

Happy Easter!



AAUW MISSION

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

President's Message

by Carol Koszyk

Happy Spring to all! Our biggest AAUW news this month is that all members can attend our Annual Oregon AAUW Meeting free of charge, as it is all virtual! By this time you read this April *Musings*, we will all have received our *Oregon News* with registration details. I encourage each member to register! At our March 6th General Meeting, **Gayle Clason** announced that our Medford Branch is entitled to 5 voting delegates - our Branch's President (me) and four more. At that meeting, **Cathy deWolfe**, **Yvette McCulley**, **Sherry Schroeder** and **Monica Weyhe** volunteered as voting delegates (Thank you, Ladies!), so our voting participation is assured. Gayle is also entitled to vote as a State of Oregon AAUW Past President (Thank you, Gayle!). This meeting will feature Keynote Speaker **Jessica Vega Pederson**, a Multnomah County Commissioner & former Oregon House of Representative Member and a life-long advocate for women and children. Please sign up to attend!

Our Nominating Committee - **Janet Brougher**, **Sandy Heath**, **Ellen Jones**, **Judie Salter** and I - announce this Slate of Officers:

- President (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022): **Carol Koszyk**
- V.P. Finance (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023): **Carol Julian**
- V.P. Programs (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023): **Available**

Also available: Musings Writer-Editor (beginning with the September 2021 edition, as there are no publications in July & August)

All members will vote for our Slate of Officers at our Medford Branch's Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 1, 2021, by Zoom. Please know that **anyone can self-nominate for the VP/Programs position** by calling any Nominating Committee member before May 1st OR by speaking up at the May 1st Zoom meeting. The VP/Programs will be helped by members of our amazing Programs Committee, who have already volunteered to assist the new VP! Please consider serving our Medford Branch in this way... Our group needs you!

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

Thursday, April 1 7 pm

Saturday, May 1* 10 am

* This meeting replaces the usual Scholarship Luncheon & is our Annual Meeting.

Thursday, June 3 7 pm

BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 22 6 pm

All Branch members invited!

MUWCF MEETING

Tuesday, April 27 10 am

STATE AAUW MEETINGS

State AAUW Annual Meeting

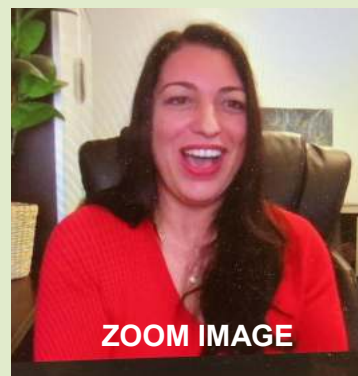
Sunday, April 18 1 pm

AAUW Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, April 20 7 pm

JESSICA GOMEZ, S.T.E.M. ROLE-MODEL EXTRAORDINAIRE!

In a very interesting presentation arranged by **Robin Smith** for our March 6th General Meeting via ZOOM, **Jessica Gomez** explained the role her company, Rogue Valley Microdevices, plays in the exciting world of designing and manufacturing the microchips that have become so much a part of our everyday lives. From cell phone chips that enable instant vertical-to-horizontal viewing to chips in discs for continuous glucose monitoring to those monitoring air quality to car navigation systems, microchips have become indispensable to the life we live these days.



Starting the company on a shoestring, Jessica and her husband have grown RVM to where they now have 30 employees and more orders than they can fill. A true success story (and a perfect example of what a woman in the S.T.E.M. field can accomplish)!

The benefits of technology using microchips have an almost limitless future, Jessica explained. Already science has discovered how microchips can detect bacteria in humans, enabling early treatment of many infectious diseases, including leprosy, cholera and tuberculosis. Soon scientists hope that microchips will enable the early detection and/or prevention of viruses (like CoVid-19). Even now we are seeing how microchip science has matched a specific vaccine to fight an individual person's cancer!

A computer glitch prevented Jessica from using her prepared slides in her presentation, but her dynamic personality made her presentation a pure delight, regardless. She offered to share her presentation & slides with students or other individuals who might be interested in her story. Please contact her at: Rogue Valley Microdevices, Inc., 943 Automation Way, Suite F, Medford, OR 97504 Phone: 541-774-1900 jgomez@roguevalleymicro.com.

Thursday, April 1 at 7 pm

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"The Oregon Climate Challenge Survives COVID"



Dr. Alan Journet will discuss what is happening with respect to the Governor's March 10, 2020 **Executive Order** which is aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions. He will begin with what the Order does and why it was developed. He also hopes to have information about what is happening in the 2021 Oregon legislative session with respect to climate issues.

Dr. Journet spent 30 years teaching biology at Southeast Missouri State University, relocating to Southern Oregon in 2010. With his wife, Dr. Kathy Conway, Alan co-founded/co-facilitates **SOCAN** -- Southern Oregon Climate Action Now, a regional group of concerned Oregonians who seek action to address global warming and its climate change consequences (www.socan.com). He has taught classes on climate change through SOCAN, at OLLI., and for other groups throughout the community.

The ZOOM link will be eBlasted to members a few days before the 1st



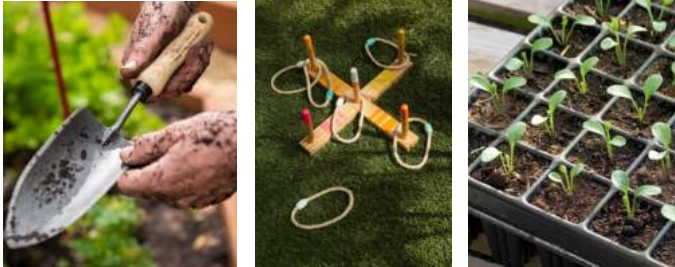
And the kids at KIDTIME want to be ready to enjoy the season!

You can help them by donating some of these kids' "NECESSITIES" for the very best spring EVER....

- **Lawn games** (Lawn Darts, Ring Toss)
- **Kids' rain boots** (sizes 7 to 12)
- **Children's books** that feature diverse characters
- **Straw bales**
- **Garden trowels**
- **Small basil, mint or chive plants** for both indoor and outdoor classrooms
- **Sunflower seeds** and **pea seeds** for planting
- **Black oil sunflower seeds** for feeding birds

The staff and kids at Kid Time Museum appreciate your generosity.

Contact your S.T.E.M. Committee for help with transporting donated items. Email Yvette at yvette@abie.us.



AAUW FUNDS

by Mary Wright Gillespie, AAUW Funds Chair

Through this year's Phantom Tea Party, AAUW Funds has collected a total of **\$2795**.



These donations will go toward funding **graduate scholarships** for women in Oregon and across our country. This is an amazing amount! A huge thanks to everyone who made a contribution.

The "umbrella" of AAUW Funds also provides financial support for women in many areas. The **Legal Advocacy Fund**, for example, provides support for women filing court charges such as harassment or discrimination.



From the Editor: Mary reminds all of us that she has a large stack of envelopes just waiting for our first in-person meeting. (You may, of course, use your own envelope at any time, if you would like to make a contribution to AAUW Funds.)



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

LET'S SUPPORT THE KIDTIME S.T.E.M. LIBRARY

Our AAUW STEM Committee is partnering with **KidTime** to help build their library with STEM-related books and games. We have researched the local Barnes & Noble Bookstore and their website and found many wonderful books, including many directed toward girls.

How you can help: Purchase a book or order a book to donate (prices vary, starting at \$7.99). Then contact one of our STEM Committee members who will arrange to pick up and deliver the book to KidTime. If you would rather make a donation for the purchase of one or more books, please contact **Ellen Jones** (emjones57@gmail.com) or **Sandy Heath** (sgheath2@outlook.com).

S.T.E.M. Committee member **Joann Nadell** discovered these books related to S.T.E.M. on the Barnes and Noble website:

What can I Be? STEM careers from A-Z by Tiffani Teachey (\$15.99)

Unofficial Minecraft STEM labs for Kids by John Miller (\$22.99)

Learning STEM from Basketball by Marne Venture (\$7.99)

Jackie the STEM Goat by Rafael Mancilla (\$12.95)

STEM Starters for Kids Engineering by Jenny Jacoby (\$6.99)

Learning STEM from Baseball by Marne Ventura (\$7.99)

Minecraft STEM Challenge: Build a City by Ann Rooney (\$11.95)

Folding Paper Airplanes with STEM by Marie Buckingham (\$7.95)

STEM Lab by Jack Challoner (\$17.99)

Kate the Chemist by Kate Biberdorf (\$12.99)

Awesome Science Experiments for Kids by Crystal Chatterton (\$14.99)

Girls Garage: How to Use Any Tool by Emily Pilloton (\$29.99)



SOME OTHER CHOICES

The local Barnes & Noble Bookstore on Biddle Road also has a large selection of STEM and other educational books in stock, or they can order books for you. Please contact any STEM Committee member mentioned in this article if you'd like to help in this worthwhile effort!

The AAUW S.T.E.M. EXPERIENCE
for ROGUE VALLEY GIRLS
(originally planned for May 22)
IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021
Watch for updates & volunteer opportunities!



PUBLIC POLICY

by Gayle Clason, Public Policy Chair

The #1 priority for Public Policy this legislative session for AAUW is **House Bill (HB) 3110**, which would require Boards of Directors of publicly traded corporation to have a specified proportion of female directors and directors who are members of under-represented communities. Violations of this mandate would incur a civil penalty (fine) of at least \$100,000. Once passed, this bill would take effect on the 91st day following adjournment. AAUW strongly supports this Bill's passage, because we believe that diversity on corporate boards is not only fair, it's good for business!



TYPICAL U.S. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This Bill has received the first public hearing. If you have an opinion on this issue, contact your legislators. Pam Marsh is a co- sponsor of this Bill.

On another note: AAUW of Oregon has been supporting civics education in high schools for the past few legislative terms. Recently, I wrote a letter of support for a hearing on **SB 513**, which requires that as of January 2026, in order to receive a high school diploma, a student must have at least one credit in Civics Education. Currently required are three credits in Social Studies. These credits must include US History (one credit) and World Civilizations (one credit), and an elective credit in Social studies (history, sociology, economics, civics, financial literacy, civics and geography).

Since 2018, no Social Studies requirement is required in the junior or senior years. (I find this strange, since many students become eligible to vote while still in high school!)

APRIL



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS!

7 Lillian Eaton Stewart

11 Anne Billeter

13 Pat Collins

14 Sharon Fox

14 Pat Stoddard

19 Carolyn Chamberlin

28 Cathy deWolfe

Oregon High School Graduation Requirements

4 credits in **English**, including English 9, 10, 11, & 1 credit of English selective.

3 credits in **Social Studies**, including U.S. History (1 credit) & World Civilizations (1 credit).*

3 credits of **Mathematics**.

3 credits of **Science**.

1 1/2 credits of **Physical Education** (unless medically excused). 1/2 credit of **Health**, preferably taken in the sophomore year.

TOTAL: A minimum of 23 credits & 40 hours (10 per year) of **community service**.

**Not required as of 2018, the junior/senior level U.S. History class*

MEMBERS ON ZOOM IN MARCH

Our president, **Carol Koszyk**, welcomed over two dozen of our members for Jessica Gomez's talk on the 6th. Most of them can be seen in the screen shot (below) provided by Monica. Thanks for attending:

Regula Pepi, Kathy Swarts, Gayle Clason, Pat Stoddard, Robin Smith, Carol Bogedain, Camille Korsmo, Mary Wright Gillespie, Jackie Baker, Sherry Schroeder, Pat Dege, Sandy Heath, Mae Boren, Ellen Jones, Joyce Ellis, Teri Moser, Monica Weyhe, Yvette McCulley, Paulette Avery, Carole Chumbler, Judie Salter, Janet Brougher, Shiena Polehn, Cathy deWolfe, Carol Julian and Bonnie Goldfein.



It's always fun to have a peek into each other's homes on ZOOM calls, but won't it be much MORE fun when we can get together again?

Advice to Cherish

by Ellen Jones

When I was 17, my mother passed away from bone cancer. She was only 53. For the next 6 years, I lived in a variety of different households while I was going to school and working. These households included (1) living with my father, his new wife and kids, (2) sharing a basement apartment with a boyfriend, (3) living with my girlfriend's mom and younger sister while my friend was away at college, (4) living with my other girlfriend and her family, where I ran errands for her mom (who didn't drive), in lieu of paying rent, and finally (5) sharing a small one-bedroom cottage with my friend Gail, whom I now have known for 50 years.

So then what? I was 23 years old and trying to find my way. I was working the swing shift at a job I detested and Gail was getting married. (She'd been my roommate for 18 months.) I knew two women who had moved to San Francisco the previous year. Knowing my situation, they suggested I move there.



Now you ask, "What's the advice I received?" Gail said, **"Try it for a year, and if you're not happy, move back."** So, I sold my VW Bug, packed some boxes that I mailed to my new address, gave everything else away, grabbed my suitcase full of clothes and flew across the country on my wild adventure.

You may have figured out what happened... I never moved back. Eleven months later, on a chance encounter, I met a guy. Tom and I were married two years later and we will be celebrating 40 years together this summer. Thanks to Gail's advice, my wild adventure was the best decision of my life!

This "Best Advice" column will be a continuing feature in Musings. Send in your story about Advice & the Advisor(s) and include an associated photo.

ZOOM FUN & HELPING OTHERS

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

We will meet by ZOOM on **Thursday, April 8 at 7:00 pm.** The topic is "Mystery Authors who Died During 2020." The theme for May will be "Mysteries and Travel" compiled by **Anne Newins.**

For information, contact **Mary Wright Gillespie** at 541-857-6083.

St. Vincent DePaul will accept donations of BAGS, clothes, furniture, small appliances, bedding, toys & other items not accepted by other agencies these days. VOLUNTEERS who clean & sanitize it all are there **Thursday, Friday & Saturday 10am - 3:30pm.** Pick-up is available, too!



HAPPY BOOKERS

We will be meeting **Wednesday April 21st at 2:30** via ZOOM to discuss *A Woman of No Importance* by **Sonja Purnell.** The discussion leader will be **Monica Weyhe.**

Any questions, please contact **Therese Stevens** at 541-601-0101 or at 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, April 6 at 4**

pm to just talk, listen and get to know each other better. Looking forward to seeing you next time!

Call **Carol Koszyk** at 541 608-7799 to learn more. (Pictured: **Shiena Polehn** looking great!)



St. Vincent DePaul Society, 2424 N Pacific Hwy, Medford. Call for information or to arrange a drop-off: **(541) 772-3828.**

YES, SPRING IS HERE, BUT.. IT'S STILL TOUGH TO LIVE OUTSIDE!

Here again is the **Maslow Project** 's **LIST** of needed items for people who are living without a warm and safe 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!), tooth-brushes.
- * **Feminine products** (pads, tampons, hygiene wipes)
- * **Sleeping bags & tents/tarps**
- * **Raincoats/ponchos**
- ****PLASTIC and BROWN PAPER BAGS** (with handles, if possible)**

If you want to make a donation of items (including bags), 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.

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 4th 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.



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.



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



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.



To set up a ZOOM meeting for your Interest Group or other AAUW gathering, you can email **Vikki Piper** at 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.



MEMBERS MATTER

Please renew your membership! Your continued involvement and support of our branch is appreciated and valued.

Nationally, AAUW is a community of more than 170,000 people standing strong for gender equity. Your membership makes our powerful voice even louder on critical issues affecting women and girls.

We are tenacious and trailblazing, advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future. Our story began when a small group of female college graduates banded together to open the doors for women's career advancement and to encourage more women to pursue higher education.

We continue that tradition today by supporting and encouraging local girls and women to explore and achieve their dreams. This includes our involvement in programs such as S.T.E.M. education for local girls & scholarships for RCC and SOU students.

Membership forms were attached with the March *Musings* or can be downloaded from www.medford-or.aauw.net. For more information, contact Co-Membership V/P's **Sandy Heath** (503) 701-2644 or **Ellen Jones** (209)756-3202.



**DON'T FORGET ME... I'm always here!
I'M YOUR LOCAL AAUW WEBSITE:**

medford-or.aauw.net

Stay informed!

Webmaster: Jean Foley



MEDFORD LEADERSHIP TEAM

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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
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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

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