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Looking Ahead

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| 2020 Presidential Election | Nov 3 |
| November Branch Meeting | Nov 21 |
| Holiday Party | Dec TBA |

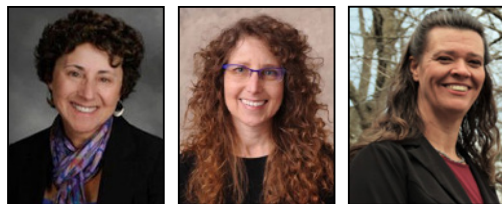
Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision: Equity for all.

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

A 2020 Look at Your Financial Future

Women account for 47% of US wealth creators and two-thirds of women identify themselves as the primary decision-makers in their households when it comes to money. And yet, four out of five women say they lack confidence in their financial knowledge.



Melissa Grudin Cheri L. Elson Charlie Burns

Join Melissa Grudin, retired financial advisor, Cheri L. Elson, Attorney at Law, and Charlie Burns, CPA as they discuss topics ranging from the importance of financial planning and tax law changes for 2020 to how to pass your assets to your beneficiaries safely and donate to charities.

Whether you are retired or still in the workforce, this program is sure to have timely and valuable information that you can apply to your financial plans.

When: Saturday, November 21
10:30-noon

Where: Online with Zoom

Melissa Grudin was born and raised in New York where she graduated from SUNY at Cortland. She moved to California and became a licensed Financial Securities Registered Representative and built a 40-year career, emphasizing retirement, income, and estate planning.

Melissa volunteered at El Camino Hospital in Silicon Valley, entertaining patients and their guests as "Jester of Music and Mirth." She was active in their Foundation and served on their Planned Giving Council over ten years.

She and her husband Jeff, a newly retired veterinarian, moved to Ashland in March 2018.

Cheri Elson moved to the Rogue Valley with her husband, Adam Sperber, in the summer of 2014, bringing with her a specialty in estate planning, probate, estate administration, and conservatorship law. In practice since 2001, Cheri is licensed to practice in Oregon as well as California, where she was certified with the CA Board of Legal Specialization as a Specialist in Estate Planning.

Cheri earned her Bachelor of Arts in Music from University of California, Santa Cruz, and her Juris Doctorate from Ventura College of Law, graduating second in her class with honors. Cheri

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VOTE



Ballot Drop Boxes

Ballots submitted by Drop Box must be received by 8 pm, Tuesday, November 3.

Drop Box locations:

- Ashland:**
Behind the Ashland Library
- Medford:**
1101 W Main St. (Elections Office)
and at the Medford Library

The Holiday Party committee is in the planning stages. The date for the 2020 Holiday Party TBD.

November 21

A 2020 Look at Your Financial Future

Presenters: Melissa Grudin, Retired Financial Adviser and Friends

December TBD

Holiday Party

January 23

Public Policy / Oregon Legislative Update

Presenters: Rep. Pam Marsh & Sen. Jeff Golden

February 27

Diversity, Inclusion & Title IX at SOU

Presenters: SOU Panel

March 27

Women Living Leadership

Presenters: Dee Anne Everson, Executive Director, United Way of Jackson County

April 24

Presidents' Meeting

Presenters: Paula Wiiken and Catherine Lutes, Co-presidents

May 22-23

Upscale Sale

Bellview Grange
Presenters: AAUW Ashland Fundraising Committee

May TBD

Celebration of Scholars

Presenters: Celebration of Scholars Committee

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Joy in the Mourning?

I learned a new word recently: acedia. It's actually an old word, from the Greek, meaning being both bored and anxious; purposeless, yet on edge. This word was used to describe what many cloistered monks in the 4th and 5th centuries were feeling, and now that the pandemic is dragging on, this word applies to what many of us are feeling, as we're socially and physically isolated. It feels even more profound to me in the aftermath of last month's fire in our neighboring communities. So how to deal with this feeling? First, we have a name for it, and many books have been written about it, so that shows we are not alone. Second, having a routine helps, getting outside, reaching out to others, and having a purpose to get up and greet each day, will definitely help to soothe those anxious feelings.

We have seen our community pull together in myriad glorious ways to help people displaced by the Alameda fire begin to rebuild their lives, in acts of kindness and compassion that showcase our true humanity. I believe that this purposeful kindness, compassion, and generosity of spirit are just what our world needs right now to get us through these trying times. Just as it is healing to others, it is equally healing to our own troubled, anxious souls.

I will leave you with another stanza of the poem,

"Kindness" by Naomi Shahib Nye.

*Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,
you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.
You must wake up with sorrow.
You must speak to it till your voice
catches the thread of all sorrows
and you see the size of the cloth.
Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,
only kindness that ties your shoes
and sends you out into the day to gaze at bread,
only kindness that raises its head
from the crowd of the world to say
It is I you have been looking for,
and then goes with you everywhere
like a shadow or a friend.*

—Catherine Lutes, Co-president

Do You Hear the Buzz?

Currently, National AAUW has prohibited gatherings for events and meetings due to the Covid-19 virus.

If this mandate is still in force in May, 2021, we will postpone our Upscale Sale.

That's right, **postpone**, NOT **cancel**!
We have a second reservation at the Bellview Grange for October, 2021 if need bee.

Simon says, "Keep saving upscale items for AAUW scholarship programs!"

—Paula and Bessie, co-chairs



Simon Bee



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

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

Lang Match Challenge Update



Currently, we have raised \$13,335 for our SOU endowment fund and \$25,364 for our RCC endowment fund. Our Lang Match Challenge thermometer remains at **78%**

Since the "end of the year" tax planning is right around the corner, you might be interested in the following tax information:

Two New Tax Benefits to Donors

Universal Deduction for Donations Up to \$300

For the over nine out of ten people who no longer itemize their charitable giving, the CARES Act will allow these individual taxpayers to deduct donations to charity of up to \$300 on their 2020 federal tax return, even though they take the standard deduction. Married-filing-jointly taxpayers will get an above-the-line deduction of up to \$600.

Raising the Charitable Giving Deduction Cap

For those donors who are still able to itemize their deductions, and therefore directly write off gifts to charity, the current deduction cap is 60% of adjusted gross income. Corporations are able to deduct charitable donations up to 10% of taxable income.

Thanks for your support with our campaign to reach the goal \$50,000 by the end of 2021.

—Endowment Committee

A 2020 Look at Your Financial Future -

Continued from page 1

was an active leader of the Ventura County Bar Association, sat on the board of directors three separate terms, and served as the Chair of the Estate Planning & Probate Law Section.

Charlie Burns joined the staff at Reid, Hanna, Johnson & Co. CPAs LLC in 2014 and became a partner in the firm in January 2017. As of January 1, 2020, Charlie is the Managing Shareholder.

Charlie grew up and lived in Northern California where she also raised her four children and completed her education. After working in public accounting for several years, Charlie returned to school and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from National University. She is a licensed CPA in Oregon and California and has extensive government and nonprofit audit experience as well as business and individual tax, accounting, and consulting experience.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Ashland AAUW membership remains healthy and robust with 10 new members for 2020-21. In addition, we have 2 dual members from the Walla Walla chapter, **Marilyn Hawkins** and **Vicki Griesinger**, who re-joined in September. Welcome back Marilyn and Vicki!

Shannon Stuver wasted no time to recruit her mother, **Susan Gunn-Schaefer**, who has just moved to Ashland in the last 2 months from Danville, CA. Welcome Susan!

In Glendale, CA, Susan was born to a family that enjoyed travel, plays, books and films which she has continued throughout her life. Attending University of Arizona, she majored in Theatre Arts & Education. She loved working behind the scene, stage managing or running the sound and light board. After college she returned to Glendale, marrying and having two children. Susan and her second husband, Chuck, moved to Danville where they lived for 33 years until his death 7 years ago.

Susan's work life was varied and interesting. Her "strong suit" expresses itself in various jobs requiring organizing and coordinating. Having worked at Pepperdine University, Claremont Chamber of Commerce, the LA County Fair, her skills and talents were in demand when she and Chuck moved north. After being meeting planner for the CA Medical Association, she became the Marketing/Event Director for the San Mateo County Expo Center and Fair for 12 years, a job she loved. Retirement gave Susan time to become a Docent at the Blackhawk Museums for 5 years, also working on staff for a year as the Program Manager.

"I'm excited about my new adventure, meeting the members and contributing to my new community."

—Claudette Paige, Membership Chair

Volunteer Spotlight: Chris Licata



She knew at the age of five that she wanted to be an artist.

It's not surprising then that Chris Licata has spent her life

creating and teaching others to create. Growing up in St. Louis, she was encouraged by her father who was a musician. "He told me that when shadows are cast across a white surface on a sunny day, they are the blue of the sky, not gray," says Chris. "He taught me to really 'see' the world."

Chris earned a BA in Art at Webster University in St. Louis. In the early 70's, she moved to Coos Bay where she taught photography at the Southwestern Oregon Community College. Moving back to St Louis in 1975, she worked as a graphic designer at a number of ad agencies and design firms which culminated in a position as Creative Director for D'arcy Advertising.

In 1989, Chris returned to school, earned a MFA at Southern Illinois University and taught graphic design for nine years as an associate professor at St Louis Community College.

She returned in 2008 to Oregon and a career which included teaching graphic design at SOU, and co-founding a graphic design program at RCC. She retired and returned to St. Louis in 2019.

Chris has been a tireless and generous contributor of her time and talent to our Branch since 2011 continuing to volunteer her design skills for the newsletter and Directory, and even now from St. Louis. "I am grateful to be able to do this work I love for a cause I believe in."

Recently, Chris was awarded an honorarium for her years of work for the Branch which she donated back to the Lang Match.

For all that you have done, Chris, we are so grateful.

Past Member, Bill Baine, Will Be Missed

We want to pay homage to a past member of our Branch, Bill Baine, who recently passed away.

Bill was an active member of our Branch from 2001 to 2012. One of four men* who were members at that time, Bill volunteered for Aspire, a Branch project to provide mentors to help high school students plan for their post-high school years. He also judged senior projects twice a year and was active with our world affairs and travel interest groups.

Bill Baine passed away peacefully on September 28th at Maple Ridge Senior Living in Ashland where he had been residing. He will be missed.

**John Adams, Bill Baine, Don Black, and Bud Carroll, were active AAUW Ashland Branch members in the early 2000's.*



Bill Baine at the "The Let's Do Lunch" interest group gathered at Alex's Restaurant in 2011 with (front to back) Alice Mallory, Pat Knoble, Arlene Tayloe, and Elaine Sweet.

Women on Corporate Boards

Your Ashland AAUW Public Policy Committee has prepared a detailed and extensive research report for our local and statewide AAUW membership and Oregon legislators to encourage familiarity with the national movement to address women's inequity on corporate boards, and to encourage Oregon legislation on this issue. Both California and Washington have passed legislation requiring a quota for women on publicly held corporate boards headquartered in their states, placing Oregon as an outlier between adjacent states. The report includes numerous other states that have either passed or are in the process of enacting legislation to address women's inequity on corporate boards in their respective states. Trish Garner, AAUW State Public Policy Chair, stated "I am entirely gratified to be part of an organization that can produce this kind of high- quality work. The Ashland Branch should be highly commended." This report has been approved by AAUW Ashland Branch and the State Public Policy Committee and will soon be presented for approval by the AAUW Oregon Board. A copy of the full report is on our AAUW Ashland website.

PUBLIC POLICY

Our State Public Policy Director, Trish Garner, with the encouragement of the Oregon Speaker of the House Tina Kotek, has anchored Karin Power, an Oregon representative from District 41 (Milwaukie and SE Portland) to sponsor a bill addressing equity for women on Oregon's corporate boards. In September, the legislative topic was entered into the legislative log for 2021. Both Pam Marsh and Jeff Golden have indicated their interest for a bill and have received copies of our research report.

This is a very timely, detailed, and thorough examination of the status of women on publicly-traded boards and efforts across the country to increase women's presence on boards. We have great expectations for the conversations this report will initiate. Stay tuned as your Ashland Public Policy team continues its advocacy for equity for women on Oregon's publicly-held corporations.

—Ann Bard, Public Policy Committee and Chair of Research Subcommittee (Regina Ayars, Julie Benezet, Sonja Friedman, Mary Renard)



Public Policy Project "Women on Boards" L-R Standing: Ann Bard and Julie Benezet. Seated: Regina Ayars and Sonja Friedman

AAUW Medford Branch

November Branch Meeting on Zoom
Thursday, November 12, at 7 pm

The Garden Tour has been rescheduled for June 12, 2021

AAUW Grants Pass Branch

November Branch Meeting on Zoom
Saturday, November 21, at 9:45 am

Program: Jackie Clary from the League of Women Voters will speak on race relations.



Unnamed image from the homepage of the LWV Oregon website, <https://lwvor.org/>



The 15th Amendment (1869)

SECTION 1: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

SECTION 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Voting Rights Act (1965)

AN ACT To enforce the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act shall be known as the "Voting Rights Act of 1965."

SEC. 2. No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color.

READ THE FULL TEXT



The 15th Amendment, the Voting Rights Act, and Voter Suppression in America

- [Whose Vote Counts, Explained \(Full Episode\) Narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio, Netflix, Sep 28, 2020 \(24:51\)](#)
- [Why Voting in This U.S. Election Will Not Be Equal - 2020 Elections, The New York Times, Sept 28, 2020 \(15:15\)](#)
- [Fighting Voter Suppression, Jovahn Scott TEDx Talks Sep 4, 2019 \(10:26\)](#)

BOARD NOTES

September 28, 2020

Financial Report

Sonja Friedman presented the 2020-2021 budget with no changes from the previous year. The only expense anticipated at this time is the January deposit to the Grange for the Upscale Sale.

Public Policy

- The Public Policy Team reported that Regina Ayars is coordinating with Mt. Meadows Democrats+ to sponsor three mayor and city council election forums. The team submitted questions to Rep. Pam Marsh, moderator.
- The Branch has been asked to coordinate with the Oregon League of Women Voters to help them send out postcard voting reminders.
- The “Women on Boards” subcommittee is preparing their report for presentation to the Branch and AAUW Oregon.

Membership

Claudette Paige reported that 140 members have paid current dues.

Zoom Meetings

A Zoom/Webinar Facilitator will be appointed to manage online Branch meetings. It was suggested that a “tech-savvy” student could work with the co-presidents during the branch Zoom meetings to enable smooth meeting operations. The Board also approved the purchase of a Branch Zoom account for meeting/webinar purposes.

Endowment

Jean Conger reported that the Lang Match has increased to 78% donations with a \$1,000 donation to the RCC endowment fund.

Governance Issues

- Sandra Coyner has requested that a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion plan be written into the current Strategic Plan, including assessment dates. We'll coordinate with the National Strategic Plan.
- Pam Shay, Bessie Azari, and Elaine Sweet will serve on the Nominating/Succession Committee to align the Branch with the National leadership succession policy.
- The Jobs Description Ad Hoc Committee is finalizing the new job descriptions and organization chart.
- The South District Director position is open and Medford or Ashland AAUW branches are asked to fill with one of its members.

—Peggy Audibert, Recording Secretary

INTEREST GROUPS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many groups have chosen to suspend meeting for the foreseeable future or are meeting by Zoom or in small groups. Some groups are currently full due to size limitations and are not accepting additional members. For more information, to join, or to check on the current status of the group, contact the individual interest group coordinator by clicking on their name below.

Arts and Language

MOVIE MUSICALS usually meets the 3rd Monday at 4:30 pm. They are currently not meeting. New members welcome. *Coordinator:* [Diane Novak](#)

OPERA usually meets the 1st Tuesday at 4 pm. They are currently not meeting but are staying in touch via email. New members welcome. *Coordinator:* [Nancy Kramarenko](#)

PLAY READING usually meets the 4th Friday at 4 pm. They are currently not meeting but are considering how. New members welcome. *Coordinator:* [Annette Lewis](#)

Book Groups

BRAIN BOOKS usually meets the 4th Tuesday 3-5 pm. They are currently meeting via Zoom. New members welcome. *Coordinator:* [Sandra Coyner](#).

DAY NONFICTION usually meets the 1st Wednesday at 1 pm. They are currently meeting via Zoom. Full, not accepting additional members. *Coordinator:* [Linda Lipkind](#)

DAYTIME FICTION usually meets the 3rd Wednesday at 1 pm. They are currently meeting in-person, outside. Full, not accepting additional members. *Coordinator:* [Colleen Patrick-Riley](#).

NIGHTTIME NARRATIVE NONFICTION usually meets the 3rd Wednesday at 7 pm. They are currently meeting via Zoom. Full, not accepting additional members. *Coordinator:* [Ellen Fowler](#)

FICTION FANS usually meets the 2nd Monday at 7 pm, currently via Zoom. Full, not accepting additional members. *Coordinator:* [Shannon Stuver](#)

MYSTERY MAVENS usually meets the 2nd Thursday at 7 pm. They are currently meeting via Zoom. New members welcome. *Coordinator:* [Esther Stone](#)

Games, Genealogy, Knitting & Dining

BOARD GAMES usually meets the 4th Wednesday at 7 pm. They are currently not meeting. Full, not accepting additional members. *Coordinator:* [Sylvie Whitman](#)

GENEALOGY GROUP There will be no meeting in November. Our annual holiday meeting will be on Zoom on Thursday, Dec 3 at 1 pm. New members of all experience levels welcome. *Coordinator:* [Linda Lipkind](#)

KNITTERS AND STITCHERS usually meets the 2nd Thursday at 1pm. They are currently meeting in-person. New members welcome. *Coordinator:* [Peggy Audibert](#)

POTLUCK DINNERS usually meet 4 to 6 times per year, day and time TBD. They are currently not meeting. New members welcome. *Coordinator:* [Elaine Sweet](#)



INTEREST GROUPS

Socially Distancing



On Oct 12th, the ladies of Fiction Fans met in Railroad Park to discuss Ann Patchett's "The Dutch House."



Meeting by ZOOM



The Day Nonfiction Interest Group met by Zoom on October 7th to discuss "The Splendid and the Vile" by Erik Larson. The discussion was led by Ann Bard whose uncle was a U.S. Air Attaché stationed in London during the time of the Blitz. Fascinating excerpts from his wartime diary and Ann's collection of British WWII posters enriched the discussion.



The Mystery Mavens got together on October 8th for a great Zoom discussion of "Gods of Gotham" by Lyndsay Faye.

Ashland Vision

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

Vol. 35, No. 3— November 2020

Co-presidents: Paula Wiiken
& Catherine Lutes

Financial Officer: Sonja Friedman

Recording Secretary: Peggy Audibert

Membership Chair: Claudette Paige

Public Policy Chair: Rotating

Contact Secretary: Linda Moreland

Newsletter Team

Editors: Ellen Fowler, Pat Brewer,
& Elaine Sweet

Designer: Chris Licata

Photographers: Members at large.

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

Readers: Alice Mallory, Rae Otto,
Sylvie Whitman,
& Catherine Greenspan

Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

AAUW Ashland Website:
<http://ashland-or.aauw.net>

AAUW Ashland Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/ashland.aauw/

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.

Questions for Dr. Cathy Kemper-Pelle from the chat room

From Paula: Besides affirmations and venting with friends, what else can we do to combat the boredom and despair of the pandemic?

From Kathleen Mackris: Can you address how the pandemic and the fires have impacted RCC students and how with your experience, you have addressed these issues?

From Jean Conger: Please say a few words about the importance of scholarships. AAUW has annual and endowment funds. Our RCC endowment fund has a balance of \$25,364

From Tina Springer: How are you addressing issues of equity and supporting connection and inclusion with students? How are faculty handling things?

From Judy Basker: Thank you for your generous financial support of RCC students. It means more than you can imagine. The Lang Match is also going very well! Beyond your financial support, the time you spend with our students mentoring them and getting to know them is also invaluable. Your scholarship reception is also a highlight every year. Thank you!!!

From Catherine Greenspan: Has the reduction in enrollment been equal between men and women?

From Tina Springer: I lost a really amazing job at the beginning of the pandemic, and have not been able to receive unemployment yet (I was notified of a backlog of 50,000 PUA cases). My partner left for Baltimore to help his sister with her baby, so I cannot say enough how timely and important receiving an AAUW scholarship has helped to alleviate the financial stress that has come with the pandemic, and without scholarships this year I would not have been able to attend :)

From Claudette Paige: Does RCC have anyone dedicated to recruiting organizations to sponsor scholarships to fill the need for community support for students?

From Judy Basker: That's the Foundation! We're on it! If any of you know other potential donors besides AAUW please let me know! We give out about \$500K a year in scholarships.

From Linda Lipkind: What is the average age of your students?

From Judy Basker: Average age is 29. 30% of our students have children. 20 to 25% are veterans.

This screen shot represents nearly half of 38 participants at our November Zoom meeting.

October 24 Branch Meeting

Thriving in the Time of Pandemonium
Dr. Cathy Kemper-Pelle, President, Rogue Community College.



Paula Wiiken, Co-president



Dr Cathy Kemper-Pelle, ckemperpelle@rogucecc.edu



Kathleen Mackris Introduced Dr Cathy Kemper-Pelle

