



Ashland Vision

www.aauwasland.org

Dec 2011–Jan 2012

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Looking Ahead

• Board Meeting	Dec 12 3:30 pm, Library
• Leadership	Jan 5
• Branch Party/Meeting	Jan 14
• Leadership Team Meeting	Jan 19
• Board Meeting	Jan 23 3:30 pm, Library
• February Forum	Feb 11

Value Promise:
*By joining AAUW, we
 belong to a community
 that breaks educational
 and economic barriers
 so that all women
 have a fair chance.*

BREAKING THROUGH

BARRIERS:



Ashland AAUW Is hosting a Celebration of Us:

*the amazing women we are,
 Who like flowers bend with the wind,
 then straighten up—again . . .
 Wearing our shapes and colors proudly
 as we move from bud to blossom and beyond,
 Energizing the air with our breath and energy flowing,
 working toward diversity, equity and opportunity
 for all to grow and glow under the sun.*



Join us at the Masonic Lodge on Saturday, January 14, at 4 pm
Music, prizes and some fun activities will be provided.
Smiles, laughter and merriment will be required.

Bring a favorite hors d'oeuvre and some wine or beverage of choice to share.
 Members only please, but a guest who might be interested in joining is very welcome!

Wishing You and Yours Happy Holidays

Membership



Welcome to new members Fran Adams, Laurie Carter, Ruth Dowden, Eileen Dunn, Pam Erwin, Christine Fernlund, Gretchen King, Tara McManigal, Karen Toloui, Susan Unger, and Susan Zane. And welcome back to Carol Wilder.

February Community Forum

Making Life Work for Seniors

Whether you are helping an aging relative or navigating the issues of aging yourself, you will want to attend our February Forum. Speakers will discuss topics ranging from housing options to geriatric nursing care, with an emphasis on our local community services. Mark your calendar:

Saturday, February 11

9:30 to noon

Masonic Lodge

In Our Thoughts

✿ Dale Gates, surgery

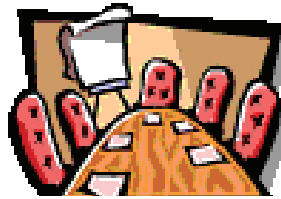
✿ Annette Lewis, second knee replacement surgery

Please let me know of other cares for members.

—Annette Lewis

Goodbye to Mo

We wish Mo and Bill Dawson safe travels and good wishes as they depart Ashland for sunny Florida. Thanks to Mo for her terrific work laying out our newsletter for the past couple years and the AAUW Convention Workbook this spring. Many of us can recall something delicious from Mo's kitchen: Kudos for her many excellent AAUW snacks and meals at Forums, Gourmet Group dinners, and Tasting Adventures. Mo, we will miss you.



Board Notes

Unofficial Notes from Ashland Board Meeting, November 21, 2011

- **Garden Tour Date:** June 10, 2012. Mark your calendar!
- **Financial Report** from Diana Quirk will be e-mailed to members. A motion to purchase the speakers that Sherri Morgan bought was approved (\$65).
- Sandra Coyner discussed **Roberta's Rules for consensus decision making**, and the Board liked this method, so we have informally adopted it. Afterward we reached consensus on sending \$1500 to AAUW Funds, which will allow the Branch to name three honorees next year. The Branch had already raised about \$800 from Diana's Funds Luncheon, from the fall meeting, and from members' donations with their membership forms; so about \$700 will be added from Branch funds.
- **To define a quorum**, the Board agreed that Branch positions with two members serving as co-chairs will count as one Branch member. Later in the meeting, Sandra Coyner led the Board in brainstorming options for Board membership. The Strategic Planning group will be looking at our leadership structure in the coming year.
- **A Nominating Committee** will be formed to recruit executive officers for 2012–2013.
- AAUW Oregon announced a possible \$5 increase in annual dues. Both Medford and **Ashland AAUW strongly object** and can give several other options for saving money in the state organization (having a state convention only every other year; not fully reimbursing the many state officers who go to convention). Diana Quirk will draft a letter stating Ashland's objections and will ask for a quick review by the Board.
- Julie Stuelpnagel Downey is starting a new Interest Group in January: **Books That Have Been Made into Movies**. Let her know if you want to sign up.

—Pat Brewer

South District Events

Medford AAUW Meetings

January 7: "The Burden of Too Much Stuff." Connie Battaile will discuss downsizing and de-cluttering. Saturday, January 7, 9:30 am, Medford Public Library.

February 4: "The History of the Chinese in Early Jacksonville"—Larry Smith. Saturday, February 4, 9:30 am, Medford Public Library.

Interest Groups

Contact the coordinator to join an interest group.



ARTS AND LANGUAGE

Musicals: Watch and discuss videos of classical musicals in members' homes. 3rd Monday, 4:30 pm. Diane Novak & Ed Perkins

Opera: Watch opera videos and enjoy hearty appetizers once a month on 4th Monday at 5 pm, home of Ed Perkins. Opera is not meeting in December. On January 23, 2012, we will enjoy Richard Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Jean Conger & Ed Perkins

Painting Outdoors: "Paint-outs" twice a month in good weather. Charlotte Abernathy

Play Reading will be at Annette's house, Friday, December 30, at 4 pm and on January 20 at Carolyn's home at 4 pm. We will be reading *The Kentucky Cycle* by Robert Schenkkan. Annette Lewis & Carolyn Peake

Shakespeare at OSF will be reading *Troilus and Cressida* in December and January. Place is always Annette Lewis' house, time is always 1 to 3 pm. Dates are Dec. 28, Jan. 11 & 25. Annette Lewis & Peggy Audibert



BOOK GROUPS

Adelante! Online book group sponsored by AAUW. Go to www.aauw.org/connect/adelante/titles.cfm. For December, the chosen book is *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit: My Family's Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World* by Lucette Lagnado. This book recreates the majesty and glamor of Cairo in the years between World War II and Gamal Abdel Nasser's rise to power. Lucette Lagnado's father, Leon, was a boulevardier who conducted business on the elegant terrace of Shephard's Hotel, dressed in his signature white sharkskin suit. But with the fall of King Farouk and Nasser's nationalization of Egyptian industry, Leon and his family lose everything.

In January, the book is *Secret Daughter* by Shilpi Somaya Gowda. On the eve of the monsoons in a remote Indian village, Kavita gives birth to a baby girl. In a culture that favors sons, the only way for Kavita to save her daughter's life is to give her away. Halfway around the globe, Somer, an American doctor, decides to adopt the child after learning that she will never have one of her own.

Brain Books will meet on January 24, 2012, to discuss *In Search of Memory* by Eric Kandel. The next meeting will discuss *Nonsense on Stilts* by Massimo Pigliucci on Feb. 28. Ashland Public Library Guanajuato Room at 1:30 pm (4th Tuesday). No meeting in December. Sandra Coyner

Day Book Group: On December 21, we will gather at the home of Helen Rosen to discuss *Suite Francaise* by Irene Nemirovsky. In addition to our discussion, led by Bessie Azari, we will celebrate the holiday season with a book exchange. Be thinking about a book, new or gently used, that you've enjoyed and would like to share with someone in the group. Be sure to wrap it. This meeting will begin at 1 pm and end at 3:30. For January, our book will be *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* by Daniyal Mueenuddin. We will gather at 1 pm at the home of Patt Rao, and Jackie Rosen will lead our discussion. Helen Rosen

Evening Books will meet December 12, 7 pm at the home of Jean Conger for an annual Christmas party and book exchange. We will meet January 9 at 7 pm at the home of Diane Novak; we will be reviewing *A Visit from the Goon Squad* by Jennifer Egan, and Mimi Pippel will lead the discussion. On February 13, we'll discuss *A Mountain of Crumbs* by Elena Gorokhova. Margaret Dole, Gayle Titus

Jane Austen and Friends: First meeting on February 16, 2012, 12:30 pm, at Carryl Breon's house. Luncheon and discussion of Thomas Hardy's *Far From the Madding Crowd* followed by the movie. Call Carryl for more information.

Nonfiction Book Group: We meet on the first Wednesday at 1 pm. On December 7 Marie Radke is our host and our featured book is *Indian Summer: The Secret History of the End of an Empire* by Alex Von Tunzelmann. On January 4 we will meet at Sara Weber's to discuss *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America* by Erik Larson. On February 1 Colleen Searle will host our discussion of *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand. Linda Lipkind

Thursday Evening Mystery will meet December 15 at the home of Rosemary Adalian to discuss *Failure to Appear* by J. A. Jance, and January 19 at the home of Chris Donchin to discuss *Harry* by Tim Wohlforth. Sandy Theis



DINING

Coffee Klatch: Discuss topics of the day, share personal stories, and make friends. We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 9 am at the Boulevard Cafe in the Stratford Inn. Please contact Bessie Azari if you are interested in joining this group.

Dining Out will not meet in December. On January 21 we will dine at Smithfield's at 7 pm. For those who wish, meet at the Winchester wine bar at 6 for a drink. RSVP to Francene Bernest.

Gourmet Cooking: Participatory gourmet cooking. Prepare regional dishes and learn new cooking techniques. Meets several times a year. Sunny Anderson, Elaine Sweet

Let's Do Lunch will meet in December at Alex's on Friday, December 9, at 11:30 am. In January we will meet at Taj on Wednesday, January 11, at 11:30 am. To make reservations please contact Pat Knoble.

Potluck Lunch/Suppers: A great opportunity to meet other members for a casual lunch or dinner. Meets 4 to 6 times a year. Elaine Sweet

Tasting Adventures: Tonic Water & (Much) More! Come for the drinks, stay for the food! Wednesday, December 7, 6-8 pm. Hosts: Carryl Breon & Nancy Kramarenko. Did you know that you could buy artisan tonic waters, with natural and organic ingredients, right here in Ashland? And did you know that you could order tonic syrups online and add club soda to make tonic water? Would you like to learn how to make your own tonic water? Join us for a fun-filled tasting of these new tonics, followed by gin and vodka cocktails, and a gourmet supper. It's the perfect way to welcome in the Holiday Season! \$25/person. Space limited to the first 22 to RSVP. Send your checks and make them payable to Francene Bernest by Dec. 2.



STILL MORE

Genealogy: On Thursday, December 15, at 1 pm, we will meet at the home of Sara Weber. In January we will return to our regular meeting day (the 4th Thursday) and convene at the home of Rosemary Adalian on January 26. Bring laptops, your questions, and your latest discoveries to share. New members at all levels of family tree research are welcome. Linda Lipkind

Knitters and Stitches will meet Thursday, December 8, at 1 pm at the home of Peggy Audibert. On Thursday, January 12 we will be hosted by June Poe at the home of her daughter, Diane Novak. We welcome knitters and stitchers of all levels of expertise. Questions: call Kay Johnson or Marlyn Barrick.

A Holiday Note from Eleanore



My Christmas-time reading always includes T. S. Eliot's poem, "The Cultivation of Christmas Trees." I love the poem. It has typical Eliot gloom but something else too—a joy in the remembering of all the Christmases, from the "glittering rapture, the amazement of the first-remembered Christmas Tree," to the last, where the "accumulated memories of annual emotion may be concentrated into a great joy." It's wonderful.

Can you dredge up your "first-remembered Christmas Tree"? I can. We were in Manila and I was two and a few months. My parents put up a fusty fir shipped over on an almost month-long journey from California. How magical it was, with a single strand of lights and paper chains. And then in San Francisco were all the other Christmas trees of my childhood—always spindly Douglas firs with lights that pulled down the branches and a dozen or so elegant old family ornaments. But I envied the smooth glass red balls on my friends' trees.

You still see trees like those frumpy, madcap ones in some places. I remember a Christmas in Canterbury where the tree in the hotel lobby was just like those of my childhood, and the crèche in the Cathedral was peopled with farmers from the Kentish countryside rather than shepherds and wise ones. We took a photo of an old pilgrim straight out of Chaucer. How at home I felt in Canterbury. It was 30 years later that I discovered that generations of my ancestors from the 14th Century on were born, married, and buried in the town and its Cathedral.

But the poem isn't just about Christmas (or Hanukkah or Thanksgiving). It's about all the life experiences, all the risks you take, all the books you've read, all the laughter, all the children, all the kindnesses that cultivate your own tree, so that they may be "concentrated into a great joy."

Excuse the personal ruminations. I wanted to share the Eliot poem and some of the reflections that come out of it. We're still cultivating our trees. Find your own Christmas poem. Great joy at this holiday season.

—*Eleanore Perkins*

Eleanore wrote this for the December 2007/January 2008 issue of our newsletter. Bessie Azari remembered it, and we thought everyone would enjoy it, whether reading it for the first time or the second. If you would like a copy of the Eliot poem, e-mail Pat Brewer.

Nancy McLaughlin left us on November 20, a great loss to all who knew her. We will publish a reminiscence in the February issue.

ASHLAND VISION

Ashland Vision is a monthly newsletter of the Ashland, Oregon, Branch of AAUW

Volume 26, Number 4

December 2011–January 2012

Executive Board

Leadership Team: Rosemary Adalian, Bessie Azari, Stef Seffinger

Financial Officer: Diana Quirk

Secretaries: Peggy Moore, Colette Sheehan

Membership Chair: Elaine Sweet

Contact Secretary: Annette Lewis

Newsletter Team

Editors: Pat Brewer, Dale Gates, Christina Licata

Readers: Karen Leng, Alice Mallory, Rae Otto,

Distribution: Anne Novina

Photographer: Alice Mallory

Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month. Photos of interest group activities are welcome.

AAUW Ashland Website: www.aauwashland.org

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Charitable Partners

AAUW Ashland thanks the following individuals for participating in the Charitable Partners Program. They pledge to make a donation to the AAUW/SOU Scholarship Fund every time an AAUW member utilizes their services or refers someone who uses their services.

Norma D'Isidoro, Broker/Owner Real Estate Depot,
541-482-1898, 541-261-2197

Elizabeth Murphy, Financial Advisor
Murphy Financial Partners, 541-488-5407

Sara Walker, Broker, 541-951-5454

Patricia Sprague Real Estate, 541-951-5454

November Forum: Food Dilemmas

More than 70 AAUW members, and a dozen members from the larger community gathered for our November Forum. Tracy Harding, Executive Director of the OSU Extension Small Farms program and Coordinator of Farm to School, discussed the importance of locally sourced, organic produce and her efforts to support the growth of the many small farmers in the Rogue Valley. She also described her program to help children understand where their food came from, which involves everything from helping organize gardens at many schools to bringing a bull to visit a school in Grants Pass that will be ordering meat from a local rancher.

Sharon Johnson, OSU Extension Professor of Health and Nutrition, talked about becoming aware of what we eat—and how our body responds to that food. She recommended tracking the foods we eat by writing them down along with how we feel after eating those foods. She said to focus on smaller portions of nutrient-rich foods, most important as we grow older. Sharon also discussed ChooseMyPlate.gov and evidence-based nutrition studies.

Because Chris Bourne was ill at the last minute, forum attendees watched a video featuring New York Times food writer Mark Bittman. This informative video is highly recommended, and can be found on the website, TED.com, in the subcategory “Food Revolution.” Many thanks to Diana Quirk and her committee: Sherri Morgan, Mimi Pippel, Anne Ainsworth, and Carol Custodio.



From left, Sharon Johnson, Tracy Harding, Healthy Plate. Speaker photos by Rae Otto.

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Food Dilemmas Forum committee: Anne Ainsworth, Sherri Morgan, Diana Quirk, Mimi Pippel. Photo by Rosemary Adalian.

Gabe Jackson and Picasso's War

The Nonfiction Book Group was honored at our last meeting to have Gabriel "Gabe" Jackson, an internationally renowned scholar of the Spanish Civil War, as a guest speaker. Our October book, *Picasso's War*, by Russell Martin, concerns the role of Picasso's famous mural *Guernica* as a symbol of that war and traces movements of the mural to keep it safe until it could be permanently housed in Spain after Franco's death.

Gabe, now an Ashland resident, lived in Barcelona for 26 years and has written several acclaimed books on 20th century Spanish history, including *The Spanish Republic and the Civil War* (1965) and *A Concise History of the Spanish Civil War* (1974). His most recent book, *Juan Negrin: Physiologist, Socialist, and Spanish Republican War Leader*, is a biography of the last prime minister of the Spanish Republic. At the age of 90 years, Mr. Jackson is still a regular contributor to *El Pais*, a well-known Spanish publication.

—Linda Lipkind



Back row, from left: Marie Radke, Debbie Barth, guest speaker Gabe Jackson, Linda Lipkind, Arlene Tayloe, Fran Adams, Jean Conger. Front row: Gretchen King, Rosemary Adalian, Colleen Searle, Pat Brewer, Sara Weber. Photo by Alice Mallory.