



SEPTEMBER 2021



Breaking Through Barriers  
AAUW Ashland Branch Monthly Newsletter

Hello <<First Name>>,



Welcome Back Ashland!



And welcome to our first edition of The Vision in its new, improved format. Not like the old newsletter, more like scrolling through an e-mail. For longer articles and in-depth information, you'll be linked to the new and improved website, so you can choose how much information you want. The past year and a half have taught us many things, including that change can be good, even if it's inspired by adversity.

While June and July were beautiful and hopeful in the Valley, as I write this on a very hot, very smoky day, what was true a month ago, is not such a sure thing now. We arranged a new venue for our Branch meetings, **Wesley Hall in the First United Methodist Church, 175 N Main, Ashland**, but we've been told that they will not allow in-person meetings until further notice. Looks like we're back to Zooming, at least for a while.

We have some really great programs planned for you this year (see website for details: <https://ashland-or.aauw.net>) and the Board is currently looking at a project that will centralize and then disburse any and all information available to aid women in need in the Rogue Valley, many of whom have been seriously adversely affected by the pandemic. We hope to be able to have more details at the *September 25 Branch meeting*. Please join us because we will need lots of womanpower to fuel this project.

And so I leave you with two important questions: Can you help us make a difference in the lives of women in need in the Rogue Valley? To Zoom or not to Zoom? Those, to paraphrase Will, are the questions. Stay tuned. . .

Welcome Back Branch Meeting:

When: Saturday, September 25, 10:30 am to noon

Where: Via Zoom.

Watch your email for the link.

—President, Catherine Lutes

COMING UP IN OCTOBER!

Health Care Program Kicks Off Fall-Winter Programs

Different women face different challenges, but one that touches all of us is **Equal Access to Health Care**. That's the topic of our first public program of 2021-2022 and the speaker is Amy Handler, Chief Strategy Officer, Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon. She'll discuss:

- Financial Realities: Many women are in lower-income jobs and may be inadequately covered by insurance. How does that affect access and outcomes?
- Racial Disparities: What unique health care challenges do BIPOC women face?
- COVID-19 Pandemic: How were women adversely affected?

Mark your calendars now for this informative and inspiring presentation on **Saturday, October 23, 10:30 am-noon via Zoom**.

A Note About Upcoming Meetings

You are all aware of the ever-changing public health situation in Jackson County due to the resurgence of the Delta variant of COVID-19. We were so looking forward to returning to our in-person meeting this fall and had secured a new meeting venue at the First United Methodist Church on North Main Street. Alas, we've been informed that the church will not permit in-person meetings until further notice, so until public health conditions improve, we're back to Zooming. Emails will be sent with Zoom links prior to each meeting. Interest Group meetings are also affected so check with your interest group coordinator for updates.

LOOKING AHEAD

September Branch Meeting  
Sept 25  
Upscale Sale  
Oct 8-10  
October Branch Meeting  
Oct 23  
Celebration of Scholars  
Oct 27

[Click here to see the Year-at-a-Glance](#)

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 coordinator. [READ MORE](#)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Building Membership through

*EACH ONE REACH ONE*

Despite a year of "zooming" and several members relocating out of our area, we will welcome back 130 members, including seven new or returning members: **Sunny Anderson, Heidi Dalva-Monjure, Sue Golish, JoAnn Houghton, Connie Minogue, Lan Roberts, and Lisa Verner**.

Building our membership is a responsibility for all. How? **Each One Reach One!** If every member reached out to one new person, our membership surely would grow. If you know of members who have not yet renewed or women new to our area, please encourage them to go to our website at [here](#) and join our AAUW Branch

Over this past year we have learned how to conduct interactive, informative, and fun meetings – all virtually. So what about this year? The most important thing is that each and every member participates as much as possible, whether in person or by zoom. Many members voiced their interest in supporting our Branch via leadership and/or working to support our events and activities. If that enthusiasm and energy is any indication of our coming year, we can look forward to a rewarding year.

Meet our new members [READ MORE](#)

—Susan Hollandsworth, Membership Chair

Remembering Junelee Poe



Diane Novak left with Junelee Poe

We're sad to inform you that longtime Ashland Branch member Junelee Poe passed away on August 13 at the home of her daughter, Diane Poe Novak. June was pillar of the Branch for many years, known for her humor and positive attitude. She was devoted member of the Knitter & Stitches group, always ready to entertain the group with local news or a funny story. She loved the Movie Musicals and Afternoon Tea groups, and supported the Garden Tour. She'll be missed, but we are fortunate that she passed along her love of Ashland AAUW to her daughter, Diane Poe Novak.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Elaine Plaisance 9/6
- Bea Bacher-Wetmore 9/15
- Barbara Davis 9/12
- Alice Malbury 9/29
- Sally Peterson 9/7
- Peg Sjogren 9/16
- Nicola Stanke 9/8

My Friend Nancy, by Sherri Morgan



Nancy Kramarenko passed away on August 21 from complications of bone cancer. She will be missed by all of us whose lives she touched. A longtime member of AAUW Ashland, Nancy was a named gift honoree in 2016. Trained in nursing, she took caring for others seriously and was often asked to help with caretaking older relatives or friends of AAUW members. Nancy was an accomplished cook, a member of one of the AAUW cookbook clubs, and one of the main recipe testers and contributors to the Tudor Guild cookbook, "Much Ado About Noshing." She helped the AAUW wine tasting group know their pinot noir from their tempranillo. As facilitator of the AAUW opera group, she worked with Ed Perkins to learn about and share operas from around the world. Nancy loved dogs. She and her husband Dan cared for many of their friends' dogs and doted on their own Mr. Darcy, and, now, Carley. We mourn Nancy along with her devoted husband, Dan, a friend to many of us. A celebration of Nancy's life will take place on October 1 at 2:30 pm at Grizzly Peak Winery. Contact Marly Barrick to RSVP.

The Directory at Your Fingertips

Visit the Membership Directory page on the AAUW Ashland website. [Directory Link](#)

There you can:

- Access the AAUW Ashland Membership Directory as a live, password-protected page
- Download Printable PDF of the directory with instructions on how to print and assemble it.
- Instructions on how to send in a photo to accompany your listing

—Chris Licata, Directory Editor

UPSCALE SALE

The Buzz is On!



Three Sales in One  
Yard sale — Bake sale —  
Wine case raffle

WHAT: The Upscale Sale at the Bellview Grange

WHEN: October 9 & 10, 2021  
Saturday, 8:30am - 4pm, 8:00 early birds pay \$5  
Sunday noon to 2:30pm, half-price sale

WHO: AAUW Ashland members

HOW: Donate, bake, volunteer, tell your friends, shop the sale

WHY: Proceeds go toward scholarships for local women

If you don't love it or you don't use it, why not sell it? Gather up your upscale items. [Check this list for donation ideas.](#)

—Bessie Azari and Paula Wiiken

AAUW ASHLAND ANNUAL BOARD RETREAT

The Board and several Branch members gathered via Zoom on June 26 to brainstorm and plan for the upcoming year. It was a lively and productive session, with lots of good ideas discussed. Here are a few highlights. The full minutes are posted on our website. [READ MORE](#)

- Our Branch received an unexpected windfall of \$2500 from the Ashland Art Center, which has unfortunately closed down and distributed to several Ashland nonprofits. We are honored by their support.
- Marilyn Hawkins, our new Program Chair, reported on the fabulous lineup of programs that she's organized.
- The Economic Security Committee reported on their recommendation that the Branch develop a project to help compile and disseminate information about available services and opportunities for women in the Rogue Valley struggling with economic insecurity. More information to come.
- The Upscale Sale and Celebration of Scholars are in the final planning stages.

Endowment Report

The AAUW Endowment Committee acknowledges the following members for their recent contributions to the SOU and RCCC endowment/foundation funds:

- Kate and Jim Wolf-Pizor, for their gifts of \$7,000 to SOUF and \$7,000 to RCCF.
- Elaine Sweet, for a \$7,000 gift to RCCF.
- Chris Donchin, for a \$1,000 gift to SOUF.
- Stephanie Bullock, who honors the memory of Suzanne Duncan with her annual donation to SOUF.

A huge thank you to all of our generous Branch members who thoughtfully added an endowment donation to their membership renewals.



Be sure to attend the Celebration of Scholars event on October 27 where you will be able to meet all of our wonderful scholarship recipients.

You can see your generosity in action!

—Jean Conger, Endowment Chair

How Your AAUW Funds Promote Our Mission

Donations to the AAUW Funds have a far-reaching impact on women and equity. Our AAUW Ashland Branch contributed \$2,788 in the first two quarters of 2021. There are four open funds to direct donations:

- Economic Security Fund:** includes Pay Equity, Start Smart, and Word Smart
- Education and Training Fund:** includes STEM, Title IX, Research, and Public Policy
- Leadership Fund:** includes NCCWSL and Campus Action
- Greatest Needs Fund:** This fund fills in where there are additional funds needed to complete a program. Thirty one of our members made a donation to the Greatest Needs Fund.

Thank you for your contribution to AAUW! Your generosity fuels the AAUW's critical mission work during these exceptionally challenging times. *Charitable gifts are tax deductible and can be made at the [AAUW national website](#).*

—Bessie Azari, Funds Chair

Celebration of Scholars is Back!



On Wednesday, October 27 we will meet in the Rogue River Room of the Stevenson Union at SOU to meet and congratulate our impressive eight scholars from RCC and SOU. The event will start promptly at 6 pm with some light refreshments and time to mingle from 5:30-6 and after the program. Specifics addressing pandemic concerns will be announced in October. AAUW will follow SOU requirements and CDC guidelines. Gretchen King and Annette Lewis have volunteered to chair the event and Wanda Chin and Kate Wolf-Pizor continue to head the Scholarship Committee.

This is one of our Branch's most important events. It is central to our mission of advocating for education of women and girls and reminds us why we believe in that mission.

Good-Bye and Thank You to Paula Wiiken



It was a real joy to work with Paula as Co-President this past year. Despite the pandemic preventing us from meeting in person, we were able to "keep on keeping on" on Zoom. Paula learned how to be our Zoom guru, kept meetings moving, and was able to share her screen with us -- something I'm still learning to do! She was a great mentor, always willing to hear me out and help when I didn't know the answer.

Paula spearheaded our successful journey through the National 5 Star program, and as far as I know, we are the only branch in Oregon to have achieved all 5 stars. It is really helping us to chart a path and keep on course to make a real difference to women and children in the Rogue Valley. Together with Bessie Azari, Paula is chairing the Upscale Sale (October 9&10) and after that plans to move to the Portland area. You will be missed, my friend. Thank you for everything and best of luck in your next adventure!

—Catherine Lutes

INTEREST GROUPS

Our Branch is proud to sponsor a variety of interest groups to help our members learn, have fun, and enjoy each other's company. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, some groups are on hiatus and most others are meeting via Zoom. Go to our website for a complete description of each group. [Interest Groups](#) Here's a handy chart showing the coordinator and when each group meets. Our new Interest Group Coordinator is Chris Donchin. Thanks, Chris!

| WEEK OF THE MONTH | MONDAY  | TUESDAY                                 | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY                                     | FRIDAY                                |
|-------------------|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1st Week          |   | Opera, 4 pm<br>ON HIATUS                | Daytime Nonfiction<br>Linda Lipkind<br>1 pm             |  |                                       |
|                   | Fiction Fans<br>Shannon Staver<br>7 pm          |   |   |  |                                       |
| 2nd Week          |   |   | Shakespeare<br>12:30 pm<br>ON HIATUS                    | Knitters & Stitches<br>Peggy Audbert<br>1 pm |                                       |
|                   |   |   |   | Mystery Mavens<br>Esther Stone<br>7 pm       |                                       |
| 3rd Week          | Musicals<br>Diane Novak<br>4:30 pm<br>ON HIATUS |   | Daytime Fiction<br>Colleen Patrick-Billy<br>1 pm        |  |                                       |
|                   |   |   | Nighttime Narrative Nonfiction<br>Gretchen King<br>7 pm |  |                                       |
| 4th Week          |   | Brain Books<br>Sondra Gaynor<br>3:30 pm | Shakespeare<br>12:30 pm<br>ON HIATUS                    | Genealogy<br>Linda Lipkind<br>1:30 pm        | Play Reading<br>Annette Lewis<br>4 pm |
|                   |   |   | Gaming Gals<br>Sylvie Whitman<br>7 pm<br>ON HIATUS      |  |                                       |

Contact the coordinator for more information: [Peggy Audbert](#) | [Sandra Coyner](#) | [Gretchen King](#) | [Annette Lewis](#) | [Linda Lipkind](#) | [Diane Novak](#) | [Colleen Patrick-Billy](#) | [Esther Stone](#) | [Shannon Staver](#) | [Sylvie Whitman](#)

The Newsletter Team took advantage of the brief respite from the COVID 19 restrictions in mid-June and enjoyed a lovely afternoon hosted by Elaine Sweet. It was so great to finally gather in person and enjoy Elaine's fabulous salad Niçoise!



Above, left to right: Ellen Fowler, Elaine Sweet, Alice Mallory, Pat Brewer, Rae Otto, Gail Engblom, above, Diane Paulson, and Chris Licata



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. We thank them for their generosity and dedication to AAUW.

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

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

Ashland Vision

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Newsletter Team

Editors: Ellen Fowler & Elaine Sweet

Layout: Chris Licata & Gail Engblom

Photographs: 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: Patricia Brewer, Alice Mallory, Rae Otto, Sylvie Whitman

Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

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.



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AAUW Ashland, 2305 Ashland St. Suite 406, Ashland, OR 97520

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