletter points out, plans for our Annual June Board Retreat are being solidified and our September Branch Meeting is on the calendar! Both meetings might end up being televised conferences or webinars, but I can guarantee that we will bring members together in a safe, deliberate fashion and move forward with renewed commitment to our mission in 2020–2021.

To illustrate the interesting possibilities, let me share a recent experience. Last month, six of our Board Members attended an online-Zoom State AAUW business meeting. There were about 85 AAUW members in attendance from all over Oregon. Granted, we did not have the fun benefit of the in-person State Convention in Vancouver, but we did enjoy learning about key issues, participating in the election of new State officers, and seeing all those members engaged in the mission of AAUW. Clearly, our Oregon branches are moving forward with their eyes on the prize of “equity for all.”

We will use our minds and set our hearts on keeping us together, in friendship, for the greater good of women in our community and in our country. It is imperative that you read the emails we send throughout the summer for updates and please renew your membership as soon as possible. (Important to note that if money to renew membership is at issue right now, contact one of the presidents to make confidential arrangements. We have a small fund to help cover dues and are happy to do so.) I also urge you to check [our website](#) for news about our Branch and AAUW National. Be well, remain safe and know we need you to stand with us now more than ever!

With gratitude,
Pam Shay, Co-president

AAUW Ashland Branch Leadership for 2020-2021

The AAUW Ashland Branch Board is comprised of elected officers and committee chairs. Each one of our beloved projects is managed by a project manager.

AAUW Ashland Branch Board

Officers:

Co-Presidents: Catherine Lutes & Paula Wiiken

Financial Officer: Sonja Friedman

Dues Treasurer: Diana Quirk

Recording Secretary: Peggy Audibert

Parliamentarian: Sandra Coyner

Members-at-Large: Sylvia Whitman & Gail Engblom

Chairs:

Membership Chair: Claudette Paige

Communication Chair: Ellen Fowler

Program Co Chairs: Janet Troy & Kathleen Mackris

Fundraising Chair: Bessie Azari

Public Policy Chairs: Rotating

Strategic Planning Chair: Sandra Coyner

AAUW Ashland Branch Project Managers

Membership:

Welcoming: TBD

E-Communication: Maureen Wilson-Jarrard

Directory: Chris Licata

Contact Secretary: Linda Moreland

Communication:

Website: Ellen Fowler

Newsletter Editors: Pat Brewer & Elaine Sweet

Facebook: Alice Mallory

Newsletter Design: Chris Licata

Photographer: Rotating

Chamber Liaison: Donna Wright

Programs:

Celebration of Scholars: Sunny Anderson & Carol Mockridge

Interest Groups: Sylvie Whitman

Friendship Circles: Elaine Sweet

Holiday Party: Pam Shay

Hospitality: TBD

Fundraising

AAUW Funds: Bessie Azari

Endowment: Jean Conger

Upscale Sale: Bessie Azari & Paula Wiiken

Scholarships: Kate Wolf-Pizor & Wanda Chin

Special Projects:

AWSEM: Carryl Breon

Maslow: Victoria Giffin

WiN: TBD

SOU Partners: Mimi Pippel & TBD





Ashland Branch members: When you renew for this upcoming year, please be aware that National AAUW has announced a money match, dollar for dollar, till **May 30**. A \$25 gift to the **Greatest Needs Fund** becomes \$50 toward programs and advocacy for women and girls. AAUW's work is more critical now than ever.

- If you have not yet renewed: Check the **Greatest Needs Fund** box on your renewal form, and mail your check together with your renewal form to the address in the top right-hand corner.
- If you have already renewed: Visit the AAUW National website (www.aauw.org) to donate.

Remember that in order to know what our working budget will be for the upcoming year, we need your renewal! Renewal deadline is June 30!

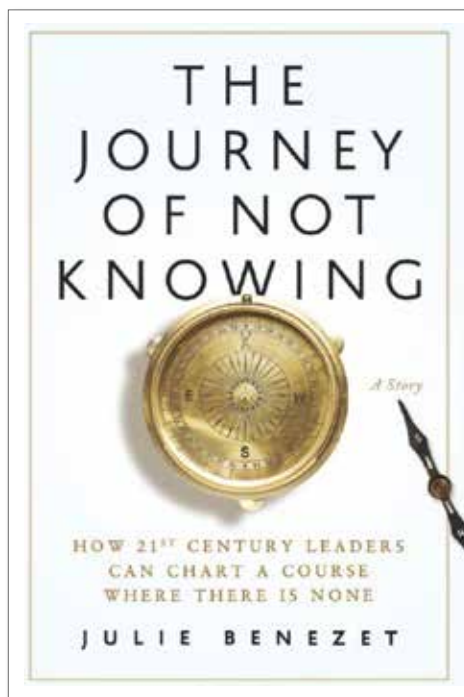
—Catherine Lutes

Congratulations!

Julie Benezet received a 2020 Distinguished Favorite Independent Press Award in the Leadership category for her book "The Journey of Not Knowing: How 21st Century Leaders Can Chart a Course Where There Is None." The IPA evaluates books in multiple categories from writers across the globe.

Aside from the honor of being recognized by that community, Julie appreciates its support for the core Journey message to take chances and embrace the scariness of the new to make life better. We could use a lot of that right now.

Congratulations, Julie!



2020-21 Membership Directory Goes Online!

Our next AAUW Ashland Branch Membership Directory will be migrating to our Branch website and available in September. It will include the same member listings and other Branch, State and National contact information.

The content and information about our projects, meetings, programs, events, and activities that have been included in past directories will become pages of the website, which will include enhanced and current information about Branch activities, leadership, and links to AAUW National and AAUW Oregon. Keep an eye on the website

as its reorganization begins to take shape offering a more up-to-date and content rich experience. ashland-or.aauw.net

The member listings will continue to be password protected, and you will be able to download and print the listings, for your convenience. This format will make it easier to keep the member listings current and allow updates throughout the year.

—Chris Licata

New Member Photos

New members or renewing members who wish to have their photo accompany their name in the 2020-21 Membership Directory may submit a 1 MB or higher JPEG to Chris Licata by June 30.

When shooting or selecting your image, please follow these guidelines:

Lighting: Strong harsh light, whether direct sunlight, indoor lighting or a camera flash, creates strong harsh shadows. Soft natural indirect sunlight such as on a cloudy day, in partial shade, or in the morning or early evening hours works best. Please avoid backlighting.

Background: A simple, (not to much) uncluttered background such as a blank wall or closed curtain works best. For outdoor settings choose full foliage, a distant mountain scene or the wall of a building in proper lighting. Remember, the focus is you

Wear: Something that compliments you and a SMILE.

Thank you for helping me make you look good. Email me with questions.

—Chris Licata



In Our Thoughts

We are each coping with this time of COVID-19 and social distancing in our own way. Some of us may be adapting well, even relishing time to read, reflect, garden, or learn a new skill. But others may be struggling with feelings of loneliness or isolation. They need to be more than just In Our Thoughts. Let's reach out to our members who live alone, care for others, or are less mobile. If you're able, make a phone call, send a card or email, or drop off a meal or some goodies. Connect with your fellow members. We all need each other more than ever. If you know someone who needs some extra support, you can also contact any of the Board members.

Meet Our Scholarship Recipients

Rogue Community College



Megan Capp is completing studies in Manufacturing/Engineering Technology AAS and Mechatronics AAS at RCC. She received a BS in Science from the University of Oregon, laying a foundation of practical thinking that propelled her toward the application of science within the field of farming. She apprenticed at the UC Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems, learning to grow food sustainably and learning about the social justice issues that plague our country's food security. There she realized she wanted to help develop regional food systems. She then ran a small vegetable farm in Bend, Oregon. By earning an Electronics Technician Certificate and a Microcontroller Systems Technician Certificate at RCC, she is acquiring the skills to design and manufacture automated equipment for small farmers to increase their profits and improve local access to healthy food.

"In 2014 I traveled to Montana to learn to farm with draft horses. That experience made me realize how important it is for farmers to be able to repair and modify their own equipment, which led me to take my first welding class at RCC. Now, as the student worker for the Welding Department, I find ways to help women students learn the welding and fabrication skills they seek."



Vicky Ma is now a first-year nursing student at RCC, after earning a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology from the University of Oregon. She was born and raised in the Rogue Valley and is a proud first-generation college student and Chinese-American woman. Vicki is a recreational runner, spontaneous dancer, nature lover, and human connection enthusiast.

"To gain experience with different populations in healthcare, I have worked at a retirement home, a county mental health center, and as an in-home caregiver. Interacting with people of different cultures involves sensitivity in approaches, and I enjoy using my creativity and social science background to figure out the best way to communicate with each individual. I hope to connect with people to form a holistic relationship, so they trust me with their concerns. I have experienced adversity through being bullied and discovering my place in society while navigating two cultures in Oregon. I want to practice empathy and patience so that people feel safe and validated. I hope to provide quality care to future clients with humanity and kindness because a person's health is only one piece of their puzzle and every interaction can have an impact on their mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being."



Marisa Christine Gorbett is heading into her final year at RCC, completing her general studies and Associate Arts Oregon Transfer Degree.

"I am waiting on my acceptance into a nursing program. This is my second opportunity to go to school. My plan is to thrive and graduate with pride. As a single mother I faced many obstacles when it came to women's health care. The midwives and nurses provided the assurance new mothers, especially single new mothers, needed. In my current work as a Pharmacy Technician, I have witnessed the dedication midwives bring to their patients. I believe in Mahatma Gandhi's saying: 'The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.' One day I hope to be a compassionate and caring RN/midwife—helping the mothers of tomorrow."



Dava Nimmo is completing prerequisites at RCC in order to transfer to study pre-medicine for a bachelor of science in Biology. She plans to continue on to medical school to become a dermatologist where she would like to treat patients with skin cancer and specialize in Mohs surgery. Already a licensed massage therapist, her passion to help her community with their health and wellness has led her to volunteer free massage treatments to local nurses, doctors, and hospital staff. She hopes to make an even bigger impact in her community by returning to the Rogue Valley after she becomes a doctor to offer affordable healthcare to low income families.

"Growing up in poverty and having dyslexia made the path to college seem impossible. I am not defined by the disadvantages I was born into, and I am far more capable of changing my life and helping others than I ever knew. I am proud to be a first-generation, adult college student and to prove it's never too late to follow your dreams."



Meet Our Scholarship Recipients

Southern Oregon University



Camille Ireland is completing her AA degree in Emerging Media Digital Arts (EMDA) at RCC and will transfer to SOU with the goal of a BA in EMDA, focusing on Graphic Design. Three years ago she was inspired to change her life by people in the addiction recovery community. After completing a rigorous recovery program, she entered RCC where she gained skills and confidence to be hired by RCC's marketing department to create marketing materials. She has demonstrated her commitment to the recovery community through mentoring other women to refocus their lives and volunteering with the Narcotics Anonymous organization and the Compassion Highway Project. For two years Camille has worked, volunteered, and attended RCC full time and she is now an Honor Society member.

"I was inspired to choose Graphic Design and the path of EMDA because it allows me to utilize my creativity as a tool to give a voice to those who may not be able to express themselves. My ultimate goal is to create and own my design firm or to be in partnership with another great designer. I plan on remaining local and giving back to the non-profit and community that gave to me."



Lucy Way, named the Judy Yin Shih Scholar, is a graduate student in the SOU Master of Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. She holds a bachelor's degree in both International Studies and Spanish from the University of Oregon. She views mental health as holistic, and as intrinsically connected with social justice. Teaching as a volunteer in Argentina and as a Fulbright Scholar in Spain, she found great inspiration in serving as an ally and advocate for youth within transborder communities. Since 2015, she has been developing an off-grid eco-center for permaculture education, community connection, and holistic wellness. She is currently counseling student-clients through the challenges of this pandemic, feeling very grateful to be able to offer help.

"Through my studies and work in human rights and community development, I have gained a profound appreciation for resilience on an individual, family, and community level. My aspirations are to specialize in trauma healing modalities, to offer wilderness therapy for teens, and to volunteer my services in humanitarian crises. I believe the healing we each attend to ripples out to transform communities, and to nourish and uplift future generations."



Kimberly Parkerson is a Financial Mathematics major at SOU and pursuing a certificate in Management Information Systems. She also works part time in the Business Intelligence group of a local credit union, where she puts her newly learned skills to use. She intends to pursue an MBA with a focus in data analytics and a career in analytics in the banking industry. She sits on the board of the local Risk Management Association, which promotes sound risk practices in the banking industry, and is a member and treasurer-elect of the Junior League of Jackson County, which seeks to improve the lives of women and children in our community.

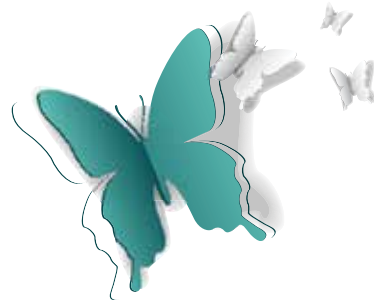
"After earning my GED at 17, I began working full time to support myself. I built my career from an entry-level banking job, but I have long planned to pursue my college education. I returned to college at the age of 34 and now juggle the demands of being a full-time student, wife, and mother of two young boys. I will be the first in my family to earn a college degree."



Tina Springer, named the Wolf-Pizor Family Scholar, is studying at SOU in an interdisciplinary major of Psychology and Health. As a McNair Scholar, she will prepare to attend graduate school to obtain a PhD in behavioral neuroscience and health psychology.

Tina is a single mother, she works several jobs and volunteers in community organizations.

"As a future healthcare administrator, I want to focus on advancing complementary treatments for neurological differences, and increase the public knowledge base through publication and research. Utilizing preventative care models, increasing women's research, and ensuring humane treatment for medical personnel, I will work toward advancements in health. I selected this Marie Curie quote, 'Nothing in life is to be feared; it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.'"



In Her Own Words: Onward to Med School!

Caitlin Diefendorf

AAUW Ashland Scholar 2018–19 and Honors College Scholar, graduated from SOU in June 2019 with a degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry

“After a year spent applying to medical schools and working as a substitute teacher, I have been accepted into the Oregon Health and Science University Medical Doctor program! I will begin classes this August 2020 in Portland, and I could not be more excited.

“I am very grateful to AAUW Ashland for their assistance in this process. I started studying for the MCAT and applying to medical schools shortly after receiving a generous scholarship from the committee in May 2018. The financial award allowed me to pay for the costs (\$1700) of applying, and I was connected with Dr. Priscilla Arnold. She was an amazing mentor who encouraged me to pursue medicine and offered fantastic advice throughout the process.

“Thank you all for being such inspirational women in your community, and for positively impacting my life and journey in becoming a Doctor of Medicine.”



Caitlin Diefendorf

Words from Caitlin’s mentor

“It is an honor to have the opportunity to work with our student scholars, who inspire us every year. Mentoring Caitlin was a special privilege because of her interest in medicine, which we shared. I remain impressed with her vision for her future, and I am so delighted that we in AAUW Ashland can share in her journey and applaud her achievements!”

—**Priscilla Arnold, MD**, AAUW Ashland mentor and pioneer in cataract and refractory surgery

Priscilla Arnold ca. 2005



Remembering Why We Give

Two AAUW Ashland Scholarship Committee members (and mentors) tell about people who inspired them to support scholarships.

Erin Finklea



Erin Finklea

Scholarship Committee member since 2017; SOU alumna

“It’s almost Winter Break 1979 and fall term was especially grueling. I was a first-generation college student with no parental support or home, as I was emancipated in high school. Grants and loans were my lifeline.

“SOU had an ‘emergency aid check’ program that students could apply for and use next term’s aid to repay the loan. I found out from [Mary] Lou Engle at the SOU financial aid window that I was too late to apply—the deadline had come and gone. I told Lou I didn’t know what I was going to do, as it was Christmas time and I needed a bus ticket to see my siblings in Portland.

“What did Lou do? She wrote me a check from her personal account. I could pay her back next semester. Lou, just lending me that money, at that moment, gave me more than a ticket home. Her generosity and trust in me as an SOU student gave me an enduring gratitude for how one person’s small action can have such an impact on another human being in the midst of her educational pursuits.”

Katharine Lang

Scholarship Committee member since 2016; Lang Match Campaign Donor

“My father, Richard Harrison Lockwood, PhD (Yale), was a huge advocate of the community college system. His thesis was developing a curriculum for a Humanities department at the community college level. During his time with the Forest Service (in lieu of fighting in WWII as he was a pacifist) he met many young men from working class backgrounds. Realizing how privileged he was, he decided to teach kids from middle-class and poor backgrounds who had not had his advantages, and to expose them to new concepts and ideas.

“I had several high school friends who took his courses and told me how much they enjoyed them, and how he expanded their horizons. Music, art, history, philosophy, and more were all rolled into his courses. I should know, because I used to help him grade papers! Observing his passion inspired me to support education at the community college level. It is the “foot in the door” for many young people, most of whom are first-generation college students.”



Richard Harrison and Anna Schaffler Lockwood ca. 1950



Lang Match Challenge Update

We are excited to see the Lang Match Challenge Thermometer inching upward. In April \$200 was added to Southern Oregon University Foundation and \$550 to Rogue Community College Foundation, raising the thermometer to **43.53%** from 41.4% last month.

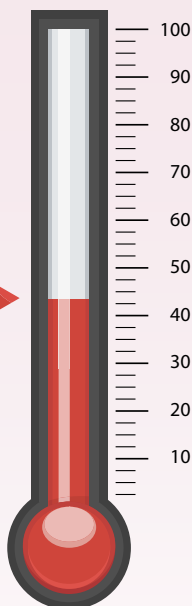
The money qualifying for the Lang Match for SOUF is \$5,850 and for RCCF the total is \$15,916. This campaign ends December 31, 2021.

Please note: The word *endowment* is synonymous with foundation. Remember the interest earned in our foundation/endowment accounts is the amount our Branch uses for scholarships awarded to female students attending SOU and RCC.

We welcome and appreciate donations throughout the year.

Thank You
—Endowment Committee

GOAL:
\$50,000.00



Do You Hear the Buzz?

AAUW Ashland Members,

Our next bi-annual Upscale Sale fundraiser at the Belleview Grange has been scheduled for May 22–23, 2021. This event is a winning concept. We raise other people's money, connect with the Ashland community, and have fun working on the sale. Most of the money supports our scholarship program. In 2019, we raised \$13,000.

Our success depends on many donations of gently used or new items from you, our many members. Please start setting aside items now.

—Paula Wiiken and Bessie Azari, co-chairs



Upscale Sale

AAUW Ashland Branch Fundraiser
Belleview Grange
May 22-23, 2021



Two Stars!

Our branch is participating in the AAUW National Five Star Program. The Five Star Program has two important goals: to promote cohesion between AAUW National and its affiliates, and to increase understanding and implementation of the national strategic plan.

We are pleased to report that our Branch has now earned two stars. The Board plans to pursue all five stars and will update you with our progress.

In February we received our first star for Public Policy and Research. We completed the three steps: meeting with our legislators, getting sign-ups at a Branch meeting for the Action Network, and naming a Public Policy Committee chair who ensures we stay in contact with the state public policy group.

In May AAUW National awarded our second star for Advancement. We achieved this star by increasing our Legacy Circle members, raising money for the Greatest Needs Fund, and retaining at least 90% of our Branch memberships.

In the AAUW National newsletter, "May Membership Matters" AAUW will recognize our latest star. We are pleased to participate in a program that bolsters AAUW's mission-driven initiatives and improves our understanding of the national strategic plan.

—Paula Wiiken



Why is women's leadership important in our world?

Despite record-breaking numbers of women elected to public office in 2018 and increasing public attention around gender equality in Hollywood, women remain underrepresented in senior leadership roles across industries.

There is no shortage of qualified women to fill leadership roles: Women make up almost one half of the United States labor force. They outnumber men in earning bachelor's and master's degrees and are nearly on par in getting medical and legal degrees. Yet from corporate boardrooms to Congress, from healthcare companies to the courts, from nonprofit organizations to universities, men are far more likely than women to rise to the highest paying and most prestigious leadership roles.

Why is it important to have gender equity? Women and men each bring different viewpoints to the table and this is essential for organizations to perform at the highest levels. A study by McKinsey and Company found that companies in the top quartile for gender diversity on executive teams were 21% more likely to outperform on profitability.

Besides improving profitability, promoting and supporting female leaders should be a top priority for three reasons. First, women are often more effective at making deals than men. For example, women in the Senate are better at working with people of different viewpoints and opinions to get things done than their male counterparts. Second, having women in leadership will help close the pay gap, since leaders in an organization are generally paid more, and higher salaries promote financial security. Third, women are better than men in the areas of mentoring and guiding young employees.

One would think that with world-renowned colleges and universities and many opportunities for women in the United States, we would be at the top of the list of countries that are the best places for women to live. Unfortunately, this is not the case. According to a 2019 U.S. News and World Report ranking of Best Countries for Women, the United States ranks 16th, with income inequality being the biggest issue. The best country for women is Sweden, which scored top marks for human rights, gender quality, income equality, progress, and safety. As an example, in Sweden women represent 46% of the parliament and 50% of the government's cabinet, while in the United States women represent 24.5% of the House and Senate. Sweden is followed by Denmark, Canada, Norway, Netherlands, Finland, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, United Kingdom, France, and Ireland.

How can we help? We can help to elevate the position of women in the United States by encouraging our daughters and granddaughters to strive to achieve leadership positions in all businesses, we can support and encourage women to run for public office, and we can support the policies and mission of AAUW in empowering women and girls.

—Sonja Friedman, Public Policy Team

From April 25, 2020 Board meeting

AAUW Ashland Newsletter/Website

The Branch website <https://ashland-or.aauw.net/> is a valuable tool for information regarding registration forms, links to National and State AAUW websites, and membership information. All members are encouraged to visit and use the website for current program and meeting activities, and to visit often.

AAUW National's website <https://www.aauw.org> is improved and very user-friendly. Everyone is invited to tour the large amount of information available and join a webinar or program of your choosing.

Membership

Catherine Lutes reported that as of April 25, Renewal Registration Forms have been received from 24 members. Registration forms will not be mailed to the membership but are available at the Ashland AAUW website.

AAUW Funds

Bessie Azari reported that a thank-you letter has been received from Kim Churches for the \$5,000 donation to AAUW National Greatest Needs Fund. AAUW National is also starting a Matching Grant Donation program where all dollars designated specifically for AAUW National will be matched 100% up to a total of \$18,000 to be used for the Greatest Needs Fund.

AAUW Oregon held an online Zoom State Annual Meeting on April 19, and eight AAUW Ashland members participated as delegates. Among other business, it was announced that the 2021 State Convention will be sponsored by AAUW branches Grants Pass, Ashland, Medford, and Lakeview. Three sites are currently being considered.

Board Election

Pam Shay announced that with 93 respondents, all nominated officers have been elected with Catherine Lutes as Co-president. Congratulations to all.

Celebration of Scholars

Celebration of Scholars has been rescheduled for September 30. Eight scholars have been chosen, and mentors are being solicited.

Board Retreat

The Board Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, June 27—see page 1.

—Peggy Audibert, Recording Secretary

AAUW Medford Branch

The AAUW Medford Garden Tour has been rescheduled for June 12, 2021.

AAUW Grants Pass Branch

The Frog O'Faire Children's Festival scheduled for June 13 has been canceled.

The 16th Annual Kitchen Tour scheduled for October 17 has been canceled.



Charitable Partners

These two 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
raymondjames.com/lizmurphy

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

In light of the changing guidance on in-person group gatherings due to the COVID-19 situation, unless otherwise specified here, most groups will NOT meet during the month of June or throughout the summer, at least in person. Several groups are having virtual meetings as we all learn more about tools such as Zoom. Some groups may choose to meet if they are able to comply with Governor Brown's new Phase 1 Guidelines.

Contact the coordinator to join any group or for information about meetings. Their contact information is in the membership directory, which is also available on our website <https://ashland-or.aauw.net/membersdirectory/>

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. This group will not meet until the theaters have re-opened. *Coordinator: Jean Conger*

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

OPERA usually meets during the summer months and will again when social-distancing rules permit. *Coordinator: Nancy Kramarenko*

PLAY READING normally meets the 4th Friday of each month at 4 pm at Annette Lewis's home. The group intends to meet in compliance with the new guidelines and intends to meet during the summer. We are currently reading "Peter and the Starcatcher." *Coordinator: Annette Lewis*

SHAKESPEARE AT OSF usually meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 12:30 to 3 pm. 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 group is on hiatus until conditions permit. *Coordinators: Michaela Rae and Peggy Audibert*

Book Groups

BRAIN BOOKS will meet by Zoom during the summer on the 4th Tuesday, with time changed to 3 pm. June 23: "Palaces for the People" by Eric Kleinberg. July 28: "Why Trust Science?" by Naomi Oreskes. August 25: "How to Behave Badly in Elizabethan England" by Ruth Goodman. To get a Zoom invitation, contact *Coordinator Sandra Coyner*.

DAY NONFICTION We meet on the 1st Wednesday at 1 pm. Zoom will be our gathering place throughout the summer. Dates, discussion leaders, and books are: June 3, Maria Geigel and Jean Conger, "Motoring with Mohammed" by Eric Hansen; July 1, Priscilla Arnold, "Krakatoa" by Simon Winchester; August 5, Diana Quirk, "Tightrope" by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. *Coordinator: Linda Lipkind*

DAYTIME FICTION usually 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 *Coordinator, Colleen Patrick-Riley*.

EVENING NONFICTION usually meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. The group does not meet during the summer. *Coordinator: Ellen Fowler*

MONDAY EVENING BOOKS is considering meeting in June and July via Zoom. For information, contact *Coordinator: Shannon Stuver*

THURSDAY EVENING MYSTERY usually meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 pm. *Coordinator: Phyllis Fernlund*

Games, Genealogy, Knitting & Dining

BOARD GAMES meets at 7 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month at rotating host homes. We will not be meeting in June, however, due to the current stay-at-home mandate. We are currently not accepting new members due to the size of the group. *Coordinator: Sylvie Whitman*

GENEALOGY GROUP We ordinarily meet at 1:30-3:30 pm on the 4th Thursday at the Jackson County Genealogy Library, 3405 S. Pacific Hwy., Medford. The Library is now closed because of COVID-19 and we will not meet until it re-opens. Genealogy Group members are invited to share their current family research, family stories, and photos with the group via email. *Coordinator: Linda Lipkin*

KNITTERS AND STITCHERS We usually meet on the 2nd 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. We won't be meeting until the health conditions permit. If you would like more information, or to join our group, please contact *Coordinator, Peggy Audibert*

POTLUCK DINNERS are cancelled until further notice. *Coordinator: Elaine Sweet*



Did That Really Happen?

By Wanda Chin

“Send them back. Let the chinks keep the virus.” These are the words I heard, as I biked past the trailer court along the Bear Creek Greenway. Was it coincidence or did she actually see me coming—my Asian features hidden behind huge bug-eyed dark sunglasses?

Surprised, though not shocked, I knew that racial bullying experiences were being reported to be on the rise in Southern Oregon. In recent years I had grown to rely upon the Oregon Shakespeare Festival to handle all diversity issues—particularly their American Revolutions plays, Juneteenth, and all challenging conversations in the community. How I miss them now.

Often times, I’m asked if such reported anti-Asian events in nearby Jacksonville or American history, news or novels are true. You can find out for yourself in the PBS series, “Asian-Americans,” and see our 150-year-old Asian-American history as described in their program promo: ‘As America becomes more diverse, and more divided while facing unimaginable challenges, how do we move forward together?’

See PBS Asian-Americans, stream it online: <https://www.pbs.org/show/asian-americans/>



Wanda Chin bicycling near Talent.



Diana Quirk exercising with baked beans cans.

What some of our members did while staying at home In May.



Our AAUW Friendship Circle of seven had held five of our meetings before the Stay Home mandate; in mid March, we decided to have the sixth meeting with Adrienne Simmons' story on Zoom and enjoyed it so much that we've been meeting every Thursday since to check in. Unfortunately, our seventh member and final hostess, Candy Gregos, lives in the beautiful mountains south of Ashland where she trades gorgeous views for a lack of internet connection. We are all looking forward to the day when we can gather at Candy's house for a real celebration.

Here is a screen shot of our gathering (from top left): Leslie Dawson, Susan Stitham, Kori Calvert, Jean Conger, Elaine Hamlin, Adrienne Simmons.



Day Nonfiction Group Zoom practice session convened by Maria Geigel on May 6. From top row, left: Maria Geigel, Linda Lipkind, Diana Quirk, Jan Evans (former AAUW and group member, joining us from her home in Portland); Marie Radke, Patt Rao, Jean Conger, Priscilla Arnold; Joyce Epstein, Ann Bard, Pat Brewer.

Ashland Vision

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

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(Photos taken by members of branch meetings or interest group activities are welcome. Please submit photos for consideration to one of the newsletter editors.)

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and Sylvie Whitman

Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

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.