

COMING UP

GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, March 7, 10 am

Rogue Credit Union

(McAndrews & Poplar)

FEATURED PROGRAM: COLLEGE DREAMS

Kim DeSimone & Jenifer Perry,
Presenters

SHORT PROGRAM:

GRANDMAS-2-GO with Linda Otto

See page 2.

AAUW MISSION

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

President's Message *by Bonnie Goldfein*

The results from the **2019 Members Survey** are in and tallied, showing mixed results. Our branch numbered 94 members plus 6 student members in 2019, but the Survey was completed by only 30 members. To me, this means that the results are of interest, but they cannot reflect the opinions of the branch members as a whole. *[Survey Tally & Comments are attached]*

For the 30 respondents, their main motivations for joining AAUW were a belief in our Mission and the desire to meet new friends, followed by the draw of our interest groups. These ladies indicated that they have been heavily involved in the branch's activities and they avidly support our fundraising for local scholarships. I thank them for their responses and their comments.

None of the responses will come as a surprise to anyone, I expect. But these results reveal an endemic challenge for the Medford branch: A service organization of nearly 100 members cannot continue to thrive on the backs of the same 30 (or so) members. We need to reach out to the other 60+ current members for greater participation and do everything possible to attract new, active members. Please bring a friend/prospective member to our meetings. Medford AAUW is counting on you!

YOUR TIME IS SHORT!

Phantom Tea Party

by Patty Finch & Jackie Baker



The party will be "over" for this year on **March 31**, so — if you have not yet tucked your check in the yellow envelope — we urge you to send us your contribution

ASAP (or bring it to the March 7th meeting).

BONUS! We will have a lovely basket to award to one Phantom Tea Party donor at our March meeting. **Be present...** You might win!

Our scholarship recipients appreciate every dollar you send.

Thank you so much!

AAUW HOSTS TOWN HALL

On Saturday, February 22, our Medford AAUW hosted the Town Hall featuring District 3 State Senator Jeff Golden. The Library's large meeting room was filled with about 80 people — 15 of them our branch members (Thank you for coming!) — for 90 minutes of lively questions-and-answers that followed Bonnie's intro and the Senator's opening remarks. The success of this event was thanks to the



work of **Camille Korsmo**, who coordinated the event with Adam Lohman of the Senator's staff (pictured at left with volunteers Gayle Clayson & Stormi Backus). A big thank-you also to the rest of the AAUW "welcome" team: Anne Newins, Joan Rycraft, Cathy de-Wolfe, Marlene Olson, Shiena Polehn and Terese Stevens.



SATURDAY, MARCH 7 MEETING

by Carol Schaefer & Valerie Barr

Help from the Cradle through College!

SHORT PROGRAM



In 2008 Linda Otto developed the **Grandmas2Go** Family Coaches program, whose mission is to mentor, nurture and support struggling and at-risk families with babies (newborn through age 3) during the critical years of infant brain growth. This program is alleviating stress, strengthening families, and re-building 'the village and the extended family model' that has sustained our species for eons.

At Grandmas2Go, we say that if one caring adult can change the life of a child ... Just imagine what a team of grandmas can do!
— *Linda Otto*



FEATURED PROGRAM

presented by **Kim DeSimone & Jenifer Perry**

The Mission of College Dreams is to increase access to opportunities, remove barriers and prepare low-income, first generation and under-represented youth to thrive in school, college and careers. In 1998, Judie and Tom Drummond began a pilot program with 33 middle school kids in Grants Pass. College Dreams now serves young people throughout Josephine, Jackson and Douglas Counties.

Program evaluations show that Dreamers: drop out of high school 62% less frequently, earn 6 to 10 times as much financial aid, and have an 80% six-year college graduation rate, far exceeding the 11% rate for low income, first generation students.

College Dreams' Talent Research Program Director Kim DeSimone, MSW, and WIA Program Manager Jenifer Perry will tell us about this innovative approach that makes "college dreams" into reality for disadvantaged kids in our area. As they share their passion with us, you will feel inspired. (We promise!)

MEMBERS MATTER

by Sandy Heath



**What is the backbone of AAUW?
Our members, of course!**

Each of us brings a special dynamic to our group – leadership, confidence, experience, knowledge, skillset, etc. Friendships are made and nurtured. We learn from each other. We network. We advocate. We provide needed scholarships for young women, help others in our community, and promote the values of AAUW. And we have fun.

It is important for us to grow our membership! Our visibility in the community makes a difference, but YOU can make the biggest difference! Inviting friends, co-workers, and other acquaintances to our events and meetings is the most effective way to get the word out and increase our numbers. (Also, direct them to our website, **Medford-or.aauw.net.**)

Please take a look around you: Do you know anyone looking to make a difference and have fun? You don't know until you ask...

REMINDER

Please bring cleaning supplies for relocated Rogue Retreat families when you come to the March 7 meeting.





In Memoriam

BETTY ROSENKRANZ

February 8, 2020

A gentle soul and lifelong
advocate for children.

Her many friends in AAUW
will miss her dearly.



by Yvette McCulley

AAUW members at the February 1 branch meeting brought along a generous assortment of usable STEM building materials for **Kid Time** and handed them off to our Short Program presenter Connor Reese, Director of Museum Education.

Everyone at Kid Time is very appreciative of the generous support from our members. Thank you all!

Also, some of you asked about giving money to the museum. You may contact one of the following Kid Time staff if you wish to do so:

Kevin Bendaw: kevin@kid-time.org

Sunny Spicer: sunny@kid-time.org

PUBLIC POLICY by Gayle Clason, Public Policy Chair

The 2020 Oregon Legislative Session that began February 3rd runs through March 8th. **The issues supported by AAUW include these:**

HB 4076 Age Discrimination Task Force Bill (TOP PRIORITY) During last session, we supported the bill to make age discrimination unlawful, but the bill did not make it to a vote. Now supporters including AAUW and AARP, Oregon Trial Lawyers and Rep. Carla Piluso support creating a task force to examine age discrimination in Oregon workplaces.

HB 4005 Firearms Safe Storage If someone obtains an unsecured firearm and injures a person or property, the owner is liable for the injury. It's a Class A misdemeanor if a minor obtains an unsecured firearm when the owner knew (or should have known) that a minor could gain unauthorized access.

HB 4132 Student Health Survey While the Oregon Health Authority has conducted the Oregon Healthy Teens Survey for several years, now this bill means the Survey will be statutorily funded, co-produced with the Oregon Department of Education and seeks to amplify the intent of the 2019 Student Success Act that sought data on school climate and the health/well being of Oregon students.

HB 4133 Funding for Domestic Violence Co-Location This program is would fully authorize and fund domestic violence advocates co-located within DHS offices, now fully funding an existing program that had suffered personnel layoffs because of the Oregon Department of Social Service's previous allocation formula.

Funding for the Family Preservation Project at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. This program for incarcerated women and families was established in 2019, but it requires funding.

SB 1559 & HB 4078 Vaping The **SB** seeks to ban sales of "flavored inhalant delivery system products or vaping products. The **HB** bans the distribution and sale of vaping products through the internet.

HB 4040 Family Treatment Court This proposal sets up a Family Treatment Court for Coos, Clackamas, Douglas, **Jackson** and Marion Counties" to improve outcomes in child welfare cases [ultimately leading to safe and permanent placements.]

SB 1540 Licensing for Student Loan Services This bill requires that persons servicing student loans must obtain a license, which must be periodically renewed. A requirement proposed in 2019 that licensees must get extensive education was removed, partly because it significantly reduces the amount the state must pay to enact the statute.

HB 4010 Federal Tax Opportunity Zone Disconnect A complicated but important measure: Oregon's disconnection from federal tax breaks created by the President's 2017 tax plan means that the monies not subject to federal taxation would have to be added back to state revenue to be available to pay for education, social services, etc., in Oregon. [For more detail, see "**OPPORTUNITY ZONES**" explanation on page 6.]

HB 4124 & SB 1524 Campaign Finance Reform The State Public Policy Committee has been closely following this issue. Governor Brown indicated that she would not support campaign finance reform legislation during this Session has cast doubt on whether campaign finance reform will be enacted now.



CELEBRATING MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 Diana Butts	19 Teri Moser
10 Sharon Shatswell	20 Sandy Heath
12 Linda Otto	24 Donna Corey
13 Sue Thornburg	27 Jan Purkeypille
14 Mae Boren	29 Kathleen O'Reilly

Annual Garden Tour Saturday June 13

by Marlene Olson

We are proud to present this Tour, which gives 100% of its profits to local scholarships for deserving women and girls.



This year our **six gardens** are in East Medford. We are delighted that three of the garden owners — Trudy Bridgers, Carolyn Chamberlin and Yvette McCulley — are members of our branch!

Let us show our support for these talented and generous members by inviting your friends and neighbors to join you in touring these gardens. Tickets will be available in the spring at interest groups, branch meetings and at local vendors.

RUTH BADER GINSBURG

March 15, 1933

Most of us know quite a lot about Justice Ginsburg, thanks to two excellent movie bios about her, 2017's "On the Basis of Sex" and CNN's recent "RBG."



Justice Ginsburg's life and career are inspirational to everyone, but especially to women. Even though she was a Phi Beta Kappa, graduated from Cornell the top female in her class and had a law degree from Columbia, Ruth Bader could not get a job in the legal profession — because she was not a man. This personal experience with gender inequality no doubt impelled her to begin what has been a lifelong quest to find ways to bring gender equality into the American workplace and into all of our lives.

She gained national and international recognition for her successful fight for women's rights as she rose through the ranks of our judicial system, achieving her appointment by President Clinton to the Supreme Court in 1993. Despite a number of serious physical challenges, Justice Ginsburg continues to be a powerful voice for gender equality in America.

Southern Oregon KidSpree 2020 SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

by Valerie Barr & Ellen Jones

AAUW joins JC Penney and community organizations, including Soroptimists, Medford and Ashland Rotaries, Medford Kiwanis, to provide economically disadvantaged school-age children throughout Jackson County with approximately \$125 credit to purchase back-to-school clothing. Each child receives breakfast and a backpack with school and dental supplies.



You and your family are warmly invited to enjoy a fundraiser pancake breakfast for KidSpree at Applebees in Medford on Saturday, March 21 from 8 to 10 a.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$8.00 each from Valerie Barr at vbarr1@gmail.com or at the door on the morning of the event.

Then mark your calendars for **KidSpree 2020**, coming on **Saturday, August 8 from 7 to 9 a.m.** We'll need plenty of volunteers!

FUN WITH FRIENDS

AAUW INTEREST GROUPS

These groups provide opportunities for members to meet others who share a similar interest. All groups are free of charge. Members wanting information may call or email group's contact person or contact Donna Corey at donnacorey6@msn.com.

WINE & WHINE

by Jan Purkeypile

Again, we are going to visit a winery that was supportive to our AAUW Hoedown. On Friday, **March 13th** at 2:00pm, we will visit **Dana Campbell Vineyards**, 1320 N. Mountain Avenue, Ashland.

Please let me know by Wednesday, **March 11th** if you will be joining us. Hope to see you there!

LUNCH BUNCH

by Sharon Shatswell

We will meet at 11:30 at **Tap and Vine** (559 Medford Center) on **March 10th**. Please RSVP to Sharon.shatswell5@gmail.com by March 7.

DESSERT BRIDGE

by Pat Stoddard

First Wednesday Dessert Bridge will be at **my home**, 2159 Coker Butte Rd. at 12:30 on **March 4th**. Please get a sub if you cannot attend and let me know who is subbing. My contact number: 541-890-3828.

HAPPY BOOKERS

by Patty Finch

We will meet on Tuesday, **March 17** at 1:30 pm at **Therese Stevens' home** (4424 Vista Pointe Drive) to discuss *Astrid & Veronika* by Linda Olsson. Marlene Olsson will lead our discussion.

MORNING BOOK GROUP

by Mary Wright Gillespie

We will meet on Wednesday, **March 25** at 10:00 am in the **Chetco Room**. Janice Williams will lead the discussion on *The Lost City of the Monkey God* by Douglas Preston.

Sharon Purkerson and Mary Wright Gillespie are the con-

MURDER MOST LITERARY

by Mary Wright Gillespie

Our group will meet on Thursday, **March 12** at 7:00 pm in the **Chetco Room**. The challenge is to read a mystery written by one of the authors who died this past year.

Mary Wright Gillespie is the contact person.

OUT & ABOUT CALENDAR 2020

by Janet Brougher

March 1, Sunday at 2pm "IF/THEN," a musical at Main Stage Theatre, SOU in Ashland

March 8, Sunday at 2pm "A Little Night Music" at the Camelot Theatre in Talent

May 1,2 or **May 8,9** at 7:30pm Next Stage Repertory Company at the Craterian performing "Title of Show"—an original Broadway musical.

May 30, 31 2pm, *Pericles* by Wm. Shakespeare, Main Stage Theatre, SOU Ashland.

Mark your calendar!

2020 HOE DOWN
at Bayer Family Estates

Save the date...



Sunday, September 13, 2020

4-8 pm

We are working hard to put this event together. A fun time was had by all last year and we hope to make the event bigger and better this year.

If you would like to help us put this event on, please contact Jan Purkeypile at janpurkeypile@yahoo.com.

 **AAUW FUNDS**
by Mary Wright Gillespie, Funds Chair

As members of AAUW we support the mission of promoting equity for women and girls, some of our money goes for Fellowships and Grants and for research and public policy. A favorite of our branch is the Legal Advocacy Fund. As contributions are made to AAUW Funds, these tax-deductible donations are specified to particular areas as chosen by the donor.

The final accounting for the money our branch contributed to AAUW Funds in the year 2019 was **\$10,680.32**. This remarkable contribution deserves a huge thank-you to each member of the Medford branch.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Carol Koszyk

GOOD NEWS! Janet Brougher has agreed to continue as Secretary for board meetings, joining **Cathy deWolfe**, who will continue as General Meeting Secretary. Outgoing VP/Finance **Monica Weyhe** is talking with a potential VP/Finance candidate. (Hope these talks go well!)

OTHER NEWS: The position of branch **President** is still available. Note: This can be a shared position, as it has been often in the past. Would YOU step up to be President or Co-President for 2020-2021? The branch needs you!

We also may still need **VP/Programs (or two Co-VPs)**. Our current Program VPs have a list of “unused” program ideas, so you’d have a great start for next season’s programs. Please volunteer!

OPPORTUNITY ZONES *continued from Public Policy on page 3*

As a little more detail, the 2017 plan provided that if an investor accrues capital gains on an investment and then places these monies into so-called “Opportunity Zone” funds, they could defer payment of capital gains until 2026. If the Opportunity Zone investment is kept for at least 5 years, the “basis” in the Opportunity Zone investment would be reduced, and reduced even further at the 7 year mark. Capital gains generated by these investments are completely tax-free if they are held in the fund for at least ten years.

Lest we think that Opportunity Zones benefit low income individuals, history does not bear that out. The tax plan failed to include a requirement that it benefit for low income individuals, and in fact may foster gentrification. The only definition of opportunity zones are that they be “economically distressed communities,” or near these communities. In Portland, most of these Opportunity Zone investments have been made in the Pearl.



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DON'T FORGET ME... I'm always here!
I'M YOUR LOCAL AAUW WEBSITE:
medford-or.aauw.net

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MEDFORD AAUW

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