

OUR MISSION:

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



AAUW FUNDRAISER  
AT CAMELOT THEATER

CONTACT MARY GILLESPIE  
FOR YOUR CAMELOT  
TICKETS (\$35 ea)

mwgillespiervm@gmail.com  
Or (541) 857-6083

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1st

*SPOTLIGHT ON TONY BENNETT!*

THANKS to all of you who bought tickets for the AAUW Funds Camelot Theater fundraiser scheduled for Wednesday, October 1st. Currently, 73 tickets have been sold. We have covered our branch cost of the theater.

For those members yet to buy tickets to support this effort, **WE NEED YOU**. Mary Gillespie is currently gladly continuing ticket sales as our Ticket Coordinator and AAUW FUNDS Chair. If you are unable to attend, please think of sending a student, a neighbor, friend, your hairdresser, favorite waitress or gardener as a thank you. "Checkbook support" is also a way for you to be supportive. No work or time commitment is involved for this opportunity to assist. **If each remaining member buys just one ticket over the summer through September, we will reach our goal of selling out the theater's 150 seats!** New members, this is your chance to get involved, meet new friends in the lobby or socialize while buying raffle tickets. Your assistance will allow for grants, fellowships, and continuing higher level education to advance our mission and vision goals. Thanks to each and every one of you!!

**Third Annual Wine and Gift Baskets Raffle! More Winners, More Prizes**

Once again we're gathering your quality wine donations for the October 1st benefit  
at the Camelot Theatre.

Proceeds from the raffle go toward our local scholarships.  
Please bring your wine donations to our September meeting.

Contact Ellen Jones or Vikki Piper for more information.

Please bring your  
checkbook or cash —  
Tickets are \$5 ea or  
5 for \$20.

## President's Message — 2025 State Convention

I thoroughly enjoyed the chance to attend AAUW Oregon's 2025 Conference!

The keynote presentation was a screening of the documentary, "Space, Hope and Charity", about astrophysicist **Charity Woodrum**, PhD., who grew up in rural Oregon. She was the first in her family to graduate from high school, and then went on to study nursing. She began taking classes in physics just because she was interested in it, not because she saw a career in it. She had never met a scientist. And then came what she calls "The Worst Day", when her world was destroyed. With help from friends, she found her way back to the distant galaxies. She is a NASA Postdoctoral Fellow with the James Webb Space Telescope Team at Goddard Space Flight Center, researching how galaxies evolve over cosmic time. Both Charity and Sandy Cummings, the director/producer/writer of the documentary, were there. She is such an inspiring woman!



We also heard **Betty LaDuke** speak, reflecting on her eight decades as an activist artist. She has traveled the world, working to capture the dignity and resilience of people who work hard just to keep their families alive, and has had a permanent installation at Medford Airport, focusing on farm workers. For these, she worked on ¾ inch sheets of plywood, which were cut into shape and routed by her assistant, and then she applied many layers of paint. As she has aged, she has begun working on a smaller scale, including her recent works on Turtle Wisdom, in which turtles carry wisdom on their backs, speaking to the issues that confront us in these tumultuous times. There is a vibrancy to her work that I loved.

**Deb Patterson**, Oregon State Senator from District 10, spoke on building an Oregon that works. Currently, 95% of Oregonians have insurance, with a third of them on Medicaid. By 2032, they are expecting a shortage of a quarter of a million health care workers. There are bills that would help resolve this deficit, and she has hope that people will work together for everyone's sake.

The National 5-Star Program rewards branches for aligning their work with AAUW's strategic plan using five categories (Advancement, Public Policy & Research, Governance & Sustainability, Communications & External Relations, and Programs). The Salem branch earned five stars, one of only 8 in the country! Ashland Branch received three, and we received one star, in Communications and external relations. In addition, we are number two in the state in total donations to AAUW funds, and number six in per capita donations. It does make me think about possibly donating more this year!

With the current times, we are reaffirming our mission of supporting equity for women and girls, and asking how we can leverage our impact. Half of the national budget goes to fellowships and grants.

L to R, Lisa Hughes, Sherry Shroeder, Monica Weyhe, Janet Brougher, Gayle Clason



## 2025 State Convention Report (Continued)

On Saturday afternoon, we had a choice of two break-out sessions out of six. I attended one with **Sharon Noone**, who has a passion for advocacy. Earlier this year, we were all asked to vote on our areas of concern. There were 178 responses received from 900 members in Oregon, with a breakdown of 120 votes for Education, 99 for Health care, 65 for Economic well-being, 59 for Childcare, and 10 for incarcerated women. Based on this, AAUW Oregon has focused on six bills, HB 3187 (Anti-Age Discrimination), HB 1098 (Banned Books), HB 3011 (Early Childhood Education), SB694 (Child Tax Credit), HB 3212 (lowering prescription costs), and HB 2233 (establishment of a legal services program to Inmates in the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility). She reported on the progress of bills in the Oregon Legislature. As of today (June 26), two of the bills we sponsored have been signed into law. One was SB 1098, the “Freedom to Read” bill which limits efforts to ban books or materials from public-funded libraries. The money bills are unlikely to make it out of committee because of the Transportation Bill, which will be enormously expensive. This was all very new—and very interesting—to me.

My second session was with **Deborah Arthur and Nahlee Suvanvej**, on the Portland State University Higher Education Prison Program (HEP). Deborah is the founder and former director of PSU’s Higher Education in Prison program while Nahlee is the current director. Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, in Wilsonville, is Oregon’s only prison for women. HEP’s mission is to provide access to rigorous, quality higher education for people in prison, and to support the students after their release. PSU offers a full bachelor’s degree pathway in Liberal Studies, with an optional Minor in Business Administration, with 75 currently enrolled at Coffee Creek, utilizing Pell grants to pay for their education. PSU is the first four-year institution in the state, and among the first in the nation, to be designated an eligible “prison education program” by the Federal Department of Education. They started small, with resistance from teachers at PSU, but as the program has grown, teachers are asking to be included, recognizing the dedication and commitment of the students. With more education comes a major drop in recidivism. Their stories were inspiring.

One of the loveliest parts of the location is the garden, located between the hotel and the convention center. It is on Samaritan’s Health Science campus, which is also home to the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific North-West. It was designed by **Hoichi Kurisu**, who wants to create natural spaces that enrich lives. Every element is specifically designed to cultivate awareness, humility, and quiet contemplation. The first one he designed in Lebanon is in the Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital, with expectant mothers in the birth wing, patients in the infusion therapy wing, and students in the classroom all able to look out into the garden. If you’re ever in Lebanon, they’re worth a visit.



One of the fun parts is seeing people. I don’t know a lot of AAUW members from other branches, but it was great to catch up with **Gayle Clason** and **Janet Brougher**, who both sent greetings to the Medford branch. They are both happy with their decisions to move, but miss people here. Gayle had a great display of AAUW memorabilia that she collected in her 60 years of AAUW, which she was encouraging people to take. I am tickled to have Gayle’s AAUW President’s pin, while Sherry Schroeder brought home a silver bowl, which she presented to Carol K as the first past president’s honorarium award, in honor of Gayle Clason, who was a past branch (1971-1972) and state president (1991-1993). Each year the bowl will be given to a past president as a symbol of appreciation for their commitment, positive impact, and achievement.

Lisa Hughes, President

(lhlisastitch@gmail.com)

(See Page 6 for more about the State Convention.)

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Gail Etchie

Claudia Carmichael

## CONGRATULATIONS TO Lillian Eaton Stewart!

Honorary Life Membership (Fifty years!)

### Spring Luncheon!

It was a time for food, friendship, recognition and awards, a little learning, and hearing from our student scholars.



Carol Koszyk was recognized for her years of dedication and leadership to the Medford Branch.



Carole Grady and our four Named Gift Honorees: Pat Stoddard, Lisa Hughes, Carol Julian, and Mary Wright Gillespie. Look for a follow-up article in our Sept./Oct. issue.



Sherry Schroeder had the privilege of presenting Mae Boren as a Named Gift Honoree. (See page 9 article.)



Incoming officers were introduced by Sherry Schroeder: Marilyn Stein, Sandi Cameron, Lisa Hughes, Deb Radcliffe.





# Out and About with our Members!

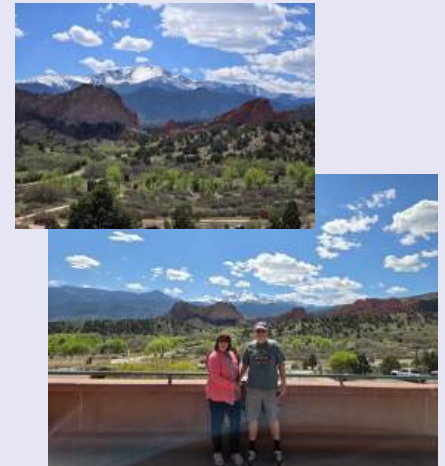
Happy 90th, Peg!



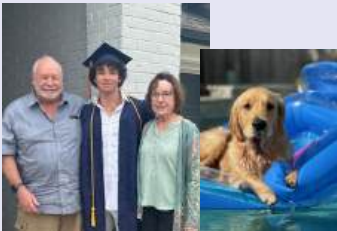
Field trip stop-off at Redding's Sundial Bridge—Ellen Jones and Vikki Piper.



Sherry Schroeder and husband at Colorado's Pike's Peak and Garden of the Gods.



Members participated in the June 14th March in Medford.



Sandy and Danen Heath attended their grandson's high school graduation in Cypress, Texas (near Houston), which included puppy-sitting!

As you can see, we had MANY Bunco Queens at our most recent gathering at Robin Smith's home.



Top to bottom, left to right: Sandi Cameron, Marilyn Stein, Peg Riehlman, Robin Smith, Ellen Jones, Monica Weyhe, Sue Thornburg, Connie Smith, Paulette Avery, Mary Fowler



Carol and Phil Koszyk shared their travels across the U.S.A. this summer!



## REFLECTIONS FROM OUR STATE CONVENTION IN LEBANON, OR

### SORRY IF YOU MISSED IT!!

by Sherry Schroeder

As you read this, I hope you have talked to those of us who attended AAUW OREGON State Conference in Lebanon the end of April. The programming was OUTSTANDING! We were on the go constantly as they had the sessions all in one and one-half days.



From the venue hotel and conference center accommodations, to the meals and great service from all staffing, the plans made by the Event Planners were over the top when we heard from **Charity Woodrum** and Sandy Cummings, our keynote speakers. Be sure to find out about **SPACE, HOPE, and CHARITY** from someone who attended. It was "*goose bumpy and tissue boxes*", it was so fantastic!

I have gifted Charity Woodrum a full one-year membership to AAUW Online Branch so those of us in Oregon can have her in our organization. She is an Oregonian from Canyonville!

The 100th Meeting of AAUW Oregon was also celebrated with the historical events from many of the branches in our state through a Reader's Theater Podcast. Many accomplishments for Medford Branch were highlighted including our Strategic Plan, MUWCF establishment of our 501(c) (3) status, and our fundraising for AAUW Funds each year, earning us TOP TEN Status!



The Awards Banquet highlighted several Medford members who received accolades for their fine work: Monica Weyhe and Mary Gillespie to name two.

Enjoy the pictures and plan to join others next April when we will all meet once again!

At AAUW OREGON State Convention this year, outgoing AAUW FUNDS Chair, **Claudia Gray**, was in charge of raising money for AAUW Funds.

A **beautiful quilt**, made by an AAUW Salem Branch member, was auctioned off. The quilt denoted all the AAUW Oregon State Presidents' Terms of office from 1924 for Mozelle Hair through Joanne Stern in 1983, a member of the Salem Branch. The bidding was competitive until complete at \$300.00. The winning bid was made by Sherry Schroeder.

Following the auction, Sherry donated the quilt to the Salem Branch. They in turn sent it to Willamette University Archives. For the \$300 winning bid, Sherry was able to name 12 Named Gift Honorees for 2025.



Several deserving state officers and some Medford Branch members were named by Sherry in honor of the dedication and hard work of all the recipients.

Best ending is the AAUW FUNDS is \$300.00 richer and all donations went to the "Greatest Needs Fund".

Should you be interested, stay tuned for those in our branch who were honored. Right now, can't spoil the surprise!!

## NAMED GIFT HONOREE for 2025-2026

Our branch consistently donates to AAUW, with the results that we can select Named Gift Honorees. This is the highest honor a branch can bestow on its members, and is given to members who have contributed greatly to our branch.

Joan Rycraft had the privilege of choosing a Named Honoree because of her donation to the AAUW Ken McGraw scholarship. She chose **Marlene Olson**, saying, "It is with pleasure and respect to select Marlene as my Named Honoree for 2025-2026. Marlene is the epitome of an excellent AAUW member. She has provided many years of dedication to the Medford Branch through her leadership and support of our mission and goals. Always ready to assist when needed, active in interest groups and fund raising for scholarships, she has embraced our journey of securing equity and equality for women. She has become a moving force in our accomplishments and aspirations."

Claudia Gray, AAUW of Oregon Funds Chair, named **Mary Wright Gillespie**, as a long-time branch Fund chair who has done a great job for the AAUW funds in the Medford branch.

### MUWCF REPORT

(Medford University Women Charitable Fund)

### SOU SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS SELECTED!\*

Nikita Bazarsky  
bazarskyn@sou.edu  
(541) 414-7392

Heather Oliveria  
oliveriah@sou.edu  
(541) 499-5088

Faith Ward  
wardf@sou.edu  
(541) 973-0795

\*In addition, the Scholarship Committee is currently reviewing 18 applicants for our Traditional Scholarship and 3 for our CTE (Career Technical Scholarship) for RCC. We're hoping to complete that by the end of July or early August.

### AAUW MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS SEPTEMBER 2025—JUNE 2026

**Saturday 9/6/25, 9:30 AM Social, 10:00 Meeting**  
**Interest Groups presented and sign-ups**  
**Rogue Credit Union**  
**(1330 Poplar Dr., Medford)**

Thursday 10/2/25, 5:30 PM Social, 6:00 Meeting  
Speaker Barbara Johnson, Community Works  
Sun Oaks Club House (2485 Sun Oaks Dr., Medford)

Saturday, 11/1/25, 9:30AM, Social, 10:00 Meeting  
Speaker Celia Canty, Heavenly Harps  
Rogue Credit Union

Saturday 12/6/25 or Sunday 12/7/25  
3:00PM to 6:00PM (Holiday Program)  
Sun Oaks Club House

Saturday, 1/3/26, 9:30AM Social, 10:00 Meeting  
Rogue Credit Union (Program TBD)

Saturday, 2/7/26, 9:30AM Social, 10:00 Meeting  
Rogue Credit Union (Program TBD)

Saturday, 3/7/26, 9:30AM Social, 10:00 Meeting  
Rogue Credit Union (Program TBD)

Thursday, 4/2/26, 5:30PM Social, 6:00 Meeting  
Annual Election Meeting & Speaker  
Sun Oaks Club House

Sunday, 5/3/26 from 4:00PM to 6:30PM  
Annual Social / Student Recognition  
Sun Oaks Club House (Program TBD)

Saturday, 6/6/26 from 9:30AM Social, 10:00 Meeting  
(Program and location TBD)



## NEWS FROM AAUW NATIONAL

**A Strategic Plan Update: A reason for each of us to support AAUW FUNDS**  
**Please buy Camelot Tickets and invite your friends and neighbors to join in our fun evening!**

### AAUW is Taking Bold Steps for Our Future

AAUW is thrilled to launch our new 2025 Strategic Plan — a powerful, purpose-driven roadmap that honors our proud legacy and propels us into a future of even greater impact.

For over 140 years, we've stood as unwavering champions for equity in education for women and girls. Today, in a moment that demands courage and clarity, our mission has never been more vital — or more urgent.

#### The big picture:

As higher education faces mounting challenges and unprecedented threats, we are rising to meet the moment. We're doubling down on what we do best: leading with vision, advancing women in higher education, and igniting pathways to opportunity, equity, and lasting economic empowerment.

#### Our 3 Strategic Priorities:

- 1. Empower pathways to higher education** We're investing directly in women — especially in underserved communities and underrepresented fields like STEM — through fellowships, grants, and leadership development.
- 2. Advocate for inclusive policy change** We're championing legislation and initiatives that remove barriers in education and the workplace — from ensuring educational environments are inclusive and free from harassment to championing pay equity, reproductive freedom, and more.
- 3. Strengthen AAUW's grassroots and operational power** We're building a sustainable future by supporting local branches, aligning for collective impact, and fostering a robust network of members and partners nationwide.

#### What's next:

This plan is about *all of us* — and the unstoppable force we become when we unite with purpose. Our members, branches, and supporters are the beating heart of this movement. Your advocacy, your fundraising, your presence in communities across the country — *you* are the spark that transforms vision into real, lasting change.

#### The bottom line:

We can't — and won't — do this without you. Your dedication fuels our momentum. Your voice drives progress. Together, we are building a future where every woman and girl has the opportunity to rise, lead, and thrive. This is our moment. Let's seize it — together.

Thanks to everyone who helps Mary Gillespie, AAUW Funds Chair!!

## You are invited to Medford AAUW's 2025-26 kick-off meeting!

**Saturday, SEPTEMBER 6th** (Rogue Credit Union 1330 Poplar Drive),

9:30 am. Social, 10:00 Meeting

- Bring a guest (and get a ticket for a drawing!)
- Catch up with old friends and meet new friends
- Sign up for Interest Groups and get the latest information
- Buy your tickets (checkbook, pls.) for the October 1st Camelot Theatre fundraiser!
- Bring a bottle of fine **wine** to donate for the October 1st raffle at the Camelot.





Sherry and Mae

A Celebration of Life will be held on  
Saturday, August 2nd, 2025

At the Eagle Point Community Bible  
Church

27 S Shasta Avenue, Eagle Point, Oregon

From 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

### A Tribute to MAE BOREN by Sherry Schroeder

Mae Boren was a remarkable woman whose legacy is etched deeply in the hearts of those she connected with during her extraordinary life. Born on March 14th, 1928, Mae lived with a grace and warmth that left an indelible mark on everyone she met.

A dedicated wife to her husband Rod and a loving mother to their son Matt and daughter Kathy, Mae embraced the fullness of life not only through her family but also through her profession as a schoolteacher. Her poised demeanor and tailored attire made her a striking figure, admired not only for her outer elegance but for the vibrancy of her spirit.

Mae's passions painted a vivid picture of her dynamic personality. She was unparalleled in the game of bridge, earning respect for her sharp mind and old-school style. As a charter member of two Wednesday bridge groups, Mae's dedication to the game was matched by her love for camaraderie. Her culinary skills were legendary, ensuring that dining at her home was nothing short of a royal experience, complete with fine linens, sparkling crystal, and elegant china. Guests were often treated to her famous Tuxedo Roll, a dessert as refined as Mae herself.

Gardening was another avenue through which Mae expressed her aesthetic sense, nurturing roses and houseplants that added beauty to her surroundings. Among her treasured hobbies was the art of toffee-making—a meticulous process that required perfect atmospheric conditions. The result was pounds of perfectly crafted toffee, boxed and sent out as cherished Christmas gifts to family and friends.

Mae's commitment to the community shone through her involvement in organizations such as PEO, which champions equity and education. Her contributions to the AAUW branch were invaluable; whether it was participating in the Garden Tour or supporting fundraisers like the Camelot Theater, Mae stepped forward with a willing heart. She was honored for her contributions as a Named Gift Honoree for the Medford Branch in 1988-89. Her last AAUW function was her lovely presence at the recent May Luncheon, where she was honored by me as my personal Named Gift Honoree for 2025. That will remain a cherished memory I will hold close to my heart now forever.

Mae's infectious personality, coupled with her nurturing spirit, made her a friend to many and an inspiration to all. As her loved ones bid farewell, they find solace in knowing that Mae's rich legacy will endure. May she rest in peace, surrounded by cookie sheets and bridge tables in heaven, as she takes her place among the angels.

**Our next Members' Meeting**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH**  
**Rogue Credit Union (see pg. 8)**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MUSINGS  
CONTRIBUTORS!**



**Medford University Women Charitable Fund  
(MUWCF)  
Board  
2025-2026**

What is MUWCF? Medford University Women Charitable Fund is the full name. This 501 (c) (3) organization was developed so our Medford AAUW Branch could offer a fully tax deductible option for businesses and individuals who want to donate toward our efforts to raise money for scholarships for women and girls. We are very appreciative of the fine work that our MUWCF Board Officers and Members provide. Here is the current list. Please know that if you have any questions or would like to help in any way, contact either Paulette Avery (averyfam1@charter.net) or Mary Wright Gillespie (541-857-6083).

Upcoming MUWCF Board Meetings are scheduled for the 4th Tuesday of January, April, July, October at 10:00 am.

Paulette Avery, President  
Marlene Olson, Vice President  
Vikki Piper, Treasurer  
Mary Gillespie, Liaison to AAUW Board  
Janis Taft, Secretary

Ellen Jones	Pat Stoddard
Sandy Heath	Judie Salter
Carole Chumbler	Liz Andersen
Carol Julian	



**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: Carole Grady**



**Medford AAUW Officers and Board,  
(July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)**

**Elected Officers (Voting)**

- President: *Lisa Hughes / Deb Radcliffe*
- Immediate Past President: *Carol Koszyk*
- Vice President/Finance: *Marilyn Stein*
- Vice President/Programs: *Sandi Cameron*
- Co-Vice Presidents/Membership:  
*Sandy Heath, Ellen Jones*
- Secretary/General Meetings and  
Board Meetings: *Carole Grady*

**Appointed Board Members (Voting)**

- AAUW Funds: *Mary W. Gillespie*
- Communications and South District  
Director: *Monica Weyhe*
- Interest Groups/ACT (AAUW Community  
Team) Chair: *Kathy Swarts*
- MUWCF Liaison: *Mary W. Gillespie*
- Public Policy Chair: *Katie DuPraw*
- Scholarship Liaison: *Tanya McHenry*
- S.T.E.M. Director: *OPEN*

**Appointed Chairs (Non-Voting)**

- Hospitality: *Pat Stoddard*
- In Our Thoughts Secretary: *Ellen Jones*
- Webmaster: *Carole Grady*
- Newsletter Editor: *Committee:*  
*Sandy Heath, Ellen Jones, & Carol Koszyk*

**MEDFORD AAUW**

**P.O. BOX 1204**

**MEDFORD, OR 97501**

