



AAUW Colorado Springs Branch

August 2023 Newsletter

Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

What's Inside

- Co-Presidents Intro
- Finances
- Welcome Breakfast
- STEM Day Opportunities

Save the Dates!

Saturday, August 19, 2023
Virtual AAUW State Leadership Conference
Leadership for a Shared Vision
Details and free registration soon!

Saturday, September 16, 2023

Branch Meeting: Welcome Coffee

Sunrise United Methodist

9:30-12:00 (Doors open at 9:00)

Catch the buzz on the upcoming year.

Bountiful potluck breakfast, scholarship awardees
and the latest on interest groups. Be there!

Please preregister at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-aauw-cos-welcome-coffee-ti...>

Thursday, October 19, 2023

AAUW's Girls STEM DAY

(No branch meeting in October so
that members can participate in STEM DAY)

Friday-Saturday May 3-4, 2024

AAUW State Convention hosted by Colorado Springs Branch

Co-President's Message

Hello members of the Colorado Springs Branch,

Audrey and I thought we would start the year off with a brief introduction of ourselves – as no bios were included on the ballot this year.

BRENDA: Many of you are acquainted with me as I was AAUW COS Branch



Brenda Wolfe and Audrey McGuire,

Co-Presidents

President 2005-2007 and AAUW CO State President 2008-2010. I am a Life member of AAUW and joined in 1984 (but actually my history with AAUW began in the womb – as I am 3rd generation AAUW). I have belonged to both large and small branches in UT, TX and CO. My most recent position was Co-VP Community Outreach and I am in the Book to Film and Environmental Action Interest Groups. I graduated from Colorado School of

Mines with a BS in Chemical Engineering and am married with two sons. I worked most of my career with Metso Minerals, a large industrial equipment manufacturer, serving mostly the mining industry. I am retired now and enjoying it very much. Obviously, I have a deep interest in STEM career guidance having worked 36 years as an engineer. I hope everyone will join me in volunteering to work the Girls STEM DAY in October. I look forward to meeting or re-connecting with you all this year.

AUDREY: The year ahead as CO-President of our branch is an exciting endeavor.

Our upcoming Welcome Coffee featuring our scholarship winners will be an inspiring experience. Their stories and accomplishments are elevating to us all. We look forward to hearing from Mo Siegler about the intense, comprehensive and rewarding commitment of the scholarship committee members, for whom we have great appreciation.

I am originally from New York City and have been a Colorado Springs resident since 1985. I have 2 sons. My son, Kevin lives in Denver and my other son Brian and his wife, Susan live in Norwalk, CT. I began my career as a teacher in East Harlem, NY. With the move to Colorado, I assumed a position as an elementary school counselor for Harrison District 2, Colorado Springs. I retired in 2005.

I joined the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Docent program in 2006 and served as Docent President, 2013-2014. I joined AAUW in 2018 and served as Public Policy Director 2018-2020. Along with Nancy Holt I have been serving as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Co -Chair since 2021. My Interest groups include: Visual Arts, Southwest Studies, Hardy Hikers, Exploring Lives and Cultures, Pickle Ball and Bridge Light

The outdoors also calls to me for more than occasional tennis and golf.

May the year ahead, in concert with you all, include well-informed programs and fun filled activities.

AAUW Welcome Coffee – Interest Groups Activities

Greetings from Melanie Hudson, Interest Group Coordinator, and all our Interest Group Chairs:

As we all know, the Fall Welcome Coffee is our annual well-attended and informative event covering all that the Colorado Springs Branch has to offer for our membership. In addition to acknowledging all of our new members and welcoming NEW POTENTIAL

guests, the Interest Groups share their great topics and activities. All new members are invited to join the variety of exciting options that each Interest Group provides at the Shape The Future (STF) dues rate. This is our largest membership drive for the year. Each Interest Group (IG) will have one or more tables, decorated to represent the IG's focal topic. All members – current and new - are encouraged to walk around and meet each Chair to learn about their wonderful activities for this coming year. *PLEASE encourage all members to INVITE A FRIEND OR INTERESTED GUEST!*

To ensure that your phone number is correct in our directories that will be passed out, please check our website at [AAUW Colorado Springs \(CO\) Branch](#), click on "Members Only" enter the password TheSprings (no space and capitalize as shown), and finally click on "**AAUW-COS Branch-Directory January 28, 2023**". Check that your phone number is what you want. If not, contact Suzanne Kraus at [719-203-6596](tel:719-203-6596) or sbaldwin101@yahoo.com.

See you Saturday morning, September 16th !!!

Introducing Our 2023-2024 Scholarship Recipients

In June the Scholarship Committee selected seven recipients for branch scholarships and one for the Margaret Baptist Memorial Scholarship. Twenty-five students applied for AAUW scholarships this year, confirming a high demand for financial support for women pursuing a college education. Thanks to the AAUW Colorado Springs members generous support of the scholarship program, we are changing lives and contributing to the financial stability of these eight women featured below.

Scholarship applications are evaluated based on financial need, academic success, personal and academic references, and a personal essay. Each essay shared the applicant's educational experiences, career goals, and the obstacles and accomplishments in their life. The scholarship finalists then participate in a Zoom interview as a way to meet them on a personal level.

You are encouraged to attend the Saturday, September 16 Welcome Breakfast where you will have the opportunity to meet and hear from each of our scholars.

Scholarship Committee members were asked to write a short biography of one or two of the scholarship recipients based on their application materials, Zoom interview, and any interactions the committee member choose to have with the scholarship recipient. The committee members were delighted by the quantity of high caliber applicants. The introductions below only provide a glimpse into each of their lives.

Amanda has earned college credits at Front Range Community College and Pikes Peak State College in the field of Multimedia Graphic Design. She has taken courses such as Digital Photography, Design & Color, Adobe Illustrator, Introduction to Multimedia, and Web Design. She is currently emphasizing Web Design and development. Her GPA is 4.00 and she is Phi Theta Kappa. Besides pursuing her academic courses in her chosen field, she has already developed a business creating designs for skateboards and longboards. One of her favorite quotes is, "Art speaks



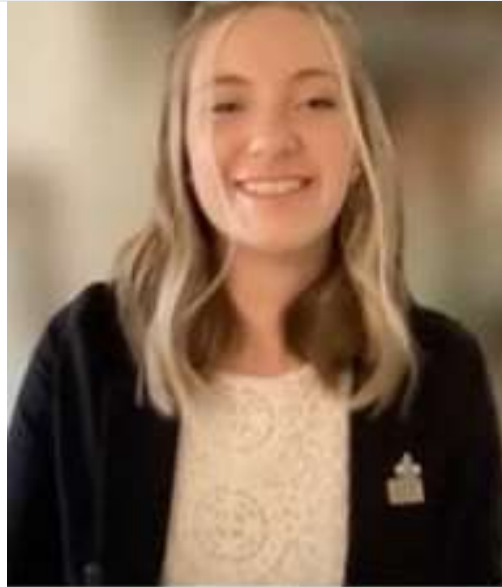
Amanda Walls *By Gayle Krzemien*

where words are unable to explain." One of her instructors stated that she is a gifted, and dedicated artist and student. She consistently goes above and beyond what is asked of her.

Amanda also has a background in serving others. Whether it be medical care or emotional support, her passion to be a positive member of her community is apparent.

In addition, after viewing some of Amanda's art portfolio, the scholarship committee was so impressed that the plan is to have Amanda design a brochure about our 2023-2024 scholarship recipients.

Vastly appreciating and valuing education, first generation college student, Kailene Black, works three jobs in order to stay in school. Kailene is a learning assistant to Dr. David Weiss in Chemistry/Biochemistry at UCCS, and is first author on their research paper concerning the impact of course loads on student performance. This pre-med student is a member of the Pre-Health Society and Chemistry/Biochemistry Club. She's in the Chancellor's Leadership Class where she volunteers 70 hours of community service per semester. The Springs Rescue Mission Foot Clinic benefits from her aid. Kailene works in an assisted living facility where she is a certified QMAP, allowing her to



Kailene Black *By Kathleen Borrelli*

dispense medicine. She's also an Admissions Front Desk Head and Student Ambassador at UCCS. Kailene is involved in Cool Science, which helps youngsters go through the scientific process. Kailene has always been interested in pursuing a medical path, but watching the trauma team and other care givers tend to her grandmother during cancer treatment, solidified her desire to become a doctor.

Avrianna had never considered a career in the healthcare field until she spent five years taking care of her great-grandmother who had dementia and needed 24/7 care. She lived with her great-grandma and grandma during those five years, got married and had three children. Her great-grandma died in 2019 and she began the process of becoming an RN. Her focus is labor and delivery and she eventually plans to be a lactation consultant to help moms and

Avrianna Barnes *By Cyndy McBee*

babies navigate breastfeeding. Avrianna says, "It takes a village and mine is determined to help me achieve my goal".

Her days are filled with being a wife, mother of three school-aged children,



an employee of a local hospital and a student at Pikes Peak State College maintaining a 3.65 GPA. Her pharmacology professor stated, she is a "self-starter, timely, prepared and shows professionalism in her interactions with faculty." AAUW is proud to help Avrianna achieve her dream of becoming an RN!

While Stephanie's dream was always to become a doctor, life circumstances provided obstacles and interruptions to her education. Due to sudden family hardships, at the age of 16 she dropped out of high school, earned a GED, and completed a medical assistant program at a vocational school. Her resilience helped her to leave a manipulative religion that discouraged Stephanie from pursuing higher education. The birth of her daughter four years ago ignited a fire in her to leave an abusive marriage and to seek a better life for the two of them.

Working as medical assistant for 13 years kept Stephanie in the medical field and she is now on track to com-

Stephanie Castro *By Mo Sigler*



plete her Bachelor's in Nursing in May 2024 with the plan to immediately enroll in the Doctor of Nursing Practice at UCCS. In addition to working as a medical assistant, Stephanie is a certified Spanish interpreter and intends to become certified as a medical Spanish interpreter. During her clinicals, when she hears a patient and nurse using a Spanish interpreter, Stephanie offers to care for the patient. The patient is instantly relieved to have a fluent Spanish-speaking nurse. Imagine how well she will serve both the Spanish and English-speaking patients when she is a Doctor of Nursing Practice!

Linda is a non-traditional student who is extremely proud of returning to school after 10 years. She is working towards a BA in Social Work and plans to enter the Advanced Standing Master's in Social Work program immediately thereafter. As the daughter of immigrant parents, she often took on roles of advocate, interpreter, and caregiving at an early age. Because of this valuable life experience, Ermelinda is able to meet people where they are in life, help them determine their needs, and thrive in life. She is passionate about social justice and advocating for under-represented and underserved people and communities especially in the Latino and women's communities.



Ermelinda (Linda) Ruiz

By Debi Levin-Stankevich

Linda also works full time at the Southern Colorado Health Network, a non-profit agency, that offers services to people living with HIV. Prior to this job she worked at another non-profit called Voces Unidas for Justice. This program offers services to Latinas who have experienced domestic violence or sexual assault.

Ella received an AAUW scholarship in 2022 that enabled her to have a successful year in nursing school. She has now finished the first half of her

Ella Hall *By Cyndy McBee*

nursing classes! Ella completed clinical rotations at both major healthcare systems in Colorado Springs, as well as at Children's Hospital Colorado Springs. She has worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Ella is excited to graduate and earn her BSN. She plans to work as an RN at Children's Hospital in Colorado Springs after graduating. Ella said, "I know my final year will be challenging, but I am ready to embrace the



challenge. I cannot thank the AAUW members enough for assisting me in my journey through nursing school. The scholarships I have received have allowed me to work seasonally, rather than full time, and focus on my schoolwork. I am so excited to give back to my community and learn everything I can as a nurse! Thank you all so much again," Ella Hall.

Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis three years ago, Hayden feels grateful for the strength it has given her to find her purpose. This physical and emotional life altering experience created a desire for Hayden to understand and improve the healthcare system. She feels more like herself now than ever and has learned how to take something bad and turn it into good. Having been a nanny in Boulder, Hayden has always enjoyed working with children. Her goal is to become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and then get a Master of Science in Nursing with a specialization in Pediatric Primary Care. She'd like to

Hayden Cushman *By Kathleen Borrelli*



work in the Neonatal Intensive Care. This polite young woman wants to advocate for children and try to make parents feel better when their child is sick. She understands if parents are being difficult, it's probably because it's the worst day of their lives. Dealing with her own health issues in a wholistic manner, has given Hayden a broad understanding of the various health needs of her patients.

The Margaret Baptist Memorial Scholarship recipient this year is Marissa, a student at UCCS with a major in biology. Her overall GPA is 3.59. Her goal is to go to medical school, become a doctor, and specialize in pediatrics and surgery.

Her passion for healthcare is fueled by her own experiences with limited access to healthcare, and she especially wants to address the healthcare disparities that affect underserved communities. She is a member of the UCCS Chancellor's Leadership Class, which is one of the most competitive scholarships at UCCS. She is also interested in



Marissa Benavidez *By Gayle Krzemien*

gaining experience through connecting with health professionals in her community, volunteer work, and actively seeking out mentorship and research opportunities. She plans to continue to learn and develop her leadership and professional skills through the Chancellors Leadership Class, (CLC), the Reisher Scholars Program, and the University Event Ambassador Program.

Membership Matters

Dear Members,

Summer is quickly ending, and fall will be here soon! I hope the summer has been enjoyable for everyone. I would like to introduce myself, I am Suzanne Baldwin Kraus the new Membership Vice President. I'd like to thank Jan Jones for her past service as Membership Vice President. She has been a big help and very patient with me as I learn what is necessary to take over her position.

In July the board hosted a welcome Wine and Cheese gathering for new members. Thank you, Peggy Dolinich, for hosting.

Please welcome two new members to your interest groups: Kerry A. Hefta and Kathleen Konarzewski.

Reminder: RENEW your membership if you haven't done so already! Memberships that are not paid will be void at the end of September. If you have not renewed, please go to www.aauw.org and renew NOW. The dues are \$107 and if you have trouble renewing online you can send a check made out to AAUW to Joan Skoog, Joanskoog1@gmail.com

Recently the board was notified of the death of two members. Wilma Biegelsen, was a long-time member of our branch. She passed away in July in Fort Collins. Her memorial service was held Friday, August 11. In addition, Nona Hentschel passed away. Nona was very active in many interest groups and had served as Hostess for the club for several years. Her memorial service will be held at 2:00 on Wednesday, Aug 23 at Patty Jewett Clubhouse.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding membership, please contact me.

Suzanne Baldwin Kraus, MVP

Sbaldwin101@yahoo.com

[719-235-7481](tel:719-235-7481)

AAUW Year End Financials For Year Ending June 30, 2023

We ended the fiscal year in good financial shape spending \$1434 less than our income thanks to very frugal spending. Our membership income is over budget due to changes at National on our website causing delays in processing renewals last year. Most of our

operating income is generated through our Branch dues and an occasional donation to our General Fund. Last year \$240 was received through a donation to our general fund. We had a very successful Author's Day which netted \$7327 towards the Local Scholarship fund plus an additional \$3025 in scholarship donations were received throughout the year. The Margaret Baptist Scholarship Fund received an additional \$10,325. STEM is a new item on our budget sheet. Eight thousand six hundred dollars have been received through donations and grants to go toward this year's STEM DAY. Through member donations, Amazon Smiles, Kroger and Safeway programs, we donated \$1332 to the National AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. With the Board's approval, \$35,000 was removed from our ENT savings account and invested with the Pikes Peak Community Foundation in order to receive a greater return.

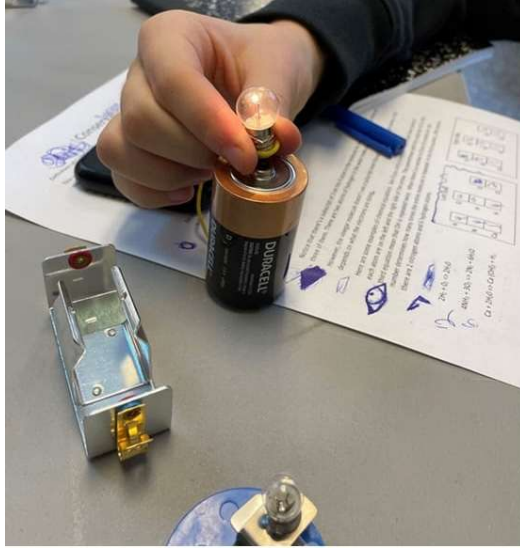
Respectfully
Joan Skoog, Treasurer

submitted,

AAUW Budget for 2023-2024

Below are the financials for 2022/23 and the approved budget for this fiscal year based on 180 members. This budget only shows our operating income and expenses. All monies received and disbursed for Author's Day, Local Scholarship, Margaret Baptist Scholarship, Greatest Needs and STEM are specifically designated to those funds and do not contribute to our overall budget.

National Dues	6464.00	4320
State Dues	1010.00	630
Branch Dues \$25 (160 members)	5684.00	4500
Donations (40% of \$3000)	240.00	300
Newsletter Mailings	15.00	0
Programs (Income)	1335.00	1500
Ckg/Savings Interest	17.00	10
Misc. Income	18.00	100
Reserve Funds		3660
Total Income	14783.00	15020.00
Expenses		
Dues to National	6637.00	4320
Dues to State	1050.00	630
Programs	1547.00	2500
Hospitality	13.00	500
Conventions/Workshops	923.00	2500
Local Directory	159.00	160
Newsletter	96.00	0
Insurance	548.00	550
Membership(flyers & programs)	95.00	200
Postage/Misc Office Costs	31.00	250
Courtesy Coordinator	100.00	150
Zoom Fees	200.00	200
Other/ Branch Activities	51.00	150
Nametags for Events	29.00	50
Sec of State	10.00	10
President's Expenses	67.00	200
Misc. Expenses	221.00	50
Community Outreach/Involvement		
Girls' STEM	1000.00	2000
Science Fair	200.00	200
History Day Award	175.00	200
International Womens' Day	200.00	200
Other-Community Outreach	0.00	
Reserve Funds	1431.00	0
Total Expenses	14783.00	15020.00



Pictures by Nancy Winston

Coming October 19

One Day Only!

AAUW Girls STEM DAY 2023

AAUW Colorado Springs Girl's STEM DAY Returns Thursday, October 19 2023...And there's a role for you! Coming off the exciting Girl's STEM DAY we premiered in November 2022, AAUW has arranged with Hillside Community Center to show case our second STEM DAY.

Why our branch of AAUW is doing an annual STEM DAY.

We hope to strengthen the opportunities for 7th grade girls from disadvantaged neighborhoods to develop a love for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) subjects with the intent of nudging them into a STEM career.

Volunteers:

- We encourage your commitment to these 7th grade girls as they experience eye opening possibilities for a future with STEM.
- You are welcome to volunteer for more than one position.
- There's no need to volunteer for the entire day.
- Everyone who volunteers the day of the event will receive a T-shirt and lunch.

Positions:

- Goodie Bag Stuffers - At least a week before the event.
- Light unloading and unpacking - At 7:30 am, Oct 19 we'll need people to unload and carry boxes of equipment into the appropriate rooms. We should be ready to greet the girls by 8:30.
- Table Monitors –Setup and cleanup experiments. Leads will do all the explaining. Should be available for practice session at Library 21C sometime during the first part of October.
- Registration - Help direct the girls getting off the busses to their correct registration tables and then pass out about 12 goodie bags.
- Box Lunch and drinks -Setup of boxed lunches and drinks at the balcony tables.
- Escorts –Lead 22 girls from the gym to one of two smaller classrooms and vice-versa.
- Clean-up. We must be out of the two classrooms by 2:15 and the gym by 2:30. The girls are scheduled to leave at 2:00. Ideally, most volunteers will be available at the end of the day to help.

Signup:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKKAQb5RILr5DPIEb7Wzi-leZewrCzkiQU1w1kOCuXvZ-gJg/viewform?usp=sf_link



Don't Miss This One! Great Webinar Experience!
AAUW Of Colorado's

Fall Leadership Conference

"Leadership for a Shared Vision"

Saturday, August 19, 2023

9:00 am – 12:00 Noon

Two NCCWSL Scholarship Recipients
Will Speak on their Experiences with
the 2023 Conference



Ana Villazon
Colorado Springs



Jennifer Martinez Gomez
Aurora

Click here to register: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

New Members Wine and Cheese Social

July 13, 2023



Lorena Wilder, Kathy Gutnayer and
Cindy Keeffe

by Suzanne Baldwin Kraus



Peggy Dolinich, Robin Depies,
Un ha Ferguson, and Kathy Olson

by Suzanne Baldwin Kraus

The Visual Arts Group

The Visual Arts Group is starting the year with two fascinating programs in September.

On September 9th we will carpool to Pueblo to visit with Ron Brash as he shares his Cuban Art collection which is on display at the Sangre de Cristo art center.

Contact Kathy Olson [719-331-8891](tel:719-331-8891) kathrynlolson@msn.com or Jan Zellmer (see below) if you would like to join us on this excursion.

On September 26th we will gather at the La Posada Del Sol clubhouse starting at 1:30 where our own member, Kathleen Hartman, will present 'How the Arts Transform Us'. Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP.

Jan Zellmer [719-314-5789](tel:719-314-5789) janzellmer@yahoo.com & Jeanne Koss [719-322-3111](tel:719-322-3111) Jeannee5677@gmail.com



Walkie-Talkies July 20, 2023 at Florissant National Monument. Note the wildflowers.

Kim Hetherington, Connie Miles, Marilyn Frydrych, and Jan Zellmer

by Susie Potterat

Passing of Nona Hentschel

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Branch member Nona Hentschel. Her obituary was in the Gazette on Sunday. It mentioned AAUW and her fondness for the hiking and book groups.

Celebration of Life, 2:00PM, Wednesday, August 23, 2023, Patty Jewett Golf Course,
900 Espanola St, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907.

Changes to AAUW Colorado Springs Branch Interest Groups

MORNING GLORIES BOOK CLUB- (Chair Change) Chair: Gini Simonson. [\(719\)-481-8843](tel:(719)481-8843). gini.jim@comcast.net. This group meets in homes or coffee shops, occasionally by Zoom. Fiction and non-fiction books are discussed. Meets 4th Tuesdays at 10 am.

For those who would like information about other interest groups click here: [AAUW Interest Groups | Colorado Springs \(CO\) Branch](#) .