

# HEARTLAND

Older Women's League



[www.HeartlandOWL.org](http://www.HeartlandOWL.org)

## Newsletter – May 2005

May 21, 2005 Meeting

TIME: 10:00 A.M.



PLACE: Village Presbyterian Church  
6641 Mission Road  
Prairie Village, KS

PROGRAM: 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

### “REFRAMING SOCIAL SECURITY”.

A discussion of language and our covenant with our aging community.

How is language used in almost Orwellian ways to promote some of the changes proposed for Social Security? What are basic facts about Social Security and proposed changes? How do words and phrases establish an entire “frame” of view in conversations about our national covenant?

Dr. Max Skidmore, Mathew Westra, and Vicki Walker of the Midwest Center for American Values will help the Older Women's League go beyond the ordinary conversation about Social Security. —BRING A FRIEND! BRING LUNCH! LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING— Call Sara Pedram, (816) 753-2372, or email [owl@HeartlandOWL.org](mailto:owl@HeartlandOWL.org) .

### PROGRAM CALENDAR

**May 21 – “Reframing Social Security” Workshop. (10 AM!)** Social Security has been a most successful covenant, providing a baseline of financial security as women age and retire. But Social Security is under attack with efforts to “privatize” the system, erasing part of the “security” and insurance value to the community to replace it with risk-taking in search of higher individual gains. Beyond just the facts, we will study the use of language framing the debate, and how to craft our own!

**Don't forget your “brown bag” lunch.** The program will continue with an after-lunch work session in which we apply what we learned.

Coffee and tea will be served. The meeting place is Village Church, but will be on the second floor. An elevator is available.

**June 18** – We'll have our annual Potluck at **Sharon Lockhart's** home at 8336 Sagamore in Leawood. Bring “White OWLephants” for this annual auction so we can build up the OWL treasury.

**July 16** – **Judy Bellome**, R. N., will speak in her capacity as volunteer for the Center for Practical Bioethics. The program is titled “Caring Conversations: Making your wishes known for end-of-life care.” It deals with Advance Directives, a hot topic with the recent court battles over Terry Schiavo. The workbook called “Caring Conversations” will be presented.

## WOW Awards Luncheon

On April 16, OWLs came together to eat and recognize special older women with a WOW award. Presidents Gordon Elliott and Liz Gordon conducted the meeting and called for nominators to present their nominees. We met at Kingswood Manor and had a delicious salad luncheon, then introduced each woman in turn and read about her achievements. The awards were presented to: Ruth Shisler, Peggy Neal, Barbara Hildner, Margo Gordon and Joan Bennett.

Ruth Shisler's award reads: For her years of dedication to OWL's mission and ideals by undertaking a variety of tasks for the organization including treasurer, as well as devoting her life to helping others in the community including respite care, transportation and medical assistance.

Peggy Neal's certificate reads: For her unselfish service for the betterment of her community through serving those whose needs are greatest such as low income families, providing comfort to those awaiting surgery, assessing poverty conditions in areas of Mexican border towns, and involvement in many legislative issues.

Margo Gordon's award says: For expressing the OWL mission by outstanding compassion, leadership, and contributions in organizations, boards, and scholarship; her work for her church and community; and for overcoming adversity as a cancer survivor and advocating for breast cancer awareness.

Barb Hildner's says: For reflecting the OWL mission to improve the status, image and quality of life for mid-life and older women (and men) through authorship, organizing for educational opportunities, work in rehabilitation, and by overcoming obstacles as an active cancer survivor.

Joan Bennett's posthumous recognition says: For living and giving her life in spirit of the OWL mission of significant contributions to community by involvement in numerous organizations to help older adults, families, and school children, for counseling, storytelling, and for lobbying efforts for issues and candidates that she supported.

## Collecting OWL History

Marjorie Rees and Barb Hildner are putting together past newsletters and any documents relevant to our local OWL history, before or after our merger, to give to the archives at UMKC for storage, research and our reference. If you have any past OWL material, don't throw it away, please call (816) 523-8698 and we will pick it up.

## The Best Times interview

In case you missed it, Liz Gordon, Gordon Elliott, and Marjorie Rees were featured in the May 2005 issue of *The Best Times* newspaper "for Johnson County's 60-and-older citizens." They told about the OWL organization and some of its goals as well as information on the Heartland OWL group

Everyone was encouraged to look into learning more and to think about joining the local group. They also told about the upcoming workshop on Social Security to be on May 21.



## don't think of an elephant!

George Lakoff's book *don't think of an elephant!* is a valuable reference as we discuss getting our message across in the media and personal conversation.

Our May 21st workshop is based on the study of language suggested in this book. Dr. Bob Meneilly gave a resounding review of this book on the cover of the February-March issue of *The Messenger* from Mainstream Coalition. Mainstream has available copies of this book for \$5.00.

BUT we will have 10 copies on consignment from Mainstream. Let Gordon Elliott know, and we will figure out how to get you a copy immediately so you can read it for the May 21st workshop. (913) 642-5412, or email [owl@HeartlandOWL.org](mailto:owl@HeartlandOWL.org).

## On “framing” from *don’t think of an elephant*:

When the word *tax* is added to *relief*, the result is a metaphor: Taxation is an affliction. And the person who takes it away is a hero, and anyone who tries to stop him is a bad guy. This is a frame. It is made up of ideas, like *affliction* and *hero*. The language that evokes the frame comes out of the White House, and it gets into press releases, goes to every radio station, every TV station, every newspaper. And soon the *New York Times* is using *tax relief*—and shooting themselves in the foot.

It is remarkable. I was asked by the Democratic senators to visit their caucus just before the president’s tax plan was to come up in the Senate. They had their version of the tax plan, and it was their version of tax relief. They were accepting the conservative frame. The conservatives had set a trap: The words draw you into *their* worldview.

That is what framing is about. Framing is about getting language that fits your worldview. It is not just language. The ideas are primary—and the language carries those ideas, evokes those ideas.

From *don’t think of an elephant*, George Lakoff, 2004, Chelsea Green Publishing, page 4.

### FDR Library Blocks Social Security Forum

Lack of Pro-Accounts Speakers Is Cited

By Dana Milbank

Washington Post Staff Writer

Last week, the National Archives and Records Administration blocked a coalition of women’s organizations from holding a Social Security forum at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, N.Y. The National Archives administers the library at the home of FDR --who fathered the Social Security system 70 years ago.

"If you cannot provide at least one speaker who will speak on the features and merits of the administration’s plan for Social Security, then I must ask that you find another venue for your program," the Roosevelt Library’s director, Cynthia M. Koch, wrote on March 31 to one of the groups sponsoring the forum. The women’s groups moved their forum from the Roosevelt Library to a nearby Friends’ Meeting House

The National Council of Women’s Organizations protested the move by Koch. "In keeping with the Bush administration’s determination to quash anyone who disagrees with them, federal agencies now consider it 'partisan' to hold any opinion that is not identical to the president’s," the group said in a statement. It pointed out that yesterday, **Bush promoted his plan at a federal facility -- the Bureau of Public Debt in West Virginia -- without giving time to anybody opposed to private accounts.**

Bush and administration officials are in the middle of a 60-day effort of barnstorming the country to build support for the private accounts. One of the Social Security trustees, Thomas R. Saving, has been advising a group, Progress for America, that promotes the accounts.

Opponents of Bush’s Social Security plan have protested the official use of the Social Security Administration to address Americans by mail, telephone and the Internet, claiming that the system will run out of money by 2042 unless there is immediate action.

**OWL's** sole mission is to address the special needs and concerns of women as they age.

**OWL** meets the third Saturday of the month at Village Presbyterian Church except for the months of April, June and December when there are special luncheons planned.

### **2005 Officers of Heartland OWL**

Co-Presidents: Liz Gordon  
Gordon Elliott  
owl@HeartlandOWL.org

Co-Presidents-Elect

Secretary Carol Ready

Treasurer Ruth Shisler

Program chair Sara Pedram

Newsletter Editors:

Even months: Doris Griffith  
doriander@aol.com

Odd months: Peggy Fish  
peggyafish@hotmail.com

Yes – I want to join OWL and add my voice to this national grassroots organization.

*OWL is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and is tax deductible to the extent allowed under law.*

National	\$ 25
Local	\$ 10
Donations	\$ _____
Grand Total	\$ _____

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