



MEDFORD OREGON BRANCH

MEDFORD Musings

Volume 52, Number 2

November—December, 2024

OUR MISSION

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

President’s Message

It feels like fall is in the air, and it’s so hard to believe that October is almost gone. 2025 is around the corner, and we’ll be a quarter of the way through this century. It seems like just yesterday that we were worrying about whether all the computers would crash at the turn of the century!

Interest groups are up and running. I hope you’re finding some to join, and enjoying getting together with other interesting women. If you haven’t, there’s a list of them on pgs. 10 and 11.

I really enjoyed our fund-raiser, seeing Scapino! at the Camelot Theater. Many thanks to Mary Wright Gillespie for organizing it! And thanks to Vikki Piper, Ellen Jones, and Sandy Heath for coordinating the two cases of wine we raffled off. We raised \$1,485 for National fellowships from ticket sales and \$615 from the wine raffle for our local scholarships.

Pat Pfremmer’s presentation on becoming an investigator and using her law librarianship background was really interesting. I’m looking forward to our November meeting, when Phil Meyer of Southern Oregon PBS will be speaking. Details on pg 2.

Our holiday party is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 8. We normally collect items to be donated. This year we are supporting Medford Community Works. Kathy Swarts is still looking for volunteers for help with the party. Please contact her if you can help. (jandkswarts@charter.net. 541-821-7165) (For more information, see Pg. 8.)

Volunteering is a great way to get more involved with our group. Please consider joining one of our committees on public policy, STEaM, and programming. Contact me for any questions. (lhlistitch@gmail.com, 408-316-0004)

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting. In the meantime, stay warm and dry.

Lisa Hughes, president



The 19th Amendment makes it illegal to deny the right to vote any citizen based on their sex, which effectively granted women the right to vote. It was first introduced to Congress in 1878 and was finally certified 42 years later in 1920. Southern states were adamantly opposed to the amendment, however, and seven of them—Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Virginia—had already rejected it before Tennessee’s vote on August 18, 1920.

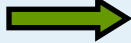
It has been 104 years and it’s still a struggle for people to be able to vote. Make sure you mail in your ballot so that it is postmarked by election day, Tuesday, November 5, or drop it in a designated box before or on election day.

Let your voice be heard. VOTE!!!

GENERAL MEETINGS

AAUW Medford Branch General Meeting Schedule 2024– 2025

Saturday, November 2, 9:30 Social, 10:00 meeting, Rogue Credit Union, Guest Speaker Phil Meyer, CEO of Southern Oregon PBS.



Sunday, December 8, Holiday Party. Our annual AAUW Holiday Party will be held on **Sunday, December 8th**, from 3:00-6:00pm at the Sun Oaks Clubhouse, 2485 Sun Oaks Drive, Medford. The cost will be \$15.00 per person, and our charitable gifting will be Medford Community Works. Please consider volunteering for the Holiday Party Committee! The menu has already been planned, and flyer will be shared on Page 8. Six volunteers would be so helpful! Our only committee meeting will be **Thursday, November 7, 2024**, from 11am-1pm, at Kathy Swarts' home: 2585 Freedom Way, Medford. Call or Text Kathy (541 821-7165). Details to follow. Contact Kathy Swarts to assist with planning.

Saturday, January 4. Guest speaker Amber Myre, Living Opportunities

Saturday, February 1, Guest speaker Kari May, executive director of Jackson County Public Libraries

Saturday, March 1 (TBD)

Thursday, April 3, 5:30 Social, meeting at 6:00, Sun Oaks Club House, (TBD)

Sunday, May 4, Sun Oaks Club House, Reception and Tea

Saturday June 7, (TBD)



Happy Holidays



NOVEMBER 2ND MEETING

Phil Meyer, CEO of Southern Oregon PBS, has worked 30+ years in public media. The recipient of four Regional Emmy Awards, he is a past PBS Communication Professional of the Year.

As an Adjunct Instructor at Indiana University for 11 years, Meyer taught Promotion and Marketing in Telecommunications. He has taught at SOU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) since 2023. Meyer has two degrees from the University of Cincinnati and a Nonprofit Management Certificate from IU.



November ... "And the dead leaves lie huddled and still, No longer blown hither and thither; At last lone aster is gone; The flowers of the witch-hazel withered ... Robert Frost

THE MUSINGS ARTICLES DUE DATE!

THE MUSINGS is published bi-monthly. Please submit items to any Musings committee member (see pg. 11 for member list) by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH** for the **JANUARY/FEBRUARY** issue.

WHEN SUBMITTING YOUR INPUT, BE SURE TO USE "MUSINGS" IN THE SUBJECT LINE. (send to sgheath2@outlook.com)
(We appreciate your photos — fun, grandchildren, vacations, gardens, etc.)

DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR NAMETAG AT OUR MEETINGS!

REMINDER — PARK IN THE GRAVEL LOT AT ROGUE CREDIT UNION MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETING RECAPS

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our September 7th meeting officially kicked off our new year as an AAUW branch. Interest Group leaders introduced their groups to new members and encouraged everyone to join in. (See Pages 10 and 11.)

Our 501(c)(3), MUWCF (Medford University Women Charitable Fund) was reviewed and members of the MUWCF Board were introduced. (See Page 4 for more information.)

OCTOBER MEETING



Many thanks for Pat Pfremmer for an outstanding and extremely interesting presentation! She is proof positive that a 2nd career can be your true calling.

The law librarian - now investigator - began her life's work at UC Santa Cruz Library as head of Government Publications; for 25 years she held the position of Santa Cruz County Law Librarian.

Then - Voila! She awoke one morning and decided she needed more personal freedom in her life, a more flexible schedule. Pat combined her knowledge of government and law, her love of research in the Digital Age, her ability to think outside the box, and her people skills to become a successful investigator.

She recounted several investigations that took daring and just a little risk!

Today she enjoys the privilege of serving a worldwide clientele from a quiet, undisclosed, scenic location. And, to top it off, she is the inspiration for a fictional character in a new detective series, PIP, Inc. Her work focuses on Complex Research Projects, locating difficult-to-find people, heir searches, and background checks. She specializes in facilitating successful adoption reunions.

Oregon News

Monica Weyhe - AAUW of Oregon Finance Vice-president

Medford Branch

Although she is not a professional accountant, Monica simplified the financial record-keeping system so that no specialized software is needed, with a reduction in actual expenses in many line items. She managed the investment of state funds to receive the best interest rates at the lowest risk.

She also worked with Wendy Cook to solve the problem of paying the budgeted travel expenses for the NCCWSL students, without asking members to front the money. She spent hours with the bank contact and found a credit card for a non-profit agency, a necessity for the NCCWSL travel agent.

In addition to her finance duties, Monica played a key role in the organization and success of the 2023 AAUW annual state conference in Ashland. She did an outstanding job as registrar, creating a system from scratch, recruiting a registration team, handling registration, and overseeing the creation of registration packets and on-site registration.



MUWCF (Medford University Women Charitable Fund)

At the September branch meeting members of the MUWCF Board described the role of MUWCF and answered questions from those present. Some questions were:

Q: Why was MUWCF formed? **Ans.** To create a 501(c)(3) to provide tax incentives for charitable donations.

Q. What is the responsibility of MUWCF? **Ans.** To be the fundraising arm of the branch.

Q. Are there guidelines for MUWCF to follow? **Ans.** Yes. MUWCF operates with By-Laws determined by the Internal Revenue Code under the laws of the state of Oregon.

Q: How does MUWCF communicate with the branch? **Ans.** A member of the MUWCF Board is a liaison to the branch. The liaison attends meetings of the branch Board meetings.

Q: Does MUWCF choose the scholarship recipients? **Ans.** No. The branch has a scholarship committee that chooses the recipients. MUWCF determines the number of scholarships to be awarded based on existing funds.

We hope this helps clarify the role of MUWCF. For additional questions, please contact Paulette Avery, MUWCF President, Marlene Olson, Vice-President, or Mary Gillespie, Board Liaison.

Forwarded by Medford AAUW member Sherry Schroeder:

Statement from AAUW National, dated October 18, 2024.

“This week brought some very sad news for our community with the passing of pay equity champion **Lilly Ledbetter**. It is heartbreaking to learn of her loss, but we will always be grateful for her steadfast commitment to women's equity and passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. If you'd like to read more about Lilly's work with AAUW, I encourage you to read a [Q&A session](#) we did with her a few years ago. You may also want to read [AAUW's statement](#) on honoring her legacy.”



(Many of us attending were fortunate to meet this amazing woman at an **AAUW OREGON CONFERENCE**. I personally found her courage something to emulate! Having been in the steel industry during the time she was at Goodyear, her fight for equal pay hit home for me. Her book is an inspiration for all! I now treasure my signed copy. Sherry Schroeder)

(Please refer to AAUW.org for more information on Lilly Ledbetter.)



We bid a fond bon voyage to long-time Medford Branch AAUW member and friend, **Gayle Clason**.



Gayle moved to Portland to be closer to her family. She has been an AAUW member since 1960(!), and we are missing her already. We are all thankful for the countless years of service to our branch and to the state of Oregon.

Gayle's most recent contributions were Morning Book Group Chair (previously known as Morning Book Discussion) and Scholarship Selection Committee (Gayle served as the Chair from 2006 to 2008). She also served as a voting member on our branches' Board of Directors as our Public Policy Chairperson from July of 2018 through June of 2021 (and also from 2004 through 2006). In the past, Gayle served as Branch President in 1971-72; Secretary at Board Meetings; Scholarship Fundraising Chairperson (our branch had this committee prior to developing our 501 (c) (3), "MUWCF"); plus many committees for our fundraisers (Garden Tour, Children's Festival, etc.).

Gayle also served at the state level as President of Oregon AAUW in 1991-93, and was an integral part of Oregon's Lobby Day for many years. She was honored by our branch an AAUW Funds Named Gift Honoree in 1974 and again, in 2015. We are greatly indebted to Gayle for all that she has done to benefit all of us. We will also greatly miss her smile, can-do attitude, her frankness and spot on assessments of situations. She has been a very good friend and colleague. We are wishing her the very best that life has to offer her in her new home.

(Check out Gayle on Google where she talks about her involvement in Rogue Valley activism. Amazing woman!)

"Gayle Clason served our Branch well with dedication to our Mission. Thank you and Bon Voyage!!"
Sherry Schroeder.

We extend our sincere sympathy to our AAUW member, **Marlene Olson**, for the loss of her partner, Doug Banks.

Doug Banks, longtime partner to branch member, Marlene Olson, died on October 23, 2024 of complications from Parkinson's Disease. Doug and Marlene moved from California to the Rogue Valley in 2002. Doug spent time volunteering and supporting many community organizations including Habitat for Humanity, Food and Friends and the Britt Society. He enjoyed skiing Mt. Ashland, hiking the hills, and doing extensive traveling. Family and friends remember Doug as a kind and loving man with a warm smile, calming presence, and gentle wit. A memorial is scheduled for November 23, 2024 at 2 p.m. at the Medford Congregational United Church of Christ (MCUCC) at 1801 E. Jackson St.



In lieu of flowers, you may donate to MCUCC, Habitat for Humanity, or the environmental organization of your choice.

VOLUNTEER!

Oregon Center for Creative Learning Volunteer Opportunities

Join Our Home Support Team

Projects pop-up throughout the year that we need help with from people at home. Examples of these projects include assembling kits, folding maps, or cutting materials. We provide all the materials for these projects.

When one of these projects pops up we will email you with the project details and deadline. You will let us know if you'd like to complete that project. There is no requirement to accept projects. Once you accept a project we do require that you complete it within the provided time frame.

Polar Express Holiday Celebration

This very popular holiday event requires a small army of volunteers including hair stylists, cocoa servers and greeters.

Saturday, December 14 and Sunday, December 15
3 Sessions to choose from each day
Volunteers must be at least 16 yrs old. Under 18 are limited to 2 sessions per day.

Monday, December 16 - Help turn the Polar Express back into the Children's Museum
Volunteers 14 yrs old or accompanied by an adult.
Sign up: <https://forms.gle/qYHa4Rpz65a9EzcAA>

All Polar Express volunteers receive 1/2 off admission cost to the Polar Express for everyone in their household. Snacks and drinks will be provided for all volunteers working at the Children's Museum. Community service certificates are available.

Spring Bulb Planting and Rose Trimming

Join us for the most popular volunteer work party of the year. We trim all the roses back and plant daffodil and tulip bulbs; laying down the groundwork for beautiful spring flower displays.

January 4th - 10 AM to 1 PM
Sign-ups will start in November
Volunteers of all ages are welcome but anyone under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Under 18 requires guardian's permission. Drinks, snacks and community service forms provided.

Want to help with this fun event but can't come? We need lots and lots of spring flower bulbs. Contact Kristi at 541-772-9922 or Kristi@tcmsso.org with questions.

Volunteering in the Children's Museum of Southern Oregon
There are several different volunteer positions available in the museum.

- Museum Floor Pop-Up Programmer* - Interact with guests and present interactive items like animal furs, musical instruments or building blocks.
- Museum Floor Program Instructor* - Present a program on a regular schedule. We can provide the program or we can work with you to develop one that is all your own. This could be dance, science, imagination, storytelling - the sky's the limit.

Contact Kristi at kristi@tcmsso.org or 541-778-0597 with questions.

List of needed donations:

- Bubble solution
- Kids' underwear (new, sizes 3T, 4T, 5T)
- Spring bulbs (daffodils, tulips, crocus)
- Acorns
- Nature items like pine cones, seed pods, lichens, fleece
- Magnets - all sizes and types
- Mardi gras beads

New Member Spotlight!



Ardith Lynch: *I grew up in Western New York and then moved to Oregon to attend Reed College. After graduation, I worked in Portland as a paralegal while deciding whether to go to law school. When that job ended, I went to visit a friend in Fairbanks, Alaska, and stayed for 38 years, except for three years to go to law school at Lewis and Clark in Portland.*

My husband Jim Cannon (who is also a lawyer) and I raised two daughters in Fairbanks. They are now in their thirties and both have relocated to Colorado.

My practice of law was primarily as in-house counsel for governmental bodies, including the State of Alaska, the Fairbanks North Star Borough (the equivalent of a county, including the school district) and finally the University of Alaska, where I worked in the General Counsel's office for 13 years before I retired. Early in my career I realized that I preferred to provide preventative advice to avoid problems rather than litigate after the problems occurred.

After our younger daughter graduated from college, Jim and I retired and sold our house in Fairbanks, having had enough long, cold, dark winters. We bought a small trailer and travelled around the United States for over two years, seeing 38 national parks, visiting friends, and deciding where to relocate. In 2018, we finally decided on Ashland for several reasons including the beauty of the area, the climate, and the proximity to my family who have all relocated to the Bay Area.

My interests include traveling, camping, gardening, swing dancing, playing bridge, and learning to speak French. I look forward to making new friends through AAUW!

New Member Spotlight!

Lucinda Olson grew up in Eugene, Oregon but spent most of her adult life living in Sedona, Arizona while raising a family. Currently her son, Reid and family live in Austin, Texas, and have a beautiful 2-year-old daughter, Hazel. Lucinda's daughter, Camille, lives in Bluffton, South Carolina. Both locations are great places to travel and visit.



Much of her professional career was as a Certified Public Accountant, working in industry as a CFO/COO. As interesting as work was, she feels retirement is so much more fun!

In 2015 Lucinda returned to Oregon to take care of her aging parents and received the gift of caring for them as they transitioned. Later she ended up in Southern Oregon where she met her husband, Tom Dyer. She loves gardening, quilt making, cooking, volunteering and together Tom and Lucinda spend much of their time making fused glass art and glass art mosaics. No cars in their garage----just four kilns and glass...glass...glass.

MEDFORD AAUW INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY!! STeAM Director

An Appointed, Voting Officer on the Medford AAUW Board



Note that for our branch, we include an "A" for Art, as we want to encourage the Arts, as well. In regard to the National and State - we use the STEM title.

Be the liaison for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) at the National and State level. This includes receiving information from same via email (or other communication); and when deemed necessary, informing our branch board and/or members.

Be the coordinator for any STE(A)M projects that our branch does. Past projects included a Readers Theater program about Women in STE(A)M and a planned, one day event for 6th grade girls that was cancelled due to COVID. **(Recruit Branch members for project committees, as needed.)**

Write articles for the Musings as needed. Attend Board Meetings as a voting member (4 -5 a year)

Per our Bylaws, submit reports to the President as requested. Contact Lisa Hughes for information or if you're interested.

Help us reach out to our young women to introduce them to the fun and wonder of STEM!

Happy Birthday



7th Connie Smith
10th Monica Weyhe
14th Alicia Van Riggs
19th Paulette Avery
20th Lan Roberts
23rd Pat Dege
24th Sherry Schroeder
30th Joan Rycraft

Zodiac signs: Scorpio & Sagittarius
Birthstone: Yellow Topaz & Citrine
Flower: Chrysanthemum
HOLIDAYS

1st All Saints Day / Diwali
3rd End of Daylight Savings Time
5th Election Day — VOTE!!
11th Veterans Day
13th World Kindness Day
28th Thanksgiving
29th Black Friday



4th Bea Frederickson
4th Mary Wright Gillespie
9th Nancy Nabozny
13th Jean Foley
14th Carolyn Schenler
23rd Carole Chumbler
26th Carole Grady
26th Marlene Olson

Zodiac sign: Sagittarius & Capricorn
Birthstone: Blue Topaz & Turquoise
Flower: Holly, Poinsettia, Narcissus, Orchid

1st First Sunday of Advent
7th Nat'l Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
8th Bodhi Day
15th Bill of Rights Day
21st Winter Solstice
25th 1st Night of Hanukkah and Christmas Day
26th Boxing Day and 1st Night of Kwanzaa
31st New Year's Eve

Please sign up for the *Holiday Party* Committee at the November 2nd general meeting. Note that a Planning Meeting is scheduled for Thursday November 7, 2024, 11am-1pm
Kathy Swarts' Home
2585 Freedom Way
Medford
541 821-7165 (cell) or 541 500-1004 (home)



Another reminder to EXERCISE YOUR VOTING RIGHTS!!

The 19th Amendment (ratified in 1920) stated United States citizens could not be denied the right to vote on account of sex. The 15th Amendment was ratified in 1870, and it states: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude.

Finally our right to vote was further strengthened by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to eliminate all requirements (such as a "vote tax", which was a way to keep someone from voting if they did not have the money to vote) other than proving one is a United States citizen as defined by the 14th Amendment.



**A HOLIDAY
GATHERING
FOR OUR
MEDFORD AAUW**



**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 2024 AAUW
HOLIDAY PARTY!**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024, FROM 3:00-
6:00PM**

**AT THE SUN OAKS CLUBHOUSE,
2485 SUN OAKS DRIVE, MEDFORD**

COST: \$15.00 PER PERSON

**CALL OR TEXT FOR RESERVATIONS, OR PAY AT
NOVEMBER AAUW MEETING!-**

**SANDY HEATH 503 701-2644(c) OR CAROL
KOSZYK 541 601-6837(c)**

HOLIDAY BUFFET DINNER PROVIDED

HOLIDAY FRUIT SALAD STARTERS

ROASTED PORK LOIN WITH HOLIDAY SAGE STUFFING

**ROASTED YUKON GOLD POTATOES WITH BUTTER AND
ROSEMARY**

**VEGETABLE MEDLEY OF ASPARAGUS , BROCCOLI,
AND CARROTS**

VEGETARIAN ENTRÉE: BUTTERNUT SQUASH RISOTTO

DINNER ROLLS WITH BUTTER

DESSERTS: PECAN PIE, APPLE PIE, TUXEDO CAKE

WINE AND PROSECCO

COFFEE, TEA

ENTERTAINMENT

CHRISTMAS MUSIC TO ENJOY!

A SHARING OF CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

GIVING

**THIS YEAR, WE ARE DONATING TO MEDFORD COMMUNITY
WORKS. IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE, BRING A WRAPPED
GIFT (SUCH AS WINTER WEAR ITEMS AND/OR TOILETRIES),
TO SHARE WITH A NEEDY PERSON.**