



2011-2012 Year

December 2011

**Saturday,  
December 10, 2011  
Westminster Church  
9:30 - 12:00**



**Welcome!**

**This is the  
day of our  
annual Holiday Brunch!**

**Buy your raffle  
tickets at the  
social hour  
9:30. Brunch at  
10:00--and drawing for the  
winning ticket before we  
depart!**



**1 ticket for \$2  
3 tickets for \$5  
or  
6 tickets for \$10**

**The lucky winner will  
receive 30% of the pot!!**

**Special holiday music at  
10:30 by the Grace Notes.**

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**Bring some change  
for the Spice Jar, our  
support for the UofO  
STEM program.**



**Book Exchange will  
be open--a chance  
to find a gift!**



**Envelopes and  
instructions for  
contributing to the  
LCC Kappy Eaton**

**Scholarship Fund  
will be available. Just in time  
for year-end tax records!**



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**when you shop!**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**From Jo's Desk**

*--Jo Brew, Branch  
President\*



This has been a very different and interesting week, full of unusual activities, at least for me. I attended a donors' luncheon put on to benefit the SPICE program. It was hosted by Mrs. Lariviere and featured the two women we know from the Spice Camp presentation at our June meeting. It was my first visit to the University President's home and I noticed,

before I went up to the front door, I was the only guest driving a Toyota! I did enjoy the conversation and the presentations by Dr. Deutch and Brandi Todd. I suggested they apply for an AAUW National Grant since Oregon only had one woman who showed up on the list of winners.

From there I went to the Shining Star Reception held in the beautiful new Center For Meeting and Learning at Lane Community College. I was able to sneak in a brief tour of the building before the four hundred or so other participants arrived. I didn't have the opportunity to meet our two recipients of the Kappy Eaton Scholarship, missing one of them in the crowd. I did meet several very nice students, listened to inspiring donors and recipients, and finally met Janet Anderson of the Lane Community College Foundation, who coordinated our efforts to establish the scholarship. I was very proud to be at both events representing our AAUW branch. We have done very well in our community efforts.

My third event of the week was one where I only represented me. After seven years of publishing the

*Creswell Chronicle*, my friend, Helen Hollyer, sold the paper and retired from that position. I had ended my column in March so I could take care of the cancer without the pressure of a weekly column, but the party to celebrate the change in Helen's life brought many of us from the paper together. It was fun to visit with those I knew and meet those I didn't and to discover their roles in the project. The *Chronicle* has been the best weekly newspaper in the state, led by an award-winning editor. I know that the new owners, who are not inexperienced, will do well and win their own share of awards. I am also sure this very talented and educated woman will be into a new adventure soon. Since she has placed a large section of her property into conservation protection, I suspect she will be involved in that direction.

I hope my own next project will be as rewarding as the *Chronicle* column. I have missed writing it and will continue to miss it for awhile.

On the other hand, moving into the holiday season is something I always drag my feet about. Shopping in crowded stores isn't something I enjoy or that I am good at. I always look for short cuts. At least most of the music over the loudspeakers in the mall during the holidays is better than the usual. My goal is to be done and out of the situation before the music begins to grate on my nerves.

There are always a few bright spots--a special concert or two, a heartwarming experience, or meaningful time with someone important. Several of those are in my plans. I will have lunch with friends and with my sister, half-way between her home in Vancouver and mine in Eugene.

And there will be more time with our family. I think all of my children learned to cook well in self-defense and they do step up to host the big family dinners. Both holidays will be shared with our children and grandchildren who are old enough to pitch in and help with preparations. Our daughter and her husband will also be here for a visit during the December school break. We'll also have a senior grandson from Gonzaga back in town for a few days in November and a few in December, as well as the two slightly younger people who are going to high school in Corvallis.

Besides the holidays, we have an engagement we're celebrating. Kristina, a senior at Oregon State and Nick, also a senior at Oregon State, are making plans for next year. They have known each other since kindergarten, but began dating in high school.

I expect I'll feel exceptionally old by the time all go back to their normal lives. Sometimes it's good the great-grandchildren are too far away to come for every holiday!

## **Meet Kitty Meredith**

Kitty joined AAUW in Springfield, Virginia, after graduation from George Mason University. She earned a Master's Degree in Conflict Management, which served her well when she served as a supervisor of counselors and secretaries in the Domestic Relations District Court of Suffolk County.

Kitty was born in Ketchikan, Alaska, to a military family, and she moved several times in her childhood, including to Japan, eventually reaching Springfield. She and her husband moved to Eugene some years ago. Kitty, now widowed, has two children and four grandsons.

In addition to AAUW and other volunteer activities, Kitty and her daughter keep busy training their handsome canine, Mr. Darcy, and traveling to dog obedience trials where he excels!

\*\*\*\*\*

## **AAUW Public Policy Update December 2011**

--Kappy Eaton, Public Policy Chair

Economic news for Oregon, as outlined by the State Economist on November 17, is bleak. The one bright spot was the slow (2%) but steady growth in employment since the September revenue forecast. Unfortunately, many rural areas are still with double-digit figures, and housing sales and construction, a major factor, are still declining. There is a 40% chance of further

recession with corporate income taxes sharply down. The projection of revenue to the General Fund for 2011-13 is now \$306 million, down another \$100 million. At the end of the 2011 legislative session, the biennial budget included about \$400 million in reserves, which will cover some of the shortfall. However, all state agencies have been asked by the Governor to submit cuts at 3.5%, 7% and 10.5% levels. It is likely that the 3.5% cuts will take place, although not necessarily across the board. After the reductions to services and programs required in the current budget, social services are likely to be really devastated in some areas. It is expected that education funding will not be affected.

The next forecast will come in February as the Legislature meets for its first annual session February 1-March 6. The leadership is aiming for *sine die* on February 9. The Interim policy committees met November 16-18, many with ambitious February agendas which, in my opinion, will have to be narrowed down and several carried over until the 2013 session.

Following are brief reports about some of the issues on which legislation will be drafted for February consideration.

### **Revenue**

Major changes to the Senior Property Tax Deferral program were made during the 2011 session in HB 2543. The

project was running out of funds because home owners were not repaying the loans as projected and more people were requesting assistance. The purpose of the program is to keep people in their homes by having the state pay property taxes annually to the county of residence. These are loans, not grants, and are to be paid back when the house is sold or the owners move or die. Problems have arisen because many home owners have taken out reverse mortgages and did not use that funding to pay back the state. The bank is then the first to recoup money. With the decline of housing values, selling a house often does not sufficiently pay back the state loan.

New regulations were enacted and reported on at the meeting. These include having to live in the house at least five years, have a restricted income level, report every two years, still own the house, have house insurance, and not have a reverse mortgage. Many people were removed from the program and were billed for property taxes due November 15. The Revenue committees reviewed the report and may consider some changes to the enacted. With the new requirements, the senior program would be back in the black by 2013.

The issues which the Revenue committees expect to discuss and perhaps enact or change legislation in 2012 include:

- a. modifications to the Senior Tax Deferral Program, restriction and technical changes
- b. clarification of the business energy tax credit reform based on Department of Revenue issues
- c. changes to HB 2012 (2011) to expand the transient lodging tax to residential facilities
- d. clarify centrally-assessed property to focus on enterprise zones
- e. modify SB 818 (2011) to require property assessment be based on highest, best use assessment

### **Natural Resources**

Agricultural issues are in the forefront of consideration in 2012. Such areas as the lack of credit for farmers, the fact that small-to-mid acreage farmers, 26,000, had \$10,000 or less profits, and the problem of trying to increase local market produce on small acreage. The 10-year strategy for energy will be discussed in May, and there is a conflict between the DLCD (Department of Land Conservation and Development) and Eastern Oregon over wildlife. In February there will be a discussion about toxic materials in the water supply and water quality in general because of budget cuts to the Departments of Environmental Quality.

### **Human Resources**

The Oregon Commission on Children and Families is being phased out, and will be replaced in part by the Early Learning Council. The

transition functions are supposed to occur by July 1, 2012, but that will probably be delayed until September 2012 or even until July 1, 2013.

Incremental changes are expected in the 2012 session. The Human Services Steering Commission reported on the capacity for services versus budget cuts and sustainability with no increase in employment. Food stamps and financial assistance applications are at an all-time high. There is a need to change the current laws regarding the use of alcohol and drugs with more impaired driving caused by medications or substances other than alcohol. There are increasing problems in the corrections and judicial systems. Sex-offender registration is one issue, along with expunction of records and no registration at the lowest level, and the continuing problem of mental illness and incarceration. DUIIs and jail time, the addition of a three-judge appeals court to the system, and the budgets for the courts are all expected issues before the 2012 Judiciary committees.

### **Elections**

The House Rules committee has heard invited testimony on two issues raised, but not passed, during the 2011 session.

The first relates to the ban on having major political party precinct committee chairs on the Primary election ballot unless there are contested races. This change is supported

by the county election officials and the Democrat party, but not by the Republican party. It was a recommendation from the Government Efficiency Task Force to save funds, staffing, and put the responsibility on the parties for selection of party officers.

The second issue relates to changing the definition of "contributions" in the campaign finance laws. Currently, "pledges" to a campaign must be noted under contributions even though they have not yet been given. In addition, there is the amount of penalty which must be paid when a candidate makes an error in filing a campaign financial statement. The current cost is \$5000 and accrues. Bills to address these issues will be brought forward in 2012.

Steve Trout, Director of Elections, discussed the use of iPods by disabled voters to assist them in marking their ballots. These are much more convenient and easier to use than the conventional machines. There will be more pilot testing in the May Primary. This kind of innovation for handicapped voters is required under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Board Meeting 11/9/11**

- Motion passed to pay current insurance premium.
- Finance VP will research other policy possibilities.
- KidSports season begins January 12, 2012.

### **Letter from Bev Smith of KIDSPORTS to Carol Hildebrand, Programs VP Branch sponsoring a middle-school girls' team for second year**

Thank you for your gift of \$350.00 as a Team Sponsor. Team sponsorships are one of KIDSPORTS' most popular donation programs. Last year, 246 teams were supported by team sponsorships! As a team sponsor, your name or logo will be on the back of a team's shirt, your name or business will be listed on the team's game and you will receive a team photo.

KIDSPORTS has been in our community for nearly 60 years, providing youth sports programs to thousands of kids. We rely on generous donations from businesses and individuals to provide a positive and fun sports experience for our KIDSPORTS kids.

On behalf of our kids, our coaches, our parents and the KIDSPORTS Board of Directors, thank you very much for your support and for helping to ensure our mission of, 'All Kids Play.' "

P.S. Carol.....please extend our thanks to the other members of AAUW for your generous and significant gifts! Your contributions directly help to keep kids playing, developing, and having fun! Thank you!



**Happy December Birthday  
to.....**

Barbara Gault  
Cora Ross  
Ellen Otani  
Eva LaMar-Fridlund  
Ginger Newman  
Donna Pierce



**Interest Groups**

Afternoon Book Group  
Third Monday, 2:00 p.m.,  
Contact Betty Kjeldgaard,  
541-683-4926. Open

**Alpha Bridge**

Every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.,  
Willamalane Senior Adult  
Activity Center, Springfield.  
Contact Ardith Hinman,  
541-747-4310. Open

**Fourth Tuesday Bridge  
Group**

1:00 p.m. Contact Donna  
Pierce, 541-344-3365,  
Open

**Out & Abouters**

Periodic trips around our  
part of Oregon; newsletter/  
ReaderBoard announce-  
ments. Contact Linda  
Wittorff, 541-844-1422.

**Out-to-Lunch Bunch**

Contact Ruth Nelson,  
541-689-4020.

**Readers' Theatre**

Contact Barbara Carter,  
541-544-2944. 1-2 OPENINGS.

**2012 Hostesses**

**January:**

Carol Hildebrand  
Elleen Levy

**February:**

Maxine Hudgins  
Wendy Cook

**April:**

Linda McCleary  
Jill McCleary

**May:**

Gorgie Hofma  
Pat Zeller

**June:**

Barbara Carter  
Stephanie Winsor

Martha Pavlat has offered to  
substitute when needed.

**The Handy Reminder on how  
to Introduce AAUW to  
Prospective Members:**

**REAP**  
**Research +**  
**Education +**  
**Advocacy +**  
**Philanthropy**

**Our Mission**

AAUW advances equity for  
women and girls through  
advocacy, education,  
philanthropy and research.,

**Value Promise**

By joining AAUW, we belong  
to a community that breaks  
through educational and economic  
barriers so that all women have a  
fair chance

**Diversity Statement**

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, or  
disability.

**ROSTERS**

**Elected:**

President: Jo Brew  
Program VP: Carol Hildebrand  
Finance VP: Wendy Cook  
Membership VP: Janice Dresser  
Comm. VP: Elleen Levy  
Recording Secretary: Marian Spath

**Appointed:**

AAUW Funds Co-Chairs:  
Barbara Carter, Ardith Hinman  
Public Policy: Kappy Eaton  
**Member Chairs:**  
Advertising: JoAnn Ellis  
Book Exchange: Ellen Otani  
Branch Brochure: Wendy Cook  
Branch Fundraiser: JoAnn Ellis  
Bylaws: Peggy Shippen  
Calling Committee: Pat Lanier  
C/U Liaison, UofO:  
Dr. Paul Shang  
C/U Liaison, LCC:  
Cathy Lindsley

Directory: Lida Herburger  
Financial Records: Pat Zeller  
Greeters: Marian Spath  
Historian: Peggy Shippen  
Hospitality: Jill McCleary  
Newsletter: Marian Spath  
Nominating Committee Co-Chairs:  
Janice Dresser, Marian Spath  
Website Manager: Marian Spath  
**Special Projects Committees:**  
New Member Orientation Tea:  
Wendy Cook, Janice Dresser  
STEM Projects: Janice Dresser,  
Marian Spath  
Senior Woman Award:  
Janice Dresser

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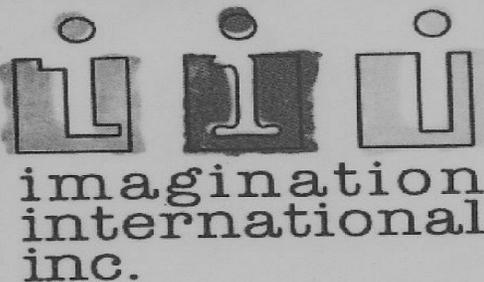
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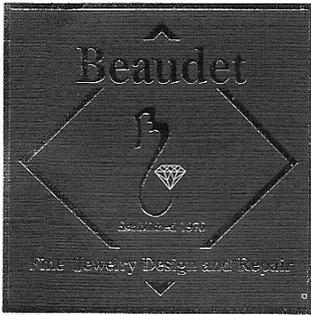
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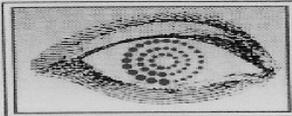
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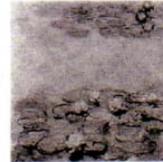
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### **Meeting Calendar**

**Wednesday, 1:30 p.m., January 11, 2012, Board Meeting.**

Quail Run Clubhouse *All members welcome.*

**Saturday, 9:30 a.m., January 14, 2012, Branch Meeting**

Westminster Church

**Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., February 8, 2012, Board Meeting,**

Quail Run Clubhouse *All members welcome.*

**Saturday, 9:30 a.m., February 18, 2012, Branch Meeting**

Westminster Church

**April 19-22, 2012, State Convention**

Pendleton

**June 9-12, 2013, National Convention**

New Orleans