



Dear AAUW Family,

I hope this missive finds you and your loved ones healthy, but watchful!

By now you will have all received a message from Kim Churches, the President of AAUW National, announcing AAUW's response to the current coronavirus threat, including closing the physical office, discouraging all non-essential travel, working from home and through teleconferencing.

In keeping with these directives, and those of the State of Colorado, we wanted to remind you about how we are proceeding locally.

Branch Meetings: We are postponing the April and May Branch Meetings (Work Smart and Scholarship Luncheon, respectively.) These will be rescheduled when, and as, appropriate. If you have already mailed a check for Scholarship Luncheon tickets, your check will be returned to you. If you have already purchased tickets on Eventbrite, you have already received a refund.

Interest Groups: Due to the Colorado public health order limiting meetings to 10 people or less, most Interest groups have canceled activities until further notice. Even our smaller interest groups will have trouble meeting due to the need for social distancing. For those who relish some time in the outdoors, Hardy Hikers (true to their moniker) will still be hitting the trails in groups of 10 or less. See their invitation to interested AAUW branch members elsewhere in the newsletter.

Board and Committee Meetings: We are suspending in-person Board and Committee meetings but will be providing a platform for audio / videoconferencing that will allow us to conduct necessary business. (Our board met by teleconference in March.)

Finally, many of you are aware that we experienced several coronavirus deaths here in Colorado Springs. Our heartfelt sympathies are with the families. Please be reminded that should you or a family member fall ill and test positive for the virus, it's possible for others to have been exposed up to two weeks before your first symptoms. Up to date information is available on the El Paso County Health Department website: <https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/>. Please stay vigilant and share information as needed for the good of all.

Blessings and Hugs (6 feet away that is!)

Kathy Olson, Colorado Springs Branch President

President's Message

Hello AAUW Family,

Amidst all the challenging news about coronavirus these days, not to mention several inches of March snow, a ray of sunshine landed at our AAUW branch door a few weeks ago.

Rozi, a fifth-grade student at a Colorado elementary school, sent us a letter and her impressive essay on the gender pay gap. She and her classmates were asked by their teacher to select an issue that was personally important to them and write an essay about it. Rozi chose to write about the injustice of the gender pay gap...and she's absolutely eloquent! Knowing of AAUW's historic and ongoing fight for pay equity, Rozi sent a copy of her essay to our branch here. You'll find her letter in the newsletter and her letter and essay are posted on our website homepage <https://coloradosprings-co.aauw.net/>.

In response, I sent a message to Rozi and her parents, inviting them to be our guests at the April Branch meeting on Smart Start / Work Smart. They replied, "Yes!" We look forward to inviting them to join us in the future once our postponed Smart Start / Work Smart event has been rescheduled. In the meantime, enjoy her amazing essay!

While we are not able to meet and socialize in our traditional fashion right now, we are exploring ways we can continue to connect. The board held it's first teleconference last week, and we're exploring video conferencing. In the meantime, please keep in touch with each other through email and social media. (Lots more time to post, if you are so inclined!) If there is anything specific you need, please reach out to the board or a fellow branch member.

And watch your inbox for an "Older Than Dirt" email. Please respond if you can and "reply all." It's fun nostalgia and an opportunity to learn a little bit more about each other.

Now with apologies to those of our members in the under 60 crowd (We love you too!), I've included a short list below of groceries and big box retailers who have established safer "over 60" shopping hours. Hope this is helpful.

Stay safe and healthy,
Kathy

Rozi [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

January 21, 2020

AAUW Colorado
4435 N Chestnut St,
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Dear members of AAUW,

Hi there, my name is Rozi [REDACTED] and I am a 5th grade student at [REDACTED] Elementary in [REDACTED], Colorado. My writing teacher [REDACTED] has assigned us a writing piece. In writing we have to state a real world problem and I support your organization 100 percent. I think that the gender pay gap is one of the worst problems in the world from 1963 to now.

I think that the gender pay gap is not only terrible, but it is uninspiring to young women just like me. I don't want to grow up thinking that I will never get paid as much as men just because of my gender. There are many things we can do about this, but our society has decided to forget about us and just leave us hanging. I think that we should be paid by our work habits and not by our race or gender.

Behind this paper you will see an essay that I wrote about the gender pay gap. I would love if you have time to read it. I would really love if you could write me back sometime. The gender pay gap is a really big deal to me and I think you guys could make this world a better place by continuing to create equal pay for all.

Sincerely,



Rozi [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

My 5th Grade Writing Teacher

Breaking News:

- Walgreens now open every Tues from 8am-9am for seniors 55 and over only, and a 30% discount.
- Trader Joe's has an expedited line for seniors 9am-10am.

COLORADO STORES OFFERING SENIOR-ONLY SHOPPING

- **Safeway:**
Tuesday and Thursday, 7-9 AM
- **Target:**
First hour every Wednesday
- **King Soopers:**
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7-8 AM
- **Dollar General:**
First hour every day
- **Whole Foods:**
One hour before opening every day
- **Walmart:**
Opening one hour early every Tuesday

BE SURE TO CALL OR DOUBLE CHECK THE HOURS AT YOUR SPECIFIC STORE BEFORE HEADING OUT



**GOVERNOR
JARED POLIS**

ALSO OPEN: COSTCO: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8-9 AM

Please send all article input for the May newsletter no later than April 18, 2020 to Janet Knox,
janet_k_knox@hotmail.com

Colorado AAUW State Public Policy Day 2020

Colorado AAUW State Public Policy Day was full of information. Check out the video on the homepage of our branch website: <https://coloradosprings-co.aauw.net/>

The honorable Betty Boyd, volunteer lobbyist for AAUW Colorado State legislature, began the day's program with an update on upcoming issues which AAUW supports. The Colorado AAUW 2020 Legislative Agenda can be accessed with the following link: <https://aauw-co.aauw.net/advocacy/>

The keynote speaker, Colorado State Senator Julie Gonzalez, District 34, gave a historical overview of immigration challenges and issues in the United States beginning in the 1940's with Operation Wetback to post-9/11 and the creation of Homeland Security. The former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) system evolved into Operation Endgame, the [Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#) (ICE), Office of Detention and Removal (DRO) multi-year strategic enforcement plan. Senator Gonzales cited the importance of advocating for immigrants by informing this demographic of their legal rights. Many are apprehended by ICE without legal properly signed warrants.

Senator Gonzales proposed the [Immigrant Tenant Protection Act](#), introduced January 15, after a lawyer in her district described to her the experience of two clients who had applied to rent an apartment near Union Station managed by Greystar, a global real estate company.

The afternoon program was a panel discussion led by

- State Senator Julie Gonzalez, District 34
- Amy Padden, Deputy District Attorney, 5th Judicial District
- Denise Maes, Public Policy Director, ACLU of Colorado

Amy Padden addressed the issue of immigrants not reporting crimes against them for fear of being deported. Denise Maes spoke of atrocious conditions at the Aurora Detention center and a suit filed by the ACLU for the death of an Iranian man who died on December 2, 2017 while in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody in this Detention Facility, a for-profit detention center operated by GEO Group, Inc.

A hopeful outcome for immigrants is the promotion of knowledge re: their constitutional rights - and electing candidates who will put forth legislation regarding their human rights and conditions.

AAUW Celebrates Colorado Springs International Women's Day 2020

On Saturday, March 7, nearly 200 women gathered at the Pinery to celebrate International Women's Day. Following a delicious brunch, attendees heard an inspiring poem from emcee Dr. Rosenna Bakari as well as speeches on the theme "Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change" by Dr. Taylor Nygaard, Amanda Metcalfe, and Lisa Mae Brunson.

AAUW is one of eight local women's organizations that sponsor IWD, and we were well-represented with 34 of our branch members attending. Thanks to Pip Bodkin and Melanie Hudson marketing our branch at our AAUW display table, we have a new student member! Gwen Weddington and Janet Friedberg represented our AAUW branch on the planning committee.

Save the date for next year's Colorado Springs International Women's Day, Saturday, March 6, 2021!
AAUW member Cindi Zenkert-Strange will chair next year's celebration.

Janet Friedberg

Slate of Officers for 2020-2021

The Nominating Committee has announced the following slate of branch officers for service July 1, 2020 - July 1, 2021. The slate of officers will all be serving for two years, except president and president-elect. The terms are staggered with some officers elected in even years and some in odd years. The online ballot will reflect this, but all are listed below who will serve 2020-2021.

- President Elect: Felicity (Pip) Bodkin
- Treasurer: Joan Skoog
- Co-VPs of Community Outreach: Barbara Potter and Cindi Zenkert-Strange
- Co-VPs of Programs: Marian Phelps and Sarah Stowell
- Nominating Committee: Nancy Holt, Jan Zellmer, Margaret Dolinich

The following officers will continue serving their second year.

- President: Pam Maier
- Secretary: Marilyn Parker
- VP of Membership: Melanie Hudson
- Nominating Committee: Barbara Potter (Chair), Cindi Zenkert-Strange, Anna Lopez

These women would normally be presented at the May branch meeting for a vote. Since our May branch and annual member meeting and scholarship luncheon is postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak,

President Kathy Olson will seek an online vote from our members instead. Information on this will be forthcoming.

Our 2019-2020 Nominating Committee Members are Chair Jean Little, Pip Bodkin, Frieda Dunlap, Cindi Zenkert-Strange, Paula Munger, and Barbara Potter. Thank you to the nominating committee and to the nominees who accept these AAUW Colorado Springs Branch Board Positions.

Thank you all for your understanding and flexibility as we work through the challenges of these new circumstances.

Stay healthy,

Jean Little

Chair, Nominating Committee

Branch Assistants Needed for 2020-2022

Your talents are sought to fill our AAUW Colorado Springs Branch Board Assistants for 2 years, beginning on July 1, 2020-June 30, 2022. The positions are:

- Directory Editor
- Website Administrator

Chris Toth will share her methods of fulfilling the Directory Editor position and Paula Munger will share her methodology as well for the Website Administrator. You will find current position descriptions on our Members Only page of our branch website <https://coloradosprings-co.aauw.net/info/members-only/branch-job-descriptions/>. These positions are key to our Communications Committee and support of our growing branch membership and activities!

Please call President-Elect Pam Maier at 719 694-4222 with your interest.

HISTORY DAY WINNERS

Janet Condit and Kathy McBride attended CC's annual History Day and judged the poster board entries, resulting in a shared prize of \$50 donated by our AAUW Branch. The major criterion is that the project feature a woman; the student-creators may be male or female. The individual winner was Cameron Wolkow, from North Middle School. Her exhibit on Marie Curie was titled "But Did She Glow in the Dark?" The exhibit was enhanced with a display of test tubes and laboratory equipment, representing Marie Curie's career as a chemist and physicist who studied radioactivity. An interesting fact stated in the exhibit is that Marie Curie's notebooks are still radioactive and are stored in lead-lined boxes in Paris. The group winner was a team of Mei-Li Mikos, Kayla Francis, and Aliana Schnelker from Lewis-Palmer Middle School. Their exhibit, "Women in the Workforce: We Can Do It!" described the *Rosie the Riveter* women who worked in factories and shipyards in the U.S. when many men were overseas during World War II. A highlight of their exhibit was a display of memorabilia and newspapers from the war years. We are proud to honor these outstanding students and hope that our prize money will encourage them to continue to participate and to have an interest in AAUW when they are eligible to join.

Submitted by Judy Werschky

Geranium Sale 2020

I held the 1st local AAUW geranium sale in 2011-- the brainchild of then president Dixie Gordon who transported the plants from Boulder. Now 9 years later I'm sorry today there won't be a sale this year.

A special thanks to the solid core of buyers whom I could count on every year in our support of National's Legal Advocacy Fund. With that \$300 raised every year for LAF, I like to think that we helped adjudicate inequality in both pay and advancements for women in higher education.

Thanks, again.

Candy Crumb, AAUW Funds Director

April 2020 Membership Corner

Spring Greetings to all!

This month, we welcome our second new STUDENT member: Carolina Terrell is a UCCS student, majoring in Social Sciences.

Last month, we welcomed Jessi Summers of Pikes Peak Community College. NOTE: In our upcoming fiscal year, I will endeavor to print a photo of new members each month!

Be on the lookout for our upcoming campaign for **Membership Dues Renewal**. Our Membership Team will be posting instructions for your annual dues to be paid. Paying early is very helpful in our bookkeeping and efficiency.

CHEERS!

Melanie Hudson, Membership VP



**AAUW COLORADO SPRINGS BRANCH MEMBERS
IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

This is an exciting time for AAUW, and we are so proud of the programs, advocacy and research that we are supporting to empower women. Thanks to members like you, AAUW is able to stand 170,000 strong, advance our mission to empower women and girls, and lead the way to gender equity. Your AAUW membership is invaluable to our branch — and we're asking you to continue standing with AAUW and renew your membership.

Annual dues of \$94.00 are due in one payment that needs to be received by June 30, 2020. (Note: New members who joined this year after March 15, 2020, your membership dues cover you through June 30, 2021.)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES: 7/1/2020 – 6/30/2021

- Dues Total = \$94 (National \$59, State \$10, Local Branch \$25.00) (\$56 is tax deductible)
 - Mailing of branch paper newsletter is an additional \$15 – only payable by check
 - Life Member Dues = \$35 covering State and Branch only
 - Student Affiliate Dues = \$18.81 (\$16.81 is tax deductible)

There are two ways to renew:

1) Renew and pay online with credit card: Membership renewal emails will be sent out to each member from EONSupport@aauw.org in April 2020 so please be on the lookout for it. When you use your link from EONSupport@aauw.org to renew, it is from AAUW and only for you. The link is attached to your AAUW membership number.

If you missed it and need another link emailed to you so you can renew and pay online, contact: Joan Skoog, Branch Treasurer, joanskooq1@gmail.com, 719-201-6289. Note: Do not sign in to aauw.org to make a payment.

Online renewal is the fastest and preferred way to renew and pay your membership.
This greatly reduces everyone's paperwork!

2) Renew by check: Make your check payable to AAUW, and mail it to Joan Skoog, Branch Treasurer, 5540 Canvasback Ct., Colorado Springs, CO 80918. Mailing of branch paper newsletter is an additional \$15 – only payable by check.

Please also consider donating to our Local Branch Scholarship Fund (*now tax deductible*) and/or the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund listed below. Mail your check made payable to AAUW to our branch treasurer at the address noted above. Indicate the AAUW fund you have chosen in the memo line of your check

AAUW remains committed to making real change happen and seeing the day when inequity is a thing of the past... and we are counting on you being part of that goal. Please contact me by email heartdesire310@gmail.com or at 719-205-7639 if you have any questions regarding your membership or donations you wish to make to AAUW Funds. Thank you for your support in making real change happen!

Melanie Hudson, VP Membership



PLEASE ALSO CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING TO THESE AAUW FUNDS – THANK YOU!

- AAUW Local Branch Scholarship Fund (*This is now tax deductible!*)
- (9110) Greatest Needs Fund (tax deductible)

Collaboration Corner - Pikes Peak Regional Science Fair 2020

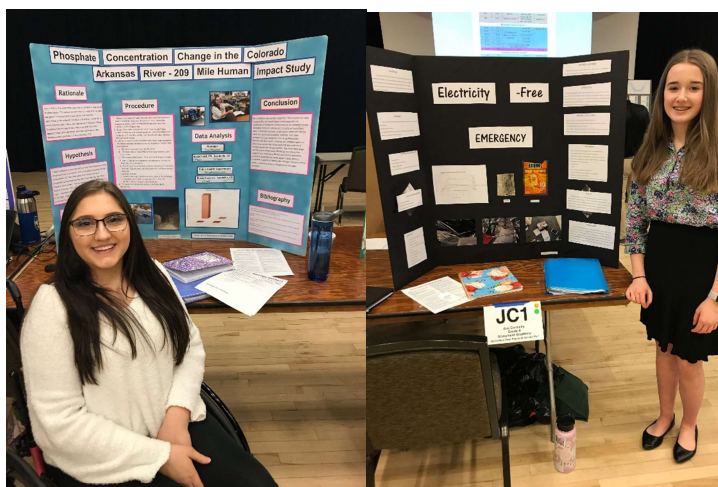
The Colorado Springs Branch once again awarded two female scientists for their efforts at the Pikes Regional Science Fair. AAUW recognized participants at both the senior high and middle school levels. Award winners were eight-grader, Ava Connelly, of The Classical Academy and sophomore, Kimberly Jones, of Miami-Yoder High School. The winners each received a \$25 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble.

Miss Connelly's experiment, entitled "Electricity-Free Emergency", investigated the best design criteria for keeping babies in incubators warm during a power outage. It has been shown that the chance of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) increases if premature babies are not kept at a safe, constant temperature. She investigated three types of "unplugged" heat sources: a USB hand warmer with rechargeable batteries and hand-crank, Hot Hands hand warmers, and a hot water bottle with a solar pack. She determined that the USB hand warmer was the only device to reach the incubator functional temperature range.

In "Phosphate Concentrate Change in the Colorado Arkansas River - 209 miles," Miss Jones investigated the phosphate concentrations present in the Arkansas River from Leadville, CO to Rocky Ford, CO. To accomplish this, a field study was conducted, and samples were taken randomly at three points along the 209-mile stretch. She proved her hypothesis that phosphate levels increased to unhealthy limits for both livestock and humans. In the future, she would like to compare to the Health Dept standards and narrow down where the major pollutants are actually introduced into the river.

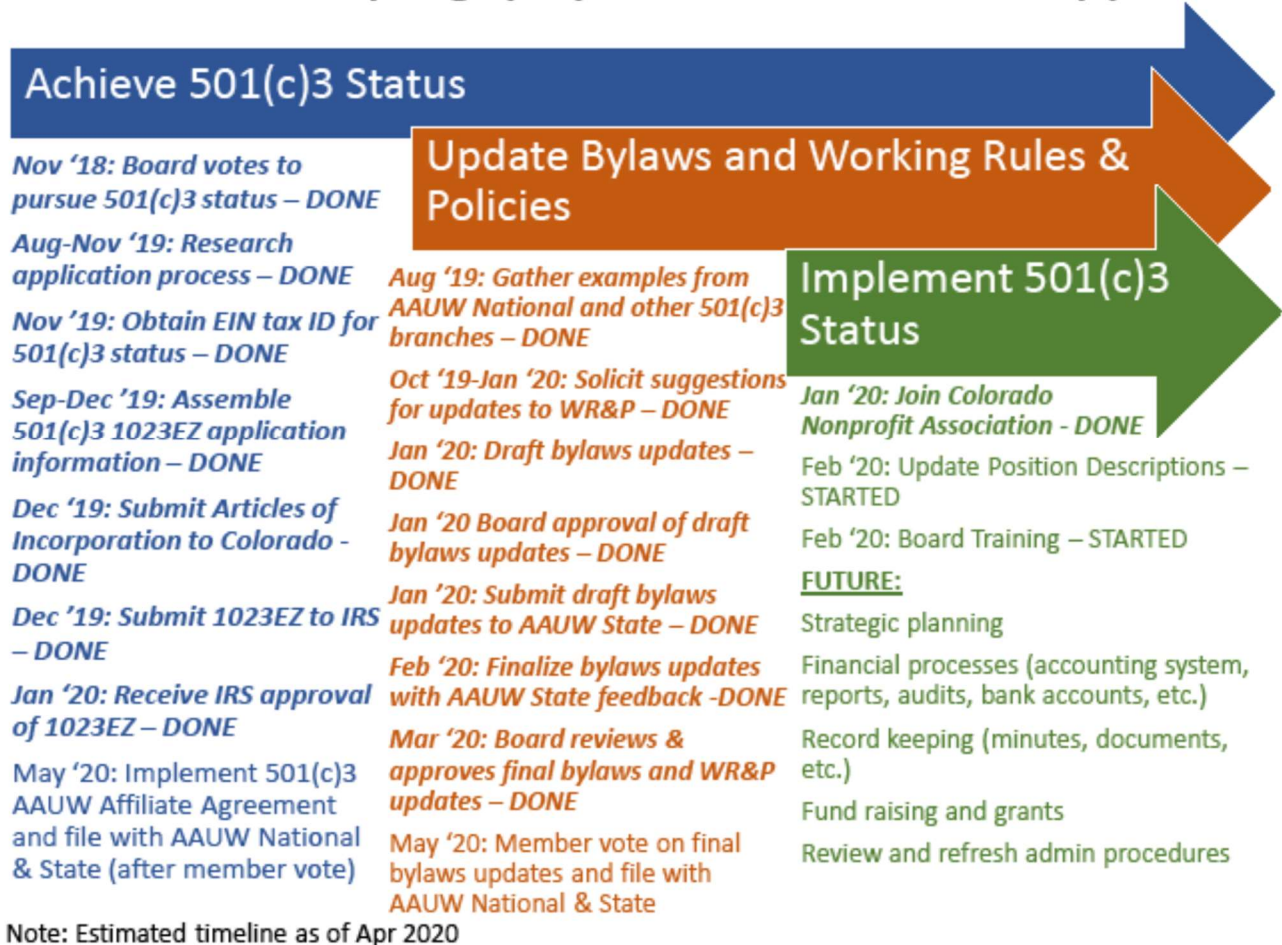
It was very disappointing that there was only a total of 53 projects for the entire Fair; and, fewer than half were female. There were no girls in the high school engineering and physical sciences category. It would appear that Science Fairs may have run their course with STEM students who look to advance their skills in other competitions such as Science Olympiad, Math Counts, and First Robotics. Most fair participants are now looking for industry sponsors that can guide them to higher levels with relevant topics and more resources.

---*Brenda Wolfe*, Science Fair Chair



501(c)(3) Update

AAUW Colorado Springs (CO) Branch Timeline for 501(c)3 Status



Interest Groups

Please contact the chairperson for an IG for the latest information on that groups plans. For the May 2020 Newsletter please send your IG information no later than 18 April 2020 to Laura Gross, grosslf@msn.com

Note: Colorado is currently under a **Stay At Home** Order which orders people to stay at home unless they are engaged in certain necessary activities.. Here is a link that explains the order: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/public-health-executive-orders-explained>

Various Days in the week/month

ARTS ON THE GO! Enjoy local music and theatre with your AAUW friends. No regularly scheduled meetings. Contact: Pam Maier. Pamela.S.Maier@gmail.com Cell: 719-694-4222

BRIDGE LIGHT. Anyone interested in playing bridge with other AAUW members at any skill level, let me know at loisbos68@gmail.com or 719-388-8557. Dates and times are flexible. Lois Boschee, Chair.

Mondays

HARDY HIKERS: C: Pip Bodkin, 206-427-2444

Tuesdays

April 7 and 21, GREAT DECISIONS, 1:30 - 3:30 at the Pikes Peak Library District East Library. Chair: Jeanette Minniti, jeanetteminniti@gmail.com or call 719-481-3230.

April 7, TECHNOLOGY INTEREST GROUP, 9:30 a.m. Chair: June Hallenbeck, junehallenbeck@comcast.net or 598-2979.

April TBD, VISUAL ARTS, Chair: Cindi Zenkert-Strange cmzenkertstrange@gmail.com.

April 14, DINNER BOOK CLUB: C: Nedra Engelson, 574-5274, nengelson@aol.com

April 14, READERS POTPOURRI 1:00 p.m. C: Patty Runyon, (269)325-4054, spdrunyon@comcast.net.

April 28, UFO (UNFINISHED OBJECTS), 1:00 p.m., C: Wynn Weidner, wynnweidner@q.com.

April 28, MORNING GLORY BOOK CLUB, 10:00 a.m., C: Phyllis Hurley, (719) 594-9508 hurleypk@comcast.net for more information.

Wednesdays

April 8, SOUTHWEST STUDIES, 1:30-3:30. Location: Ruth Holley Library Meeting Room, 923 N Murray Blvd, 80915. Co-chairs: [Jean Little wjean1@gmail.com](mailto:Jean.Little@gmail.com) and Eunice Ciaccio euninco.11@comcast.net

April 15, LUNCHEON NOVEL I, 11:45 A.M. Chair: Georgina Burns, georgina.b1@juno.com and Sally Mathewson, mathewson3@juno.com

April 15, LUNCHEON NOVEL TOO, noon. Chair: Jeanne Marsh, jmarsh@pcisys.net, 590-7237.

April 15, AFTERNOON READERS, 11:30 a.m. Chair: Frieda Dunlap (719) 310 4674 ffdunlap@hotmail.com

April 22, CHOCOLATE LOVERS: 11:45 a.m

Thursdays

WALKIE-TALKIE HIKES, Chair: Marilyn Frydrych 719 574-0252

April 2, WOMEN WHO WRITE, Join us for this writing Interest Group! We meet on the first Thursday of each month at homes of different volunteer members from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. There is light food and coffee. Our prompts are constructed by volunteers also. Members usually share their writing with the group, but it's voluntary. *To join our group or try us out, please call **Melanie Hudson 719-205-7639***

April 9: CHAPTER & VERSE WRITING GROUP, 1:00 pm. Chair: Janet Condit, 277-7590, janetcondit@gmail.com; Co-chair: Caroline Vulgamore, 520-5365, hvulgamore@gmail.com

April 23, TED TALKS. The next TED Talks will be at 7:00pm at the East Library in the Meeting Annex. If you are interested in attending and are not already receiving meeting emails, please contact Kate Meyer Olson at Skrapgirl@hotmail.com or call/text 202-794-3462. Save the date for TED Talks in 2020: May 21.

Every Thursday MAH JONGG, at noon. Valley Hi Golf Course. Contact Susan Bydalek at 465-2707 or sbydalek@yahoo.com

Fridays

April 3, EXPLORING LIVES AND CULTURES, 10:00 to 12:00 at East Library, 5550 N. Union, Room E1. Co-chairs: Janet Friedberg, janetfriedberg@comcast.net; Eunice Ciaccio, euninco.11@comcast.net

April 17, LOCAL HISTORY. 10:00 AM, C: Judie Werschky, judiewer@aol.com

Saturdays

FRIENDS OF THE GRAPE (FOG)

April TBD, F.O.G (Friends of the Grape), Chair: Jeanne Marsh, 590-7237, jmarsh@pcisys.net and Gini, 481-8843, gini.jim@comcast.net



Evening Connections IG Gathering & Sing Along with our own Fran Pilch on the Piano 🎹 🎵