



President's Message: 2019 Authors Day Teamwork Results in a Successful Outcome!

From dynamic presentations by three stellar Colorado authors, to a silent auction stocked with enticing goodies, to generous AAUW members who attended and contributed to the event in countless ways, the 2019 Authors Day event brought in close to \$8,000 towards local scholarships.

The Authors Committee, led by **Kathy Olson**, and including Janet Knox, **Cindi Zenkert-Strange**, **Barbara Potter**, and **Pam Maier**, spent months reading, discussing, and ultimately selecting and inviting three authors from the Pikes Peak Region as our Authors Day speakers. Cindi, Janet and Barbara hosted and introduced our authors in a most gracious way.

Keynote speaker and best-selling novelist **Eleanor Brown**, Boulder AAUW member and history writer **Elizabeth L. Fox** and local travel writer **Susan Joy Paul** kept attendees' interest with engaging stories of their own and loved ones' experiences and their personal and professional growth.

Mo Sigler, Scholarship Chair, warmed our hearts with scholarship recipients' personal stories of strength and perseverance. The presence of AAUW scholar **Sarah Teixeira** and her photo-taking expertise added to the importance of this day.

Interest Groups came through with creative basket themes AND with generous monetary donations, too. IG Chairs and their members are KEY to the many years of scholarships our branch has funded. Individual AAUW Members played an important role by attending, inviting friends, buying books and auction items AND by personal monetary gifts to our scholarship fund.

Kate Meyer Olson, Branch Fundraising Co-Chair with **Pam Maier**, gathered and received items from members, created the compelling presentation of gift cards and donations, compiled the financial details, tallied up purchases and dispersed the same. Kate smoothly led the Silent Auction's success in funding future academic scholarships.

Our phenomenal Communications Team led by **Janet Knox** and including **Laura Gross**, **Brenda Wolfe**, **Paula Munger**, and **Chris Toth**, made sure the public and members were enticed to attend and to spend. The many e-blasts, flyers, Eventbrite set up, and colorful & informative program added class and professionalism to the importance of our scholarship fundraiser.

Janet Knox, **Nancy Holt**, **Frieda Dunlap** and **Nedra Engelson** stepped in to help **Kate Meyer Olson** with the financial info gathering once we learned of our respected treasurer's fall at the World Arena on Friday which precluded her attendance.

Karen Mendenhall, member and **Shrine Club** manager, kept all aspects flowing and kindly allowed us to stay longer than planned on Friday and Saturday.

Mary Ciletti, member and owner of the beloved bookstore, **Hooked on Books**, managed the authors' book sales and donated \$200 in gift certificates.

We never ran out of coffee and the coordination with our caterer, **Picnic Basket**, went very well thanks to Hospitality Co-Chairs, **Fran Schaffer** and **Beth Krasovec**, **Kathy Olson** and **Karen Mendenhall**. The food offerings were varied and nutritious.

Nancy Winston added to our event's ambience with her handmade table decorations and her many handmade pumpkins and bottle people to increase our scholarship donations by selling them for \$5 each. Then, **Audrey McGuire** suggested we sell the table decorations, Nancy said, "Good idea!" and our guests generously responded. Audrey also suggested we ask for a small donation as new nametags were distributed. And **Pip Bodkin** had the foresight to request notecards from national AAUW that attendees could purchase. Love the creative juices flowing in AAUW Colorado Springs Branch and the beneficial outcomes!

Jean Little stepped in to coordinate nametags while Jeanne Marsh is away. The team of Jean, **Marilyn Parker** and **Pip Bodkin** ably handled check-in, including passing out our new AAUW nametags and ensuring that all attendees had bid numbers.

Of course our success in 2019 builds on much that came before. **Paula Munger**, past President and AAUW State President-Elect moved our Authors Day/Silent Auction to the Shrine Club where it has thrived. Our club is also grateful for **Jean Olson**, previous Chair, **Nancy Holt**, past President, and **Elizabeth Leslie**, 2018 Silent Auction Chair, for their past work that led to this year's success.

A heartfelt thanks to all; success comes through supportive teamwork.

Kathy Olson, President, and Pam Maier, President-Elect