



**AAUW Pendleton Branch Newsletter**  
**December 2023**

**AAUW Pendleton Branch**  
**December Membership Meeting**

**Annual Holiday Wine Tasting**

“Walla Walla Valley Wines”  
with Addison Schulberg, Great Pacific



Wednesday, December 6

6:00 p.m. – no-host dinner

**7:00 p.m. – wine tasting event**

**Great Pacific**

**Please contribute \$10 toward the cost of the event**

January 2024 Membership Meeting  
Saturday, January 6, 11:00 am, Prodigal Son  
Cathy Muller, “Hospice Care in Umatilla County”

## **AAUW Pendleton Branch Leadership Team 2023–2024**

### **Co-Presidents**

Susan Doyle 969-7660  
Mary Davis 969-9669

### **Communications Vice President**

Joan Deroko 310-9175

### **Co-Finance Vice Presidents**

Marlene Krout 276-7596  
Dues, Kate Mace 276-1006

### **Membership Vice President**

Sue Petersen 276-4569

### **Co-Program Vice-Presidents**

Kate Ely 278-1997  
Blanche Hill 360-649-4337

### **Co-Recording Secretaries**

Kathy Ward 276-0308  
Beth Condon 276-7187

## **Appointed Leaders:**

### **BMCC Liaison**

Marie Hall 379-5250

### **AAUW Funds**

Jill Heffner 278-4791

### **Grapefruit**

Karen King 278-2151

### **Newsletter & Directory Editor**

Susan Doyle 969-7660

### **Public Policy**

Regina Braker 663-6148

### **STEM**

Miriam Munck 278-5805

### **Website**

Marty King 276-8210

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**AAUW Association website**  
[aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

**AAUW of Oregon website**  
[aauw-or.aauw.net](http://aauw-or.aauw.net)

**AAUW Pendleton website**  
[pendleton-or.aauw.net](http://pendleton-or.aauw.net)

## **President's Corner for December**

With thanks to Kate Ely for making arrangements with Addison Schulberg, we will have our annual social gathering on Wednesday evening, December 6. We will be tasting 3–4 single vineyard wines from the Walla Walla American Viticulture Area (AVA). The non-alcoholic offering will be a house-made sparkling, spiced apple cider. Nibbles will include a meat, cheese, bread, and fruit tray and chocolate.

Addison Schulberg, “Son of Great Pacific” or as Kate prefers, “Prince” of Great Pacific, will be our evening's host. Addison notes that he is a perpetual student of wine and is WSET Level 2 Certified. WSET is Wine and Spirit Education Trust, a global organization that arranges courses and exams in the field of wine, spirits, and sake.

Please do invite a friend to join us as we gather together to enjoy appetizers, conversations, and learn more about wine in the Walla Walla Valley in the comfortable setting of GP.

If you need a ride or have a question, please contact Mary Davis.

We look forward to seeing you soon as we begin this Holiday Season!

—Mary Davis, Co-President

## **Notes & Announcements**

**December Membership Meeting** will be our annual holiday social event on Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 p.m., at Great Pacific, featuring wine tasting, hot spiced cider, and appetizers tray. Please contribute \$10 toward the cost of the event. You are invited to join us for dinner at Great Pacific at 6:00 p.m. before the meeting.

### **No December Board Meeting**

**December Lunch Bunch**, Thursday, December 21 at 11:45 a.m. at Bootstraps BBQ and Soul Food, in the Electric Sundown building, formerly the Elks Club, 14 SE 3rd St, Pendleton.

## **Welcome New Student Member**

Nicole Amora-Smith  
619-894-6015  
[nicoleamora@outlook.com](mailto:nicoleamora@outlook.com)

**AAUW PENDLETON  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES  
Vert club Room, November 1, 2023**

**Call to Order:** Co- President Mary Davis called the meeting to order @7:54 pm.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the October membership meeting were approved as distributed.

**Reports:**

**Finance VP Accounts and budget:** Marlene Krout

Savings acct funds: \$4,815.55, Checking acct funds: \$9,046.22, several disbursements for October.

**Finance VP:** Kate Mace

New student member, Nicole Amora Smith.

**Program VP:** Kate Ely/Blanche Hill

December 6 @ 7:00pm @ Great Pacific for wine tasting and chocolate. Cost is \$10 per person. Dinner Divas will be at GP before the wine tasting.

**Membership VP:** Sue Petersen

Sue has a potential new member.

**Communications VP:** Joan Deroko

The EO has stopped publishing a paper on Thursdays which may be an issue with us getting our meeting announcements published.

**Appointed positions:**

AAUW funds chair: Jill Heffner gave a presentation explaining what the fund is and how it functions. The branch gives \$1,000 a year to the fund, and she encouraged members to consider a personal donation. Contact Jill with any questions.

**Continuing business:**

Karen King, the NE district chair, gave an update on the district meeting in LaGrande. The presentation went well. Members from Pendleton and Baker County Branch attended.

**New business:**

Marie Hall BMCC liaison reported that the scholarship has been awarded. The recipient's name hasn't been released yet.

Karen King, grapefruit chair, said November 16 is last day to turn in money and lists.

Susan Doyle distributed new yearbooks.

**Announcements:**

Lunch bunch: November 16 at Broken Barrel in Stanfield. Meet at the Heritage Station Museum to carpool.

EO forum: November 14 @ 7 pm BMCC S&T, "Murdered and Missing Indigenous People."

**Meeting adjourned:** @ 8:33 pm

Kathy Ward, Co-Secretary

# Where Does Your Money Go?

*By Jill Heffner*

The eternal question, “Where does my money go when I contribute to AAUW Funds?” was recently answered in a report from National. In 2023, money from the Funds . . .

- \*Trained over 190,000 women to negotiate their salaries and benefits through the Work Smart and Start Smart programs.
- \*Reached thousands of diverse high-school girls and their caregivers through AAUW’s STEMEd for Girls virtual workshop series.
- \*Awarded over \$6 million in fellowships and grants to more than 320 women and community projects.
- \*Sent nearly 20,000 letters to elected officials calling for action on AAUW priority issues.

Each fall AAUW focuses on raising funds for Greatest Needs through its gift-matching campaign. Thanks to a generous gift from AAUW Board of Directors, National committee leaders and staff, AAUW will double your year-end donation up to \$70,000!

The AAUW Funds fiscal year ends December 31. You still have the opportunity to contribute by sending a check to me, Jill Heffner, 3303 SW LaDow Ave, Pendleton, oh, let’s say, by Dec. 20 to give me time to make out the Contribution Report Form and have it postmarked by the 31st. Make the check out to AAUW Funds and write 9110 on the memo for Greatest Needs fund.

For a minimum donation of \$25.00 you can honor someone either “in memorial” or as a “tribute”. Written acknowledgement is sent to whomever you designate, such as a deceased person’s friend or family member (memorial) or the person herself (tribute). Be sure to include addresses for these acknowledgements!

These National programs have amazing results and help thousands of women and girls to achieve their goals. A deep thank you to all of you who have contributed to AAUW Funds this past year!

## Grapefruit

*By Karen King*

At the last board meeting, I was concerned about how many boxes of grapefruit to order. Several large last-minute orders came in, and now we have 496 confirmed boxes. Therefore, **I ordered 520 boxes** of grapefruit, so we will have extras to sell. THANKS to all who have helped with our annual fundraiser!

Now it’s time to plan our **grapefruit distribution day**. It is still set for **Saturday, December 9**. ***We need every available member to help make this a success!*** We would also appreciate any spouses/significant others/children who would assist in the heavy lifting & hauling department.

There will be 3 shifts. **Please sign up by sending me an email at [kaking71@charter.net](mailto:kaking71@charter.net) with the time you are willing to work: 8:00 – 10:00 am, 10:00 am – Noon, Noon – 2:00 pm.** We also expect grapefruit sellers to show up around 1:00 p.m. to check if their customers have picked up their boxes and, if not, to pick them up and deliver them.

I look forward to hearing from you!

# STEM Report

*By Miriam Munck*

Our AAUW branch sponsored 50 students to attend Investigators of Science on November. 4. The day camp is presented by North East Oregon Area Health Education Center (NEOAHEC) and Eastern Oregon University (EOU). Our \$10/student sponsorship included the camp activities, lunch, and a T shirt. Forty students from Sunridge Middle School, nine from Pilot Rock Middle School, and one from Weston-Athena Middle made up the group. AAUW also paid for bus transportation for the Sunridge Middle School students.

I also shared other STEM opportunities partnering with GO STEM. GO STEM is Greater Oregon STEM, a ‘STEM Hub’ funded by the state of Oregon. There are about nine STEM hubs in Oregon, GO STEM serves eastern Oregon. In March, GO STEM provides take home or in school activity kits for 4th grade students. The kits include three hands-on STEM activities, snacks, stickers, ruler, and pencils. GO STEM executive director, David Melville, proposed Pendleton AAUW sponsor kits for Pendleton, Helix, Weston-Athena, Pilot Rock. and Echo 4th graders at a cost of \$8,839. When I explained to Mr. Melville I want AAUW funds to create new STEM opportunities rather than fund things that will happen without AAUW, he suggested funding an additional activity for the kits going to 4th graders in our area. The activity, Creature Kits, comes from the National Inventors Hall of Fame and includes a 3v hobby motor, AA battery, battery holder, and foam block. Using the motor and battery, students create a creature with moving part(s). The cost is \$5/ kits X 341 kits for a total of \$1705, plus 8% to EOU for managing the funding, which is a usual requirement, equaling a total of \$1850.

The board decided not to fund either of these STEM opportunities. We still have money, if anyone has suggestions for STEM projects.

## Lunch Bunch Review

*by Jill Heffner*

Thursday. November 16. It was a bright and beautiful day just meant for the Lunch Bunch Road Trip to Broken Barrel Bar & Grill (120 W Coe) in Stanfield. Four of us—Jill, Kate, Sue, and Susan—met at Heritage Station and rode together; we met the others there—Carolyn and Kathy each had errands to run, and Harriet left from her home.

It was a nice day but not warm enough to eat outside. The inside, however, was welcoming and cozy. The waiter was jovial as well as efficient. We sat at a table near the kitchen and enjoyed visiting with the cook whenever she stepped out. The food was really good, definitely generous. My order was a very large Cuban sandwich—pulled pork and ham on a bun. I took half the sandwich home, with enough pulled pork to feed me and Bob the next evening.

I don’t know what everyone had, but Carolyn, across from me, had a veggie burger that she raved about and sent compliments to the “chef”, and Harriet, next to me, had an enormous grilled cheese sandwich, half of which went home with her, that looked absolutely yummy. I’m having that next time. Because we all agreed we would eat there again. Thank you, Harriet, for steering us there. We highly recommend the Broken Barrel in Stanfield!

**Join us for December's Lunch Bunch at Bootstraps BBQ in Pendleton**

## **BMCC Scholarship for 2023-24**

This fall Tia Willman, a BMCC nursing student, was awarded the AAUW Pendleton BMCC Scholarship for 2023-24. Tia wrote a thank you letter to our branch:

November 7, 2023

Dear AAUW Scholarship:

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making this scholarship possible. I am gratefully appreciative of your support and was more than thrilled to learn of my selection and let you know this is an honor for me for your assistance.

I am currently enrolled in my first year of nursing school. I am loving every minute of my experience, and I am looking forward to my advancement in second year as well as graduation to go on to obtain my BSN. The financial assistance you have provided to assist me in furthering my education as a nurse will help lessen my stress load and allow me to concentrate more on my studying.

Thank you again for your generosity, not only to me but to others attaining their dreams. Because of the opportunity you have provided I am one step closer to achieving my dream of becoming a nurse. One day I hope to be able to assist others in more than just care but also in the way you have for me as well as others.

Tia Willman

[tia.willman@mybluecc.edu](mailto:tia.willman@mybluecc.edu)

## **EOC3 Zoom Presentation “Climate Change and Water of the Umatilla River”**

Kate Ely presented an interesting and informative Zoom program on Tuesday, November 28 for Eastern Oregon Climate Change Coalition (EOC3). Kate is not only the AAUW Co-Program Chair with Blanche Hill, but she is also a geologist/hydrologist for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation for the last 28 years.

If you didn't have the opportunity to “attend” Kate’s Zoom presentation on Tuesday evening, please go to the website, *EOC3.org*, for a link to her recorded program. Kate shared research on the ground water basalts of the Upper Umatilla River Basin. Ground water up to 36,000 years old is found in some of these aquifers. There is only a small replenishment of the ground water from snow and rainwater, estimated to be at 0.1 inch per year in some cases. Kate provided many additional research findings and encouraged each of us to understand the facts in order to support important water policies.

## Pioneer Relief Nursery Books

AAUW Pendleton used the remaining money from Jake and Cathy Cambier donation in honor of Andrea Timmermann to donate funding for books at Pioneer Relief Nursery. The Cambier donation funded the purchase of a selected list of books for the Pendleton Public Library, and with the library discount, there was money leftover in the account that Jill Heffner donated to Pioneer Relief Nursery for their education program. Jill received the following letter of thanks from Libby Hoffman at Pioneer Relief Nursery.

Jill,

Good afternoon, thank you for your call this morning and the opportunity to receive funding for some new books. We are excited to have these additions to our classrooms. This donation is helping us purchase 15 board books:

Thank you again for this donation and supporting a love of literacy for the children in our program!

Libby Hoffman  
Executive Director,  
Pioneer Relief Nursery



## Native Women's Equal Pay Day November 30, 2023

Native women, including part-time and seasonal earners, were paid just 55 cents for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men in 2022—one of the most significant wage disparities in the United States. If you break it down by tribal nation, some Native women are paid even less.

Many women are primary caregivers and breadwinners for their families and communities, yet face high rates of unemployment, poverty, and violence as well as limited access to health care, childcare, and work-family supports. These barriers to economic security are underscored by hundreds of years of racism, genocide, and forced migrations, as well as continuing threats to tribal sovereignty.



AAUW Action Network Information  
Debby Trapp-Roehm  
Baker Branch Pay Equity



# Eastern Oregon Forum

## “Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP)”

### BMCC, November 14, 2023

The EO Forum on November 14 was arranged by the AAUW Pendleton EO Forum committee: Mary Davis, Kate Mace, and Susan Doyle. Mary Davis was moderator for the program.

### Notes Taken by Jill Heffner

The MMIP presentation consisted of three women from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), which is 5.7 miles (10 minutes) from Pendleton. The tribes are Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla. There were three parts to the presentation: Land Acknowledgement, the problem, and what could/should be done about the problem.

Land Acknowledgement is now a standing beginning to any gathering, meeting, presentation, ritual involving tribal people. A tribal member gives the history and geographical range of each tribe that is present.

**Desiree Coyote**, who represents CTUIR on the Oregon State MMIP Task Force, gave the background of the issues:

- \*The *continued* rape, abuse, sex trafficking, and murder of indigenous women and men by white men.

In Oregon 1 in 4 women are victims of rape and/or sexual abuse; for tribal women it's estimated to be 1 in 2. The aggressors are not usually tribal.

- \*Sex trafficking.

- \* Removal of Indian children from family and placed in Caucasian homes.

- \* Alcohol and drug abuse.

- \* Suicide. Here, the suicide of choice is to step in front of a train (the Union Pacific runs through the reservation).

In Umatilla County, as elsewhere, the tribal members feel they cannot trust the system, cannot trust the county sheriff and his deputies. Tribal members feel the County law enforcers do not care what happens to missing tribal people. “She just ran away. She’ll be back when she sobers up (or whatever).” It is believed most runners are from abusive situations...family, partner, boyfriend.

This is a matter of jurisdiction between Tribal, County, State, FBI.. It's only been within the last five years that non-natives can be tried and sentenced in tribal courts *on the CTUIR reservation*.

### **Kola Shippentower-Thompson** : THE MORE WE TALK ABOUT IT...

CTUIR is addressing this issue. There are advocates available, women who have been through rape, violence, sex trafficking. Women are speaking out. The tribe is working on training for county and tribal police.

Safety plans are being developed, including having women fill out safety forms in case they go missing...who are your friends, where do you go to be alone, your passwords, your “enemies” or bullies, what are your after-school activities, etc. And share these with important people in your life, family members, and/or teachers you trust.

Another suggestion was to watch out for each other.



## EO Forum shines light on continuing issue of murdered and missing Indigenous people

By Berit Thorson, *East Oregonian* November 16, 2023

PENDLETON — “The United States has already demonstrated that we are not important as tribal people,” said Desiree Coyote, a speaker at the Eastern Oregon Forum on murdered and missing Indigenous people on Nov. 14. “They continue to demonstrate that.”

Coyote and another speaker, Kola Shippentower-Thompson, discussed the topic during a panel held on the Blue Mountain Community College campus in Pendleton as part of the forum series.

The series consists of four seminars and discussions about issues in the region or nation. The Nov. 14 event was the second, after a panel on banned books in October. The next will take place in February 2024. “It’s basically an opportunity for people to get educated on a certain topic,” said Michele Madril, director of communications at InterMountain Education Service District, one of the forum’s sponsors.

Murdered and missing Indigenous women are being discussed more and more nationally. Even the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs website offers information and says, “For decades, Native American and Alaska Native communities have struggled with high rates of assault, abduction, and murder of women.”

Coyote and Shippentower-Thompson, members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, offered a local perspective on an issue that can feel distant. Coyote is the CTUIR Family Violence Services Program manager, which provides support services to people who have experienced abuse. Shippentower-Thompson founded the Wisawca Project, a personal safety consulting organization focused on empowering people to advocate for their own safety.

Both are survivors of abuse, and they are not alone.

**Nearing 3 million survivors** More than 84% of American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime, according to a report by Andre Rosay, Ph.D., on a National Institute of Justice-funded study from 2016, whether that be sexual or physical violence, stalking, or psychological aggression by an intimate partner.

“Overall,” Rosay wrote, “more than 1.5 million American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime.” More than half of them have experienced sexual violence, physical violence or psychological aggression, according to the study, and just under 50% have experienced stalking.

“While it is estimated that rates of violence on reservations can be up to 10 times higher than national averages,” according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs website, “research is missing on rates of murder violence among American Indian and Alaska Native women living in urban areas.” Still, the research that exists does give some idea, and broadens the focus to include men.

The trend for Indigenous women is similar for men. Around 82% of American Indian and Alaska Native men have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime, the study says. The most frequent type was psychological aggression from a partner, with 73% having faced it. Around 43% of men have experienced physical violence and 27.5% have experienced sexual violence.



*Desiree Coyote discusses her work providing support to abuse victims. Berit Thorson/East Oregonian.*

All in all, that means around 1.4 million American Indian and Alaska Native men have experienced some kind of violence in their lifetime.

**Systems need to be more inclusive** Coyote's program with CTUIR offers direct services to people in rural and tribal communities who experience assault or abuse, aiming to address some of the trauma that comes from these experiences. "If the system is not able to assist in a meaningful way," Coyote said during the event, "the majority of the victims are not going to come forward."

Systems need to be more inclusive of tribal members and other people of color, and they're not very inclusive right now, according to Coyote. One of the other things that needs to happen, she said, is that men need to hold other men accountable. Women can't be the only people advocating for women.

But Shippentower-Thompson isn't sure that kind of change can or will happen. During the forum, she asked audience members to consider what they can do about this, encouraging them to consider

actionable steps in their own lives. A few ideas were creating more spaces for discussions and education about this and getting to know and checking on neighbors so that you can tell if something is wrong. But in general, she said, "We're the ones that are going to have to continually pick up this fight and keep going."



*Kola Shippentower-Thompson, founder of the Wisawca Project, a personal safety consulting organization. Berit Thorson/East Oregonian.*

**"It's what we do"** Shippentower-Thompson said, even if tribal voices are the loudest on this issue, it's not only tribal members who are affected by it. For example, part of her work is focused on how personal safety plans play a role in keeping law enforcement accountable. Additionally, it is Indigenous communities at the forefront of climate action, aiming to keep water clean for everyone. "It's hard for white people to fight,

and that's fine. I get it," she said with a shrug. "For Indian people, it's what we do."

Even when it's tiring or stressful, she said, she keeps going because it matters to her. "I don't think that there's any sort of way you can ever force someone to care about your issues," Shippentower-Thompson said. Still, she said she hopes her participation in these discussions can help increase awareness and action in white communities, especially, where people are less aware of the extensive problem and danger.

"If I can reach at least one person, I feel like I've done my job," Shippentower-Thompson said. "And I think we did that tonight."



*Kola Shippentower-Thompson asks the audience to reflect on what they can do about missing and murdered indigenous people. Berit Thorson/East Oregonian.*