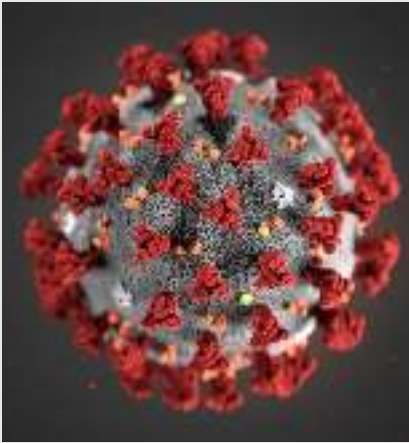


**SPECIAL PANDEMIC EDITION**



**AAUW MISSION**

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

**President’s Message** *by Bonnie Goldfein*

Many thanks to everyone who responded to my request for answers to this month’s Pandemic Survey. You will see these contributions throughout this edition of *Musings*.

While there is no denying that life is very different this spring from springs that have gone before, the pandemic has given us the opportunity to see what “sterner stuff” we are made of, as we draw on our individual creativity to enhance our days of isolation.



*Looking like a robber, but only shopping for flowers*

Tex and I have tried online grocery shopping for the first time (worked great!), raided the games cabinet to play UpWords and other long-forgotten board games, and caught up on my writing and our home projects in organizing and gardening. We have also learned to use Zoom with the grandkids and have binge-watched “Hamish Macbeth,” “Wycliff” and quite a few other series on Amazon Prime and Netflix.

So life in isolation isn’t “normal,” but it’s ok... for now. Here’s hoping we’ll all have the opportunity to be together again soon.



**What advice do you have for others who are going through these strange times?**

“Limit how much news you watch while still staying up-to-date. Listen to the specialist in the medical community and not people who claim to know what’s going on.

**“Dr. Fauci is the country’s newest medical rock star.”**

*Ellen Jones*

Thank you to the generous AAUW members who shared their time to read RCC Scholarship applications this year. RCC had almost **400 applicants** for these scholarships, so every person who read applications was a huge help in the award process .

**(SEE ASSOCIATED ARTICLE, PAGE 4.)**



The AAUW team who joined me in this rewarding task were: Val Bar, Jackie Baker, Camille Korsmo, Marcia Simon, Monica Weyhe and Marlene Olson.

*Gail Etchie, Scholarship Chair*

## Pandemic “Lifestyles”

What favorite activities are you enjoying during isolation?



An afternoon nap out in the garden makes every day a good day!  
*Yvette McCulley*

For years I've acquired books to read “someday,” and I'm reading a lot now that “someday” is here. Ditto for yarn saved up for projects to do when time permits. I've been making a lot of cards, trying to use colored envelopes saved from junk mail and scraps from previous projects. (See below.) I find these activities meditative, as is baking. I've made a lot of scones and cookies. Certainly I enjoy them, but I also can leave them on the doorsteps of neighbors and friends w/out making personal contact.

*Camille Korsmo*

### WALKING and BIKING

Continuing a daily regimen of outdoor exercise is important for Ellen Jones, Carol Koszyk, Sherry Schroeder, Cathy deWolfe and others. Janet Brougher says, “Our dog Tesla gets three long walks around the neighborhood each day for exercise and also joins me for downward dog yoga poses and stretches.”



Yep, I am bored. I love to be around others so much that I find my dog, Britt, isn't much of a conversationalist. She is, however, insistent on daily walks.



**SUNBONNET SUE**

When this started, I was busy preparing for a class in “quilt as you go” for the Sewing Guild, and I have completed two quilts so far. (See *Sunbonnet Sue*, on left). These examples will be given to charity when I no longer need examples for students to see.

I snack and clean and purge junk, and snack, read books (I am caught up with the **NEW YORKER**), do crosswords and other puzzles (jigsaws, too). Did I

mention Snacking? Daily via email, I receive many cartoons from friends to help me giggle. Friends are great, so my friends in AAUW, stay well until we meet again.

*Gayle Clason*

## Shiena's Adventure

I had a funny little happening...

I had a mild heart attack one night at about midnight (at least I thought it was). My son rushed me to the Providence Hospital's Emergency.

A couple of young men were the only ones to greet me and they didn't know what to do, so they started putting all kinds of masks and other PPE on me and on others around me. Obviously, they thought I had positive virus-you-know-what.



They left me on a table for an hour with only my son there to say a word. We told each other jokes while the silence around us continued. We called for “any sort of help,” but mostly, nothing happened. When a nurse's aide finally appeared, we told her we were going home, since obviously, no doctor was available to see me.

So we left... with me still wearing all my masks and PPE equipment.

Went home and had a glass of wine!

*Shiena Polehn*



Here are two examples of the cards I've been making. On Day 3 of self-isolation, I finally learned how to fold an origami kimono (Card above right). After years of trying printed directions, watching a YouTube video did the trick!

*Camille Korsmo*



## REMINDERS OF...



As the wife of an airline Captain, this compares in some ways to 9/11. It was a time we had never experienced and was more than challenging mentally and financially.

Also, the past two years, as many know, I lost my dad and my best friend. Being myopic in priorities, counting my blessings, and reaching out to others for needed mental support are all coming in handy right now.

Someone you know always has it much worse than you do, so think of others whenever possible. It will lighten your own load and help you make it through these times.

*Sherry Schroeder*



I was a senior in high school when President John Kennedy was assassinated. Several of my friends lost their lives in Vietnam War, and on 9/11 my niece was a nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City. She was one of the first to help people dig out of the fallen Twin Towers.

*Patty Herkert*

### REACH OUT TO HELP OTHERS

Maslow Project, P.O. Box 999, Medford, OR 97501 AND Rogue Retreat, 711 East Main Street, #25, Medford, OR 97504.

## THE "NEW NORMAL"

Thanks to Zoom, my group of friends who practice Italian is now meeting and it is great to see their faces again. Grandmas2Go had our first meeting via Zoom in April, too.

*Paulette Avery*



I am still a working teacher, teaching virtually in my home office. It takes a computer, 2 iPads, and my cell



phone. I am creating lessons and recording them while talking to myself., attending virtual meetings, answering emails from coworkers, parents and students, sometimes all at once. This is exhausting and not what I signed up for! I have had to cancel guest speakers, field trips, and products from companies. I have solved more problems in the last few days than I did all last year. The only good things are: no behavior

problems, not spending an hour and a half a day driving, and I figure I am saving \$100 a month on gas. See there is a silver lining!

*Joann Nadell*



I'm off to Antarctica, on a lifesaving mission . . . Gona hang out with the penguins, til this nasty virus is beat to submission. Just in case, there too, T.P. is an issue . . . I'm a bringing lots & lots a bathroom tissue.



**Sharon Purkerson's sign outside her Manor apartment**



From a website on how to make face masks for the pandemic, I used the patterns and instructions to sew about twenty face masks for our household, some friends & relatives.

*Janet Brougher*

## MORE PANDEMIC PANORAMA



We did embark on a major kitchen remodel just as things shut down, so we have our makeshift kitchen (microwave and toaster oven), a big, black plastic wall protecting our gutted kitchen space and our dining room table in the middle of our living room.

Timing is everything..... We hope to have our cabinets (at long last) the first week in May!

*Diane Reiling*

It's easy to dwell on what's wrong in these crazy times – the quarantine, canceled Hawaii trip, postponed graduation, missing my friends, no visits with grandchildren, no birthday celebration, facemasks, and the tense uncertain future that lies ahead. I've (mostly) decided to see what's right – learned how to ZOOM for business and pleasure, made a dent in our 'to-do' list, found good old and new TV, unlimited garden time, **long walks with my husband** (pictured), and experimental "creative" cooking.

*Sandy Heath*



I text, call, and video chat with family and friends, but really miss being with them in person!

Being home so much and seeking comfort from food seems to lead too easily to gaining weight, so I am trying not to overdo and to continue going out for walks in the neighborhood and working out via online sessions.

I think this need for isolation is going to continue for some time yet, but I eagerly await the chance to return to our AAUW activities so we can be together again!

*Paulette Avery*

## SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON CANCELLED

*Mary Wright Gillespie*

Social distancing prevents us from having our annual Scholarship Luncheon at this time. It is a great disappointment not to hold the annual luncheon honoring our scholarship recipients, but cancelling the event is the only choice.

Next month we hope to announce the names of the scholarship winners, but that information is not public until the schools release it. A big thank you to **Gail Etchie** for her work with the team in the selection process.

*(Please see accompanying article on page 1.)*

## In Our Thoughts

*All of us in the Medford Branch have **Hindey Moser** in our thoughts and prayers as she faces serious health challenges.*

*Friends of Hindey organized a special **DRIVE-BY** past her home on April 18th to show their love for this lovely woman and wonderful friend.*



**BE WELL, HINDEY**



# AAUW **BRANCH UPDATES**

## AAUW FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT

by Mary Wright Gillespie

On Sunday, April 19, the Oregon-Washington State Convention met by Zoom to hold the business meeting. The following information about our branch was submitted in the program book:

- ◆ **Major Donor** Sherry Schroeder honored her father, John Taylor Mast.
- ◆ Virginia McGraw celebrates 27 years in the **Leaders' Circle**.
- ◆ **Century Club** milestones: Cecelia Thorp, 23 years; Shiena Polehn, 22 years; Jacquelyne Baker, 21 years; Cathy deWolfe, 17 years.
- ◆ Mary Wright Gillespie marks 17 years in the **Associates Circle**.
- ◆ Milestones marked by **Friends of the Foundation**: Carolyn Schenler, 16 years; Sherry Schroeder, 13 years; Marilyn Olson, 14 years; and Carol Bogedain, 7 years.
- ◆ **Century Club +** members: Carolyn Schenler, 16 years; Joyce Ellis, 9 years; Regula Pepi, 8 years; Christine Bate, 3 years.
- ◆ Celebrating 14 years in the **Equity Circle**: Lynda Hansen.
- ◆ **Century Club** members: Patricia Finch, 8 years; Dee Wittenberg, 6 years; Carole Chumbler, 3 years; James Hoftiezer, 2 years; Diane Butts, 1 year; Nancy Walden, 1 year.

### BRANCH ACCOLADES:

Medford Branch was **THIRD** in the **Top 10 Branches** for **ANNUAL GIVING** (\$10,680.32) and **FOURTH** in **PER CAPITA GIVING**, at \$114.84. **MEMORIAL GIFTS** were made by **Diane Butts** and **Carole Chumbler**. **Shiena Polehn** gave a Tribute to **Naurine McCormick**. Six of our members are included in the **Legacy Circle**: **Carol Bogedain, Cathy deWolfe, Joan Enloe, Gail Etchie, Mary Wright Gillespie, and Sherry Schroeder.**



## 2020 NAMED GIFT HONOREES



**SANDY HEATH**



**SHARON SHATSWELL**

### TIME TO RENEW!

Now thru June 30 is the time to pay **DUES** for our 2020-2021 year, which begins July 1. Please send me the renewal (or new) member form that was eblasted & is on the website, along with your check to **AAUW Medford, PO Box 1204, Medford, 97501. Our Branch can renew members with checks ONLY at this point.**

Please contact me if you want to renew online at the National website with a credit card, because I must send you an email with a specific link for you to click on. It is not possible now to renew by going into your national account.



The Board recently approved a new **Helping Hands Fund**, with monies coming solely

from member contributions. **If you need assistance during uncertain economic times, you may apply for up to half of your dues amount.** Information and forms are available on our website (Medford-or.aauw.net) and through email blasts sent to members.

**Monica Weyhe, VP/Finance**  
monicaw655@gmail.com

## WHAT I MISS MOST...



Volunteer work at the library and the Friends of the Medford Library book store; all AAUW activities; in-person church services on Sunday; not being able to eat out (cooking is not a favorite activity of mine). And having to cancel my April trip to Sicily and London.

*Cathy deWolfe*

We enjoy going out to dinner and going to wineries & breweries with friends. If I'm being honest, I miss shopping!

*Ellen Jones*



**Ellen's number in the 2020 VIRTUAL Pear Blossom Run**

It feels as if my life is "on hold". I have been in this state at other times, but it was always related to a potential move. This is very different as nobody really knows when our "Physical Distancing" will end. I look forward to seeing you all when it is safe for us to be together again. For now, please take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

*Carol Koszyk*

I miss all my AAUW Bridge friends, duplicate bridge activities, and playing bridge with others in person. Also, I sorely miss the AAUW Convention and my trip with Joan Rycraft to and from. We always enjoy our time together. As I don't do ZOOM, I will miss voting as a delegate.



*Sherry Schroeder*



I really miss the YMCA aerobics classes I attended 4 times a week. I am now exercising at home to Denise Austin (She is amazing!) and added the pedometer app to my phone and walk at least 2 miles each time I do not do the workout.

*Patty Herkert*

## AAUW - Now More Than Ever

I trust you are deep into social distancing and taking care of yourself. I sincerely hope all is well with you, especially during these unprecedented times.



All of us are finding ways to reach out to each other at all levels and understanding that our work/Mission is more important than ever before. I am writing to let you know AAUW leadership is calm, focused, compassionate and flexible. It is so gratifying to know that our national staff is actively working virtually to move the mission as well as support each other.

If you didn't have the opportunity to participate in the Tuesday, March 24, webinar for all members, it is on the national website and **soooooo** informative and inspiring. The content includes how we continue, what we are doing, why our Mission matters now, and what we can do. Take a look and encourage others.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if needed. Or if you simply want a conversation. And, for a direct national office contact, [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) is still operating.

**Mardy Stevens, National Director**  
AAUW Medford Branch Dual Member  
503-669-0452

**P.S.** You can access the webinar at: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/connected-community/>



## THESE CANNOT BE MISSED! CELEBRATING MAY BIRTHDAYS

13 Pat Collins	16 Patty Finch
14 Sharon Fox	16 Naurine McCormick
14 Pat Stoddard	19 Carolyn Chamberlain
	28 Cathy deWolfe

# FUN WITH FRIENDS\*

## AAUW INTEREST GROUPS

During the uncertain times associated with the coronavirus pandemic, regularly scheduled gatherings of many social groups are suspended. If you are a member of any of our Interest Groups, please contact the person listed below with your group's entry for the latest updates about your group's plans.

### WINE & WHINE

Jan Purkeypile



janpurkeypile@yahoo.com

### LUNCH BUNCH

Mary Fowler



mlfowler 1951@gmail.com

### DINE (Dinner Is Never Enough)



Joan Rycraft jrycraft@charter.net

### OUT & ABOUT CALENDAR 2020



Janet Brougher

jjbrougher@gmail.com

### DESSERT BRIDGE

Pat Stoddard



Phone Pat: 541 890-3828.

### MURDER MOST LITERARY

Mary Wright Gillespie

Contact: Mary at 541 857-6083.

### HAPPY BOOKERS

Patty Finch

talkingwolf.pf@gmail.com

### MORNING BOOK GROUP

Mary Wright Gillespie

Contact: Mary at 541 857-6083 or Sharon Purkerson, 541 857-6513.

**\* THE "NEW NORMAL" for some Interest Groups: Using ZOOM, emails, phone calls and texts to STAY CONNECTED!**



Kim Churches gave this strongly worded advice with which I concur: "You MUST follow your Governor's and Mayor's guidance. We at National have strongly advised absolutely NO meetings in person for the foreseeable future for all affiliates (branches/states), and in compliance with local/state guidance/orders. Our state/local laws supersede in this exceedingly difficult time. Better for all AAUW members to absolutely shelter in place and meet virtually via Skype, FaceTime, Zoom or conference calls." As President of AAUW of Oregon I am strongly advising that all branches **do not have any in-person meetings** until Governor Brown lifts her "Stay at Home" order. That includes Interest group meetings. **NO BRANCH** should sanction **ANY** meetings of **ANY** group within the branch.

*Georgia Applegate, President AAUW Oregon*



## GARDEN TOUR POSTPONED

*Marlene Olson, 2020-2021 Tour Chair*

The 2020 Garden Tour Steering Committee regretfully announces the postponement of the June 13, 2020 Tour due to COVID-19. The many unknowns about the status of the virus in June raise serious concerns for garden owners and volunteers who would take unnecessary health risks for the Tour, so this difficult decision is necessary.

I want to acknowledge the work given on the 2020 Tour by many of our branch members. Accolades to Carol Koszyk, Sandy Heath & Liz Caldwell (locating gardens); Barbara Basden, Gail Etchie, Marcia Simon & Diane Reiling (the booklet and collaterals); Patty Finch and Mary Fowler (securing coordinators & greeters); Carol Koszyk, Gail Etchie & Judy Blue (obtaining vendors); Paulette Avery & Glenda Sims (publicity); and Jackie Baker for arranging for us to participate in the Master Gardener Fair (*also canceled*).

We have rescheduled the Tour for **June 12, 2021**. The wonderful news is that the garden owners (including three of our members: **Yvette McCulley, Trudy Bridgers & Carolyn Chamberlin**) have agreed to display their gardens in 2021. I am proud of our members for rallying behind this unforeseen challenge and committing to making the Tour in 2021 successful.



**SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 12, 2021!**



**DON'T FORGET ME... I'm always here!**  
**I'M YOUR LOCAL AAUW WEBSITE:**  
**[medford-or.aauw.net](http://medford-or.aauw.net)**

**Stay informed!**

**Webmaster: Jean Foley**



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