

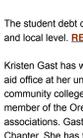


Breaking Through Barriers
AAUW Ashland Branch Monthly Newsletter

Hello <<First Name>>.



Student Debt Crisis is Focus of November 20 Branch Meeting



Here are two frightening numbers. Right now around 43.2 million borrowers in the US hold about \$1.73 trillion in outstanding student loans...

AAUW Ashland Branch will host a public discussion of "The Student Debt Crisis: Unequal Impacts on Women" on Sat., November 20, 10:30-12 noon via Zoom.

The student debt crisis and its outsized impact on women has long been a focus of AAUW at the state and local level. READ MORE

Kristen Gast has worked in financial aid for almost 15 years, starting as a federal work study student in the aid office at her undergraduate school, Austin Peay State University.

WHEN: Saturday, November 20, 10:30 am-noon, via Zoom.
The meeting will be open to the public and limited to 100 attendees.

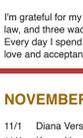
COMING UP IN JANUARY!

Women Leaders Making the Hard Decisions

Join us on January 22, 2022 for the annual Public Policy presentation, featuring Ashland City Councilors Gina DuQuenne, Tonya Graham, Paula Hyatt, and Stephanie Seffinger.

WHEN: Saturday, January 22, 10:30 am-noon via Zoom.

A Few Things I'm Grateful For in 200 Words or Less



I'm grateful for each of you in my life! We held our virtual Welcome Back meeting in September...

I'm grateful to live in Ashland, vibrant and beautiful, where, if you have to hunker down during a pandemic...

I'm grateful for masks, vaccines, health care workers, and firefighters, all working to keep us healthy and safe.

I'm grateful for clean air, rain...and so much more.

—Catherine Lutes, President

Read more about AAUW Ashland scholars in the Vision newsletter.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11/1 Diana Versteuis
11/4 Karen Heuston
11/7 Polly Hodges
11/9 Silvia Milani
11/10 Debra Barth
11/12 Victoria Giffin
11/15 Esther Stone
11/20 Anne Marie Avegno
11/20 Lan Roberts
11/29 Kathleen MacKris
11/30 Judith Basker
11/30 Susan Schaefer



LOOKING AHEAD

November Branch Meeting
November 20

January Branch Meeting
January 22

Upscale Sale: May 28-29, 2022

Click here to see the Year-at-a-Glance

IN OUR THOUGHTS

Sending warm wishes for a speedy recovery to Linda Moreland who was injured in a fall while hiking on the Olympic Peninsula.

She would really appreciate your get well wishes.

Celebrating Our Scholars: The Power of Our Stories and Our Belief

"My mom and I struggled to pay for tuition every term. We had to sell our home... I had to pick up a 3rd job, and the world just seemed to be turning so fast that my brain couldn't keep up."

Shania Evans, SOU senior in Business Administration.

Ninety-three accounts signed onto the AAUW Ashland Celebrating Our Scholars Zoom meeting on Oct. 27. Guest speakers Dr. Cathy Kemper-Pelle, Rogue Community College, and Dr. Linda Scholtz, Southern Oregon University, were also present to congratulate our awarded scholars.

SOU MBA online graduate student Aida Antonio told her family arrived in the United States, not speaking English. Her mother ended her schooling in 6th grade.

Working as a full-time teacher while attending SOU for a Master of Arts in Teaching, Jennifer Cavalier said, "I miss my grandmother, my first teacher... [I] will strive to pass on her passion for learning to my students."

Tara Crosswhite, SOU senior, is using a fifth year of undergraduate studies to prepare for physician assistant schooling.

SOU senior in art, Molly Robinson's audio recording voiced: "As a single mother early on, I had a passion for education because I knew it would lead to more equality and choices."

RCC Nursing student Lacie Lacy said, "I let fear, doubt, and insecurities talk me out of moving forward in a direction that would chase these wild ideas and dreams."

She, along with RCC students Katie Weyers (Education), and Holly Smyth (Human Services), are mothers, first-generation college students, and returning to college after an extended interruption.

Their courage, Our shared hope. Our AAUW Ashland belief in them.

Read more about the AAUW Ashland scholars in the Vision newsletter. Read the scholar profiles at AAUW Ashland Scholarships.



Celebrating Our Scholars Zoom meeting, Oct.27. Branch member Carol Florian said, "Last night was lovely and was brought to tears more than once by the stories those young women told."

New! AAUW Ashland Monthly Coffee Klatch! Mark your calendar for the first Saturday of each month from 10-11am.

You're invited to meet, chat, and drink coffee on the first Saturday of each month. Beginning Saturday, November 6, 10-11 am, let's hang out and reconnected or get to know each other.

We'll start off on Zoom, gathering at a local cafe when conditions permit. For details, please contact Catherine Greenspan, or just register using the link below.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!



Register Here

Did You Miss the October Branch Meeting?

You missed an important and informative presentation on inequities in health care for women. Click below to view the recording.

October Branch Meeting Video

Endowment Report



We are excited to reveal a new bookmark designed by Elaine Pleasant and Ginny Dugan's new Donor Recognition poster which lists members of the Platinum Society and the Named Scholarship donors.

The current balances in our endowment funds are:
SOU \$419,706
RCC \$117,608

Every year we count on the earnings on these balances to provide scholarships to female students at SOU and RCC.

Thanks for all of your support.
Endowment Committee



PUBLIC POLICY

Civics Education Now Required in Oregon Schools

Advocates for civics education in Oregon, including AAUW, have unsuccessfully tried to get a mandatory civics education requirement into the Oregon high school curriculum.

"SB 513A is a bill that begins the process of holding our schools accountable for teaching the next generation of Oregonians how to operate the most complex, complicated and often confounding structure of self-governance in human history," said Rep Paul Evans (D-Monmouth).

My 8th grade civics class laid the foundation for my civic engagement in my community, my willingness to step forward and help address issues that affect my life and the lives of my fellow citizens.

—Regina Ayars, Public Policy Chair

Upscale Sale

Do You Hear the Buzz?

Our Memorial Day Upscale Sale is only 7 months away. We have time to refine and elevate this successful fundraiser.



Sandy Burd, the book section leader for our past two sales, says, "People most often ask if I have children's books."

Greetings from your Branch Funds Chair

"AAUW is providing nearly \$5 million to more than 200 fellows and grantees in the 2021-22 award year. These exceptional recipients will pursue academic work and lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls."

Honor Someone When You Donate to AAUW
For a \$25 donation you can honor a Branch member. You can honor a living person with a Tribute, or remember someone deceased with a Memorial.



If you choose to make a named gift, make out your check to AAUW. With your check, include the address where you would like a card sent.

I made a \$25 donation to honor Nancy Kramarenko and will have the card sent to Daniel Kramarenko at 258 A Street, Ste 1, #32, Ashland, OR, 97520.

Send your check and the address to me, Besie Azari, Funds Chair, 1550 Moon Terrace, Medford, OR 97504 and I will arrange for our State Funds Chairperson, Claudia to mail a nice card.

This is a lovely way to remember an AAUW friend.

News from the District Director

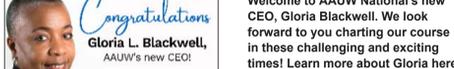
The State District Directors met via Zoom on September 30 with the Oregon State Co-Presidents Sue Klumph and Pat Lehman. The District Directors are Mary Pat Silveira (North Central), Karen King (Northeast), Susan Wahlike (Northwest), and Pam Shay (South).

Calendars out! The date for the AAUW State Conference has been set for April 7-9, 2022. If all goes according to plan, an in-person event will be held here at the Ashland Hills Hotel.

A strategic plan revision at the State level will begin before year's end. Members of the Ashland Branch will be invited to provide input to a new dynamic and simplified plan document.

All attending the Director's meeting agreed that public policy demands branch attention. So, it is hoped that the branches will continue to strengthen their participation at the local level and state level in mission-driven public policy issues.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact your District Director, Pam Shay



Congratulations
Gloria L. Blackwell,
AAUW's new CEO!

Welcome to AAUW National's new CEO, Gloria Blackwell. We look forward to you charting our course in these challenging and exciting times!

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.

The Opera Group is in need of a coordinator and has been suspended. Any opera lovers out there who'd like to step up and share your passion? Contact our Interest Group Coordinator, Chris Donchin, to get involved.

Contact the coordinator for more information: Peggy Audibert | Sandra Coynor | Christine King | Annika Lewis | Linda Lockard | Diane Novak | Colleen Patrick-Riley | Estler Stone | Shannon Stuver | Sylvie Whitman

Stay in the Loop!

Don't miss out on AAUW Ashland news and events! Add our Branch email to your address book to assure that our emails don't go to your spam or promotions file.

ashlandaauw97520@gmail.com

BOARD NOTES: SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

The full minutes are posted on our website. READ MORE

Almeda Fire Commemorative Walk I US AS WE ARE



JoCKsana Corona
Walk Organizer | Almeda Fire Survivor

The Almeda Fire Commemorative Walk is a self-guided, reflective, bilingual (English and Spanish) set of activities placed along eight (8) miles of the Bear Creek Greenway, available until November 8, 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.

Liz Murphy, CFP MBA/Financial Advisor
Raymond James Financial Services
541-779-9907
Liz.Murphy@RaymondJames.com

Sara Walker, Broker
Patricia Sprague Real Estate
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Ashland Vision

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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: Patricia Brewer, Alice Mallory, Rae Ott, 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.