

# HOORAY!



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Please note dates and times on your calendars. We will send the Zoom link in an eBlast well before each meeting.

### GENERAL MEETINGS

Saturday, January 9 10 am

Thursday, February 4 7 pm

Saturday, March 6 10 am

Thursday, April 1 7 pm

Saturday, May 1\* 10 am

Thursday, June 3 7 pm

### BOARD MEETINGS

Thursday, January 21 6 pm

Thursday, April 22 6 pm

All Branch members invited!

*\* This meeting replaces the usual Scholarship Luncheon.*

*If you need help with accessing Zoom, please contact the Musings Editor the first week in the month to be put in touch with a branch member who can help.*

## AAUW MISSION

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

## President's Message

by Carol Koszyk

**Happy New Year 2021!** This is a brand-new year, with the promise of better times.

Our branch initiated our "Phone Connection" in December. Helping me to call every member on the phone to ask, "How are you?" were **Carol Bogedain, Pat Dege, Sandy Heath, Ellen Jones, Yvette McCulley and Zee Nickerson.** We are thankful to report that everybody was "Covid-free" and safe at that time. It was enjoyable to speak with our members!

You may have noticed that we are starting our monthly General Meetings on Zoom with a "Social Time." Just log onto Zoom up to 30 minutes before the scheduled meeting time to join us to have time to chat.

Our December 8th meeting was extra-special as 31 of us came! This was a bonus for the Maslow Project, since one generous branch member had agreed in advance to donate \$5 for each person who attended the December meeting. Wow! We thank her for her donation of **\$155** to the Maslow Project. (See p. 2.)

As we move into a new year, we have some important tasks ahead. Please entertain the thought that you will volunteer:

- It is time for our **Nominating Committee** to begin finding our next elected leaders. Our bylaws stipulate that we need 5 folks for the Nominating Committee. It is a short job, meeting only 1 time. It usually takes a few hours.
- We need a **2021 Garden Tour Coordinator.** Most of the ground work for the June 12th Tour has been done, since many of the preparations were completed for the 2020 Garden Tour that had to be cancelled (gardens secured, booklet done, ads sold and money collected, committee heads ready to update everything for 2021, etc.). Please consider coordinating it all for our Branch. This is a super-enjoyable project and we need you!

Contact me if any of these opportunities are charming to you; **OR**, if you have any questions! I promise to find an answer for you.

My heartfelt thanks go to every person who has been working for our Branch. Every single effort that you all do benefits our entire group and I am extremely appreciative. (You all know who you are!!) Thank you. You make my job so much better with your help.





# HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

At our December 8th General Meeting, Kristen Sullivan, a Board member of Historic Jacksonville, Inc., entertained our 30 attending Branch members with an enjoyable — and enlightening — presentation about the origins of many of the Christmas Holiday traditions we observe today. She pointed out that it was not until the era of Queen Victoria that Christmas became a special observance with elaborate decorations, lavish meals and gift-giving; and the idea of Santa Claus came along much later, even though the 1823 poem “A Visit from St. Nicholas,” attributed to Clement Clark Moore, introduced a “jolly old elf” in a flying sleigh full of toys pulled by reindeer. (We learned that the poem was published anonymously, though, leaving its authorship in question for many.) Nevertheless, as Kristen told us, traditions about gift-giving around Christmas (including Christmas stockings and the source, type and placement of gifts) vary widely even today, depending on where you live in the world.



Kristen’s presentation was the perfect kick-off for the Holiday Season, and we thank Robin Smith for arranging this special Zoom presentation!

Thanks also to these 30 Branch members (& Kristen) whose attendance on December 8th generated \$155 for the Maslow Project: Carol Koszyk, Camille Korsmo, Sandy Heath, Judie Salter, Pat Stoddard, Robin Smith, Yvette McCulley, Carol Julian, Joyce Ellis, Joann Nadell, Jackie Baker, Ellen Jones, Charlotte Park, Pat Dege, Therese Stevens, Teri Moser, Carole Chumbler, Judy Blue, Patty Finch, Carol Bogedain, Steve Corelis, Gayle Clason, Mae Boren, Olena Black, Monica Weyhe, Janet Brougher, Megan Capp, Tanya McHenry, Ronnie Budge and Bonnie Goldfein.

# PHANTOM TEA PARTY 2021

by Jackie Baker

**This year will be a lot different. But we ARE going to have the Phantom Tea Party!**

As far as we know now, this may be our only fund-raiser in 2021. To let you know how significant this event will be, I want to share that from the end of 2018 until the end of 2019, the total funds raised by our combined events amounted to approximately **\$27,000** for local scholarships. This year we plan to include **AAUW Funds** in our Tea Party invitation. As you know, AAUW Funds support national grants and fellowships for graduate programs. Mary Gillespie is chair of AAUW Funds.



You will receive your tea and invitation to donate in the mail about the first week of January. There is also a special treat designed and brought to you by our in-house tea expert, **Camille Korsmo**. On the back of your invitation there are specific instructions to help you with how to donate. If you have questions, I have included my name and phone number on the invitation.



Thank you for all you do for AAUW, the Medford Branch and for women and girls!

**N**  
**E**  
**X**  
**T**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2021 at 10 AM**

*program arranged by Loretta Sias*



Maslow's Director, Mary Ferrell, will join us via Zoom, discussing the Project's mission in general, as well as specific ways the Project has been helping fire victims since September 9th.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021 at 7 pm on ZOOM**

Judge Pat Crain will tell us what she has been doing since retiring from the Jackson County Circuit Court in a talk called "Traveling Judge."



by Yvette McCulley, S.T.E.M. Director

The AAUW Medford Branch STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) Committee has been meeting and planning activities for the calendar year 2021. If you are interested in being a part of the group, please contact me at [yvette@abie.us](mailto:yvette@abie.us).

The committee has decided to partner with **KidTime Children’s Museum** and **The Ivy School** (preschool) again this year. The museum has moved to their new location at 413 West Main Street (the old library). If you are interested in volunteering time, please contact Kristi Reynolds (Contact below). Can you donate any of these materials for kids to use for their STEM projects?

- Pinecones** - all sizes
- Kids’ cold weather **gloves** and hats (all sizes)
- Kids’ **rain boots** (size7-12)
- OLD keyboards, calculators, adding machines, typewriters**, or other **old tech materials** for the kids to take apart
- Spring bulbs** (tulips, hyacinths, daffodils) - We will be planting on January 16<sup>th</sup>
- Cardboard rolls** from paper towels or toilet paper
- Corks** from bottles
- Leftover **wallpaper**

For donation drop-offs or pick-ups, please contact Kristi: [kristi@kid-time.org](mailto:kristi@kid-time.org) or 541-772-9922.

Our committee is working on other partnership opportunities within the museum, as well as new partnerships for this year. Current plans include: creating a STEM children’s library, recreating the Reader’s Theater STEM play for elementary students, and organizing the first **Rogue Valley Girls STEM Expo** with a **May 22, 2021** event date. If you are interested in joining all this fun, please contact me (Yvette).



## Needed: SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REVIEWERS!

by Tanya McHenry

It’s that time of year again! Yes, you guessed right... It’s the time of year for us to come together to prepare for the scholarships that Medford AAUW will award to SOU and RCC students in 2021. I am looking for a handful of members to be our **reviewers** for the scholarship applications. Hard-working students have already begun the scholarship search and application process for the coming year, and I can assure you of one thing: There are going to be wonderful opportunities for us to assist with their journey for higher education.



**AAUW Scholarships can help make this a reality for women at RCC & SOU!**

I would love to hear from any members who have participated as reviewers in previous years, as I want to hear about your experiences. Even if you are not able to rejoin us this year, I would still enjoy hearing from you to benefit from your guidance.

**If you are eager to be a reviewer for the first time, please reach out to me!** (Email below)

I expect our journey through RCC’s system will be a little earlier than usual — perhaps as early as January. Our RCC contact will let me know when it is available. Otherwise, we’re looking at around February/March as the start for this application process.

As a side note: RCC has made a system-wide update to their software, which means the coming scholarship season will be slightly different from before. I am looking forward to getting a login into this new system. Once it’s received, I will receive training, and then I will take the opportunity to try out the system myself. This will give me a chance to see how it works before everyone else gets onboard. (I don’t know about the rest of you, but I find new software — even with the bumps and the confusion — so exciting... the spice of IT life!)

Questions? Please contact me: [mchenryta@gmail.com](mailto:mchenryta@gmail.com).



### MEDFORD AAUW MEMBERS

It’s easy to stay informed!

Sign up for **AAUW’s 2-Minute Activist** at [aauw.org/Two-minute](http://aauw.org/Two-minute)



# AAUW FUNDS

by Mary Wright Gillespie, AAUW Funds Chair

AAUW of Oregon held a ZOOM training session on December 9 led by Claudia Gray and Betsy McDowell, our Oregon State Funds chairs. Betsy McDowell indicated that the Endowments held by AAUW are fully funded and worth one hundred million dollars. One issue today is that the income from interest is so low that it takes a group of endowments to fund a person, where it used to take only two or three. The national organization has moved to focus on four funds and all of our favorites are included in these.

The four are:  
**Economic Security Fund, Education and Training Fund, Leadership Fund and Governance and Sustainability Fund.** Research is included in all four. A favorite of our branch, **Legal Advocacy Fund**, is included in the Economic Security Fund. The LAF is fully funded each year. The **Greatest Need Fund** is the one promoted the most, as it offers flexibility. It does include operations cost, but not salaries. It is encouraging to hear how our organization is managing during these times of struggle.

Thank you as always for your end-of-the-year gifts.



## MEMBERS MATTER

by Sandy Heath & Ellen Jones

Our **2020-21 Membership Directory** has been mailed! If you didn't receive your copy or if you would like to report errors/changes, please contact either Ellen at 209-756-3202 or [emjones57@gmail.com](mailto:emjones57@gmail.com) or Sandy at 503-701-2644 or [sgheath2@outlook.com](mailto:sgheath2@outlook.com)).

We thank our president **Carol Koszyk** and heartily second the thanks from her (*page 1*) to the volunteers who joined the two of us in the December kick-off of our **Phone Connection: Carol Bogedain, Pat Dege, Yvette McCulley & Zee Nickerson**. We also thank our newest volunteers for this member outreach: **Regula Pepi, Pat Stoddard and Sue Thornburg**. We plan to periodically check in with our members. If you would like to add your name to the volunteers for **Phone Connection**, please contact Sandy, Ellen or Carol Koszyk at 541-601-6837 or email [thekoszyks@msn.com](mailto:thekoszyks@msn.com).



*NOTE: If you prefer not to be contacted by our volunteers, please let us know.*



Coming Soon:

## AAUW Art Contest

Are you a passionate painter? Skillful sketch artist? Phenomenal photographer? Get ready to show off your talent by entering AAUW's **12th Annual Contest!**

Submissions are accepted **January 6** through **February 3**. Go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) to learn how to submit your work. Members can **VOTE** for their favorite entries starting **February 10th**.

**Mark your calendar!**



# PUBLIC POLICY

by Gayle Clason, Public Policy Chair

**Opinion: Kim Churches, AAUW CEO**

## COVID-19 is a Nightmare for Working Moms. Policymakers Must React.

Excerpt from *Newsweek* October 26, 2020

A program manager for a mid-size non-profit, the woman excelled at her work and felt torn about leaving a job she loved, but she quit.



She had two little kids, and her child care costs added up to almost as much as her take-home pay. "The stress of the pandemic was the breaking point... She just needed to simplify her family's life." The challenges families face blending work and home life have been simmering beneath the surface for decades. Now the pandemic is shining a bright spotlight, underscoring the systemic barriers working families face. The net result: economic progress women have made in recent decades is frighteningly at risk.

Think about child care—full time infant care runs from \$5,500 per year in Mississippi to an astonishing \$24,000 in Washington, D.C. When families crunch the numbers, some discover that daycare or babysitters eat up much, if not all, of one person's salary. And often women—who still make on average just 82 cents for every dollar paid to a man—are the ones to call it quits. That may make sense in the short-term, but the long-term consequences are significant. When women leave their jobs, they lose out on annual salary increases, employee benefits, retirement savings and the opportunity to advance in their careers. Re-entering the workforce is difficult...losses are never fully recouped.

We need to double down on our efforts to close the gender pay gap so women aren't automatically the ones to sacrifice jobs.



*Find the link to full article on line at [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org)*

# JANUARY



## CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS!

6 Carol Rugg

11 Patricia Herkert

11 Camille Korsmo

16 Judy Blue

22 Ellen Jones





# FUN WITH FRIENDS

## AAUW INTEREST GROUPS

These small groups provide opportunities for members to meet others who share a similar interest. All groups are free of charge. Members may contact one of the group contacts at any time or Therese Stevens, Interest Groups/ACT Chairperson, for more information.

### MURDER MOST LITERARY

Our Zoom meeting will be on **Thursday, January 14** at 7pm. The bibliography is based on **Funeral-Based Jobs** and many have funny twist and hilarious titles. **Joyce Ellis** will lead the discussion.

Contact **Mary Wright Gillespie** (541-857-6083).



### HAPPY BOOKERS

We will be meeting on **Wednesday, January 20th** at 2:30 via ZOOM. We will not be able to have our holiday lunch and book exchange, but we are going to make the most of things and meet in fellowship to talk about one of our favorite topics, **BOOKS**. Questions? Please contact **Therese Stevens** at 541-601-0101 or [tmstevens56@gmail.com](mailto:tmstevens56@gmail.com).

### AAUW SOCIAL CLUB

The only thing you need is a way to **get on ZOOM** and have a beverage of your choice! It is perfectly matched to Covid – no need to wear a mask!

You are invited to join our next gathering on **Tuesday, January 5** at 4 pm to just talk, listen and get to know each other better. Looking forward to seeing you next time!



Contact **Carol Koszyk** at 541 608-7799 to learn more.



## ACT UPDATE

### WINTER IS HERE & IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!

Here again is the Maslow Project's **LIST** of most-needed items for people who are living without a warm place to rest:

- \* **No-cook high protein snacks** (peanut butter, tuna/salmon packets, Vienna sausage tins, Spam) & soup
- \* **Hand- & foot-warmers**
- \* **New socks & underwear in a variety of styles & sizes**
- \* **Hygiene products:** deodorant, family-size shampoo & conditioner, toothpaste (kids too!), toothbrushes.
- \* **Feminine Hygiene products** (pads, tampons, hygiene wipes)
- \* **Sleeping bags & tents/tarps**
- \* **Raincoats/ponchos**

If you would like to make a donation of some item(s), phone 541-608-6868 to arrange a drop-off time. For \$\$ donations, mail **CHECKS** to: Maslow Project, PO Box 999, Medford, OR 97501, OR go directly to Maslow's website: [www.maslowproject.com/donate](http://www.maslowproject.com/donate).



# FUN "on hold" for now

## DINE (Dinner Is Never Enough)

Good friends, laughter and wine enhance the experience. When things return to "normal," we hope to meet again at restaurants at 6 pm the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. For updates on 2021 plans, please contact **Therese Stevens** at 541-601-0101.



## LUNCH BUNCH

We are a congenial group of ladies who like to go out for lunch! In more normal times, we have met on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30 am at a local restaurant. Venue is decided at the previous lunch by the group. For 2021 plans, please email **Mary Fowler** at [mlfowler1951@gmail.com](mailto:mlfowler1951@gmail.com).



## WINE & WHINE

Our **Wine and Whine** group has suspended our schedule of get-togethers until it is safe for our group to visit local wineries again. If you would like to be notified about our group's plans to resume meeting, please contact **Jan Purkeypille** at 541-621-4916.



## MORNING BOOK GROUP

Previously, we have met the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Chetco Room of Skyline Plaza at 10 am. For an update on 2021 plans, please contact **Mary Wright Gillespie** at 541-857-6083 or **Sharon Purkerson** at 541-857-6513.



## GREAT DECISIONS

Our group encourages discussion and debate of the important global challenges of our time. While we are **not a book group**, we base our discussions on the study book and DVD presentation published for each topic by the Foreign Policy Association. For information about our 2021 schedule, please contact **Janice Williams** (541-857-6300) or email at [janice.m.williams@gmail.com](mailto:janice.m.williams@gmail.com).



## DESSERT BRIDGE

Normally, we have met the first Wednesday each month at 12:30 pm for dessert and "party" bridge in members' homes. Players also have the option to plan a "no host" lunch at a restaurant before we play, in which case we meet at the venue at 11:30 am. For updates, contact **Pat Stoddard** (541-890-3828) or email Pat at [patstoddard@gmail.com](mailto:patstoddard@gmail.com).



## MAH JONG

We have met the second and fourth Mondays of each month to play a version of American-Far East style Mah Jong. We do not use cards for hands. We have been meeting at the Quail's Nest Bistro at the Manor at 1:30 PM and play from 2 to 4 PM. Everyone is welcome. For 2021 schedule, contact **Jackie Baker** at 541-857-6849.



## OUT & ABOUT

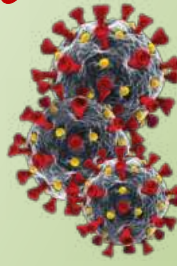
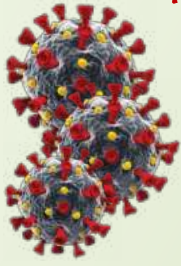


When it is safe to do so, we hope to attend community activities (theatre, art shows, music and other events) again. Anyone may suggest an outing and all are welcome to attend any event. For 2021 plans, please contact **Janet Brougher**, at 541-857-2862 or email [jjbrougher@gmail.com](mailto:jjbrougher@gmail.com).



**To set up a ZOOM meeting** for your Interest Group or other AAUW gathering, you can email **Vikki Piper** at [vpiper@sti.net](mailto:vpiper@sti.net) with this information: Meeting name (Board Meeting, Committee, Wine & Whine...); meeting date, time and duration; and if this meeting is recurrent — on the same day/week each month, etc. Vikki will set up the meeting and then email you with the meeting ID and password. You can then forward the information to your group.

## *A Visit from Pandemic*



'Twas the year 2020  
And all 'round the globe  
The people were catching  
A brand-new microbe.

They called it "Corona"  
Or CoVid-19  
But whatever you called it,  
This bugger was MEAN!

We couldn't leave home  
Without wearing a mask  
(To curb a pandemic,  
It's little to ask!)

With business restrictions,  
The sick wall-to-wall  
Things kept getting worse  
Through the summer and fall

No handshakes, no hugs  
We just sat in our room  
Dressed only waist-up  
For our meetings on ZOOM

Then what on our TV News 12 did we hear?  
We'll have a vaccine by the first of the year!

So, wild celebrations  
This Holiday Season  
Are not about Santa...  
The VACCINE's the reason!

It's only two needles  
And after it's done  
We can safely look forward  
To year '21!

*... Bonnie Goldfein*



**DON'T FORGET ME... I'm always here!**

**I'M YOUR LOCAL AAUW WEBSITE:**

**medford-or.aauw.net**

**Stay informed!**

**Webmaster: Jean Foley**



**MEDFORD AAUW**

**P.O. BOX 1204**

**MEDFORD, OR 97501**

### **MEDFORD LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**President Carol Koszyk**  
541 608-7799 thekoszyks@msn.com

**Finance VP Carol Julian**

**Membership Co-VPs**  
**Sandy Heath** (503) 701-2644  
**Ellen Jones** (209) 756-3202

**Program Committee**  
**Gayle Clason, Camille Korsmo,**  
**Loretta Sias, Robin Smith**

**Secretaries**  
**Janet Brougher**  
**Cathy deWolfe**

**MUWCF Liaison to Branch**  
**Patty Finch**

**AAUW Funds Mary Wright Gillespie**  
**Communications Director**  
**Monica Weyhe**  
**Interest Groups/ACT Chair**  
**Therese Stevens**  
**Public Policy Chair Gayle Clason**  
**Scholarship Liaison Tanya McHenry**  
**S.T.E.M. Director Yvette McCulley**

### **MEDFORD UNIVERSITY WOMEN CHARITABLE FUND (MUWCF)**

**President Paulette Avery**

**Musings Editor Bonnie Goldfein**  
**541 295-9361**