

From: AAUW Ashland AshlandAAUW97520@gmail.com
Subject: Here's Your Dec.-Jan. Newsletter
Date: November 30, 2021 at 6:03 PM
To: Ellen ashlandaauw97520@gmail.com

ashland-or.aauw.net



Hello Ellen,



JANUARY FOCUS: GENDER EQUITY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Women hold less than one third (30.5%) of seats in municipal government (incorporated cities of 10,000 or more) nationwide, comparable to their presence in state and federal offices. Experts with the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), which collected the data (April 2021), said the findings dispel the myth

**Women's representation
in municipal office:**

Top states

Hawaii 50%

that women have more representation in local office.

Luckily, that is not the case in Ashland. As of the November 2020 election, Ashland has a woman mayor and four elected women council members. This is the first time that the city has had a majority female elected administration (including the city recorder position). Hopefully, it won't be the last.

Women Leaders Making the Hard Decisions

On January 22, 2022, you will hear from those four city council members: Gina DuQuenne, Tonya Graham, Paula Hyatt, and Stefani Seffinger. These women and their fellow council members spend countless hours preparing for and attending council meetings and study sessions to listen to staff reports and citizen testimony in order to make the decisions that impact our daily lives.



Gina DuQuenne



Tonya Graham



Stefani Seffinger



Paula Hyatt

Alaska 46%

Colorado 44.4

Bottom states

Indiana 20.9%

Mississippi 19%

Nebraska 17.7%

WHEN:

**Saturday, January 22,
10:30 am-noon,
via Zoom unless
otherwise announced.**

**Watch your all-member
emails for updates.**

COMING UP IN FEBRUARY!

Farm Work is Women's Work

Farm Work is Women's Work is the timely topic for the February 26 Branch Meeting, 10:30 am – 12 noon, either in person or on Zoom.

Our speakers are Program Coordinator Kathy Keesee Morales and Executive Director Dagoberto Morales of UNETE Center for Farm Worker and Immigrant Advocacy in Medford. They will discuss the struggles women immigrants and seasonal workers can face in agriculture – everything from being totally overworked and overlooked to being sexually harassed.

WHEN: Saturday, February 26, 10:30 am-noon via Zoom.

Thoughts on Peace and Grace This Holiday Season

- I try to raise my appreciation quotient. offering an



With intention and attention, these points give me a personal agenda for the holidays. I hope you can apply them to your life.

I wish you more peace and grace during this holiday season.

—Catherine Lutes, President

...and I appreciate you for your own appreciative word and a smile.

- I try to think less about myself and more about others.
- I practice empathy by focusing on how others are feeling, establishing an emotional bond helps counter the isolation many people feel during the holidays.
- I try to be easy on myself and not aim to make everything perfect, taking time out each day for private moments.
- I keep away from toxicity-- I walk away as soon as I can.
- I set limits and try to do it gracefully. It's up to me to set boundaries and politely point out when I'm uncomfortable.
- I try to detect and avoid reactive responses. They prevent me from living in the now and being open to new possibilities.
- I look for new responses, stepping outside constricted awareness; often I've seen something I never noticed before.
- I try to focus on the spiritual -- the humanity in it, the felt presence of something greater in me that sparks and warms my higher self.

Stay tuned . . .

The plan- the hope-is to welcome 2022 with our first in-person AAUW Branch meeting on January 22. We'll have social time at 10:30 am to meet and greet friends, with the wonderful program starting promptly at 11 am.

However, with the new variant causing some concern, this is not yet a definite "GO!" After these past many months, we are nothing if not flexible!

Please watch for all-member emails letting you know if the meeting will be in-person or on Zoom, as we are waiting and watching, always keeping the health and safety of our members at the forefront.

If we are, indeed, able to meet in person, we will meet in Wesley Hall of the First United Methodist Church, 175 N. Main St, Ashland. There's lots of on-site parking, and we will also be requiring proof of vaccination as required by the church..



LOOKING AHEAD

**January Branch Meeting
January 22**



**February Branch Meeting
February 26**

**State Conference in Ashland
April 7-9**

Upscale Sale: May 28-29, 2022

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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/04 Sunny Anderson
12/04 Joyce Epstein
12/04 Mary Renaud
12/05 Carolyn Ramsey
12/07 Carole Florian
12/08 Linda Lipkind
12/11 Christy Austerman
12/13 Jan Waitt
12/14 Lily Sinkovitz
12/16 Janet Troy
12/16 Margaret Dole
12/18 Carol Ryan
12/22 Susan Aaronson
12/24 Gail Engblom
12/26 Donna Wright
12/28 Peggy Audibert
12/28 Katharine Lang
12/30 Linda Barnett



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/05 Jean Conger
1/08 Bessie Azari
1/09 Marie Radke
1/11 Shannon Stuver
1/11 Vivian Stubblefield
1/12 Colleen Searle
1/14 Susan Hollandsworth
1/22 Liz Dossa
1/28 Sherri Morgan
1/30 Maureen Wilson-Jarrard

Scholar Updates In Their Own Words

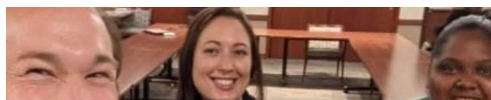
In Her Own Words: Proving Myself and Showing My Kids

Lacie Lacy, Nursing major at Rogue Community College

This academic term the most useful topics I've studied have been Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative disorders, so beneficial to my caregiving. My clinical days are spent at a long-term care facility where many of the patients have these types of chronic disorders.

The last four years have been an incredible journey of proving myself and showing my kids that you can chase your goals even when there are hurdles to get over. It's been years of hard and rewarding work. I couldn't have been able to navigate this journey as smoothly without the love and encouragement of my husband and kids, and especially my mom, who comes and lives at my house. Sunday through Tuesday

Thank you, AAUW Ashland for choosing me, and to each individual and business that has given so humbly and generously to help so many women conquer their fears and achieve their goals by lightening the financial burden.



lives at my house Sunday through Tuesday during clinical rotations. Her sacrifice and encouragement in this have been immeasurable.

I plan to graduate, and then obtain a position at a local facility, after I spend some time being only mom again. I dream to continue my education and teach other up-and-coming nurses!



*Photo left: Lacie Lacy, (front right in black jacket)
and her nursing cohort at Asante Rogue Regional
Medical Center*

Read more about the AAUW Ashland scholars in
the Vision newsletter. Read the scholar profiles
at [AAUW Ashland Scholarships](#).

In Her Own Words: Update on a Scholar

Shania Evans: Business Administration-Management major at SOU

A first generation college student, she nearly dropped out of college due to family hardship. But, awarded an AAUW Ashland scholarship, she was able to persevere to new opportunities. "I have been accepted as one of nine students into a new SOU program, '100,000 Strong in the Americas: 2022 Initiative.'

This is an international business exchange program where I will be able to immerse myself

in the world of international business and partnerships. Come January at Harry & David, I will be promoted to a full-time position as an HR Recruiter and SEO Assistant, after finishing my internship there."

Shania's experience as a near-dropout shows the importance of our AAUW Ashland scholarships in making a difference!



Shania Evans (center) with her cohort of Harry & David interns



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.
On Saturday, December 4, 10-11 am, let's hang out and reconnect or get to know each other.
If you're a new member, learn more about AAUW and our Branch.

We'll start off on Zoom, gathering at a local café when conditions permit.
For details, please contact Catherine Greenspan, or just register using the link below.
After registering, you'll receive a confirmation email with information on joining the meeting.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!



[Register Here](#)

Did You Miss the November Branch Meeting?

You missed an important and informative presentation by Kristin Gast, SOU Financial Aid Director, on the student debt crisis and its disproportionate impact on women.
Click below to view the recording.

[November Branch Meeting Video](#)



Endowment Report

Have You Reached That Special Age?

That special age is 72! If you've reached 72 by 12/31/21, you are required to take minimum distributions from your retirements accounts to avoid paying a substantial federal income tax penalty. **The rules are a bit complicated, so please consult your financial advisor for guidance.** For information from the IRS, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Want to donate to a favorite charity (such as our

You'll need the EINs of each charitable organization. Be sure to designate "Ashland AAUW Endowment" as the recipient. For 2021 tax benefits, the gift must be *received* by the endowments by 12/21/21.

SOU Foundation
23-7030910
1250 Siskiyou Blvd.
Ashland OR 97520

want to donate to a favorite charity (such as our AAUW Ashland endowment funds) and get a federal income tax benefit, too? Charitable gifts given directly from a retirement account can be deducted from the taxable portion of your RMD, thus reducing the amount you'll owe the IRS!

You can even set up a separate account with check-writing ability to make your donations even easier!

Ashland OR 97520

RCC Foundation
93-0777701
3345 Redwood Hwy, Building H
Grants Pass OR 97527

We hope you'll consider making a gift to our endowment funds to help our Branch offer scholarships in perpetuity to female students at SOU and RCC.

Contact Jean Conger with questions.



PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Where is the Affordable Housing?

The City of Ashland needs affordable housing. About 31% of homeowners and 63% of renters are cost-burdened (paying more than 50% of monthly income for housing) in Ashland. Currently 3,395 Ashland households have incomes of \$33,000 or less. As Ashland grows, demand for housing for low-to-moderate income households will also grow. (Source: ECONorthwest, January 5, 2021).

Ashland has taken one step to support development of affordable housing by allowing more housing per lot. In June 2021, the City Council adopted zoning code changes to allow duplexes on single-family zoned lots. Ashland now defines a duplex as two dwellings, either attached to one another or not, located on one lot.

In 2019, the Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 2001 which requires "medium" cities such as Ashland to amend local zoning codes to allow duplexes on single-family zoned residential lots. A medium city is a city with population between 10,000 and 25,000 and outside the Portland Metro boundary. Ashland's 2020 population estimate from Portland State University is 21,106 (Source: City of Ashland staff).

Construction of duplexes will increase affordable housing opportunities and benefit households that are currently paying very high percentages of their income on housing.

-Lisa Verner, Public Policy Team



Upscale Sale

Do You Hear the Buzz?

Vinyl (records) are back in style, and; not just a nostalgic wink at the past. Some say a superior sound is produced by a 78 on a turntable. Dust off your old vinyl collection and donate records in good condition to our Memorial Day Upscale Sale.

The Beach Boys, Abba, Tina Turner, anyone?

—Bessie and Pam, Sale Co-chairs



GIVE THE BEST GIFT!

Hey, Members:

Struggling to find a stellar holiday gift for that person who doesn't need any more stuff? (Not even more wine or cats!)

Consider giving a 2022-2023 AAUW Ashland Branch & National membership to someone – young or older, female or male – who'd enjoy being part of our dynamic group. We're 140+ strong now and have lots of big plans going forward.

The cost is only **\$125** (membership runs July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023) and the return on investment is incalculable.



For more information and a gift application, contact Membership Chair [Susan Hollandsworth](#)



News from the WiN committee

Each January, Ashland AAUW has traditionally honored and acknowledged the staff and residents of Dunn House, the only domestic violence shelter in Jackson County. The statistics continue to be overwhelming. One in 9 girls and 1 in 53 boys under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult. Dunn House, under the auspices of Community Works, provides a temporary 30- day emergency shelter for those fleeing domestic or sexual violence or sex trafficking. One of the most difficult challenges is finding safe housing for the survivors when they are ready to leave the shelter. In the spring of 2022 Community Works plans to break ground on a 12-bedroom complex for safe and secure housing for adults and children as they transition from the shelter. There will be comprehensive long term case management and supportive services coupled with safe housing. Community Works needs the financial support of the community to help complete this project. For detailed information [CLICK HERE](#).

—Gretchen King and Carol Ryan
WiN (Women In Need) Committee

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](#)

Contact the coordinator for more information: [Peggy Audibert](#) | [Sandra Coyner](#) | [Gretchen King](#) | [Linda Lipkind](#) | [Diane Novak](#) | [Colleen Patrick-Riley](#) | [Esther 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: October 25, 2021

The full minutes are posted on our website. [READ MORE](#)

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

Ashland Vision

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

**Vol. 36, No. 4 — December 2021-January
2022**

Newsletter Team

Editors: Ellen Fowler, Gail Engblom & Elaine Sweet

Layout: Chris Licata & Gail Engblom

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 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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