



AAUW Colorado Springs Branch

June - July 2023 Newsletter

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

What's Inside

- President's Farewell
- Authors Day Financial Report
- Annual Meeting Report
- STEM Day Opportunities
- Recap of Annual Meeting/Awards/Election

Save the Dates!

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 pitch-in breakfast, scholarship awardees

and the latest on interest groups. Bee there!

Details and free registration to follow

Tuesday, October 17, 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

President's Message



As I compose my last President's message, would it surprise you to know that I have mixed emotions? A fair measure of relief (we made it!), certainly excitement about the future, but primarily gratitude for being given this opportunity to learn and lead such an extraordinary group of women, dedicated to such a critical mission.

We've accomplished a lot together:

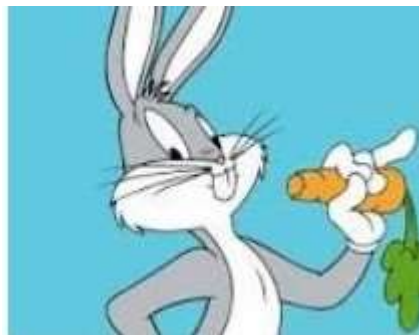
- Added 28 new/rejoining members.
- Successfully navigated a major transition at the national level in how membership data is handled and provided.
- Hosted eight branch meetings with dynamic speakers who both informed and challenged us, including programs that centered diversity, equity, and inclusion, with an average attendance of 40-60 members/guests at each event (and many more at the Welcome Coffee and Author's Day)
- Published monthly newsletters, eblasts, and updated the website and Facebook to keep members informed about branch, state and national AAUW news.
- Participated virtually or in person in Colorado AAUW meetings, including Leadership, Public Policy, and Annual Convention.
- Partnered with other local women's organizations to sponsor International Women's Day and Wine, Women and Chocolate.
- Raised more than \$7,000 through Authors Day/Silent Auction and added donations throughout the year to fund 6 annual scholarships for deserving women.

- Hosted our 1st annual AAUW Girl's STEM Day for 96 7th grade girls and began planning for the next, including securing outside funding through grants and donations as well as members' generous contributions.
- Participated in the Pikes Peak Regional Science Fair and presented AAUW awards.
- Invested targeted branch funds with the Pikes Peak Community Foundation to maximize interest while minimizing risk.
- Added another new Interest Group, Books to Film, and continued to grow our existing groups.

Congratulations on all you've achieved! And thank you again for the remarkable collaboration, cooperation, and grace you've shown me. I know you will do the same and more for the incoming board led by **Brenda Wolfe** and **Audrey McGuire**. They're going to be an unstoppable duo with complementary skills and lots of creative ideas. I'm excited to see what's in store for us!

Kudos to all of our newly elected officers, and annual award winners! You'll find a complete rundown on these stellar branch leaders in the Annual Meeting Recap that follows.

Cindi



. . . That's all folks!

Annual Meeting Explores Past, Present and Future

On May 20, members made their ways through lingering haze from Canadian wildfires to gather at cozy La Posada. There, over breakfast boxes and coffee, we closed out the '22-'23 year by spending time with the **past**, **present**, and **future**.

How HPA is Preserving Our Past.

Tim Boddington, of the Historic Preservation Alliance, brought us the **past** as he shared both the important work of HPA and a bit about his own family history in Colorado.

Presenting our Newest 50-year Members

Then on to the **present** as we kicked off the annual business meeting with awards and recognition. VP Membership, **Jan Jones**, recognized two 50-year members: **Marilynn Hanlon** and **Judy Sargent** (deceased) who were also recognized by AAUW members and friends, **Sue Neufeld** and **Pam Doane**. Marilynn and Judy become part of an exclusive group of other 50-year branch members, notable for their loyalty and commitment to AAUW and its mission.

Names Honored Award

Then **Sarah Stowell**, who, along with her committee, evaluated nominees for the coveted **Names Honored** award, announced **Marilyn Frydrych** as the '22-'23 Names Honored awardee. Marilyn's contributions to the Colorado Springs branch are legend and include long service on the UCCS STEM steering committee, leading the inaugural AAUW Colorado Springs Girls STEM Day, exemplary service on the branch Scholarship Committee, serving as Community Outreach VP and most recently stepping up to serve as editor of our monthly newsletter! Thank you, Marilyn, for helping to make possible the many AAUW benefits we all enjoy! Scroll down to see more about this prestigious award.

Cindi Zenkert-Strange, outgoing president and a former Names Honored awardee, was presented with beautiful flowers and a coveted Barnes and Noble gift certificate, from the '22-'23 Board, thanking her for her service.

Securing Our Future--Election of Officers

And then it was time to usher in the **future**. After confirming a quorum, and voting to amend the bylaws to permit Co-Presidents, Nominating Committee Co-Chair, **Brenda Wolfe**, presented the slate of '23-'24 officers. As there were no additional nominations from the floor, the slate was voted in by acclamation. Congratulations to:

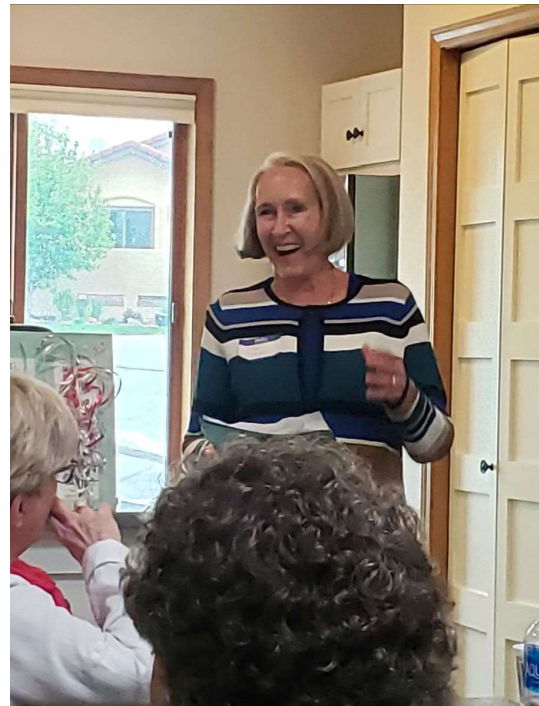
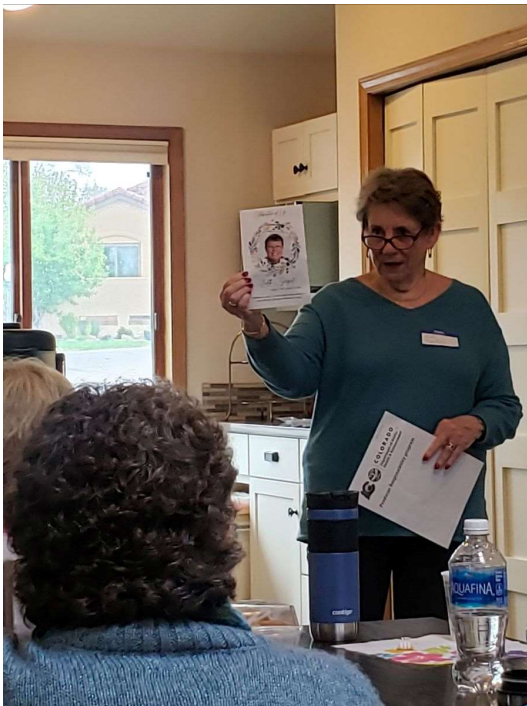
Co-Presidents:	Audrey	McGuire,	Brenda	Wolfe
President-elect:		Crystal		Stebbins

Secretary:				Cindy		Keeffe	
Vice	President	Membership:	Suzanne		Baldwin	Kraus	
Vice	President	Community	Outreach:	Marilyn		Frydrych	
New	Nominating	Committee	Members:	Jan	Jones,	Annabel	
						Widney	

Congratulations also to board members previously elected and completing their term of office in '23-'24.:

Treasurer:				Joan		Skoog	
Co-VP	of	Programs:	Kathy	Olson,	Lynn	Whitacre	
Nominating	Committee	Members:	Melanie	Hudson,	Vivian	McWhorter	

Appointed board members and committee chairs will be confirmed at a later date. Minutes of the annual meeting are posted on the branch website.



Sue Neufeld and **Pam Doane** introduce our latest 50-year members.



Marilynn Hanlon, a new 50-year member, pictured with Pam Doane and 50-Year Members
 Attending the Annual Meeting: **Marilynn Hanlon**, **June Hallenbeck**, and **Candy Crumb**

2023 Authors Day/Silent Auction Financial Recap

+Net Ticket Revenue	\$3,405.00
+ Net Auction Sales	\$4,367.59
+ <u>Authors Day Donations *</u>	<u>\$1,540.13</u>
	\$9,312.72
• Breakfast Catering	- \$1,587.00
• Broadmoor Church	- \$ 240.00
• <u>Misc Expenses</u>	<u>- \$ 158.85</u>
•	-\$1985.85
Total	\$7326.87

* Several generous donations to our Scholarship Fund came in after Authors Day in April. As these were not designated for Authors Day they are not included here, although donations to our Scholarship Fund are received year-round and go towards scholarships. In last month's newsletter, we saluted the many individual members who contributed to the success of Authors Day. Beyond the members named, our thanks go out to all who purchased a ticket to attend, all who made auction purchases and all who donated auction items or dollars! Thanks also to the many interest groups who either donated money or items for the silent auction. Your participation

was essential and appreciated!

Finally, we'd like to recognize the many merchants that were solicited by AAUW members to contribute auction items for free or at a discounted price. Please show your appreciation for their generosity by patronizing the following businesses:

Garden of the Gods Resort

Flying Horse Country Club

July Five (Handcrafted Upcycled/Recycled Fashion <https://julyfive.com>)

Singing Bowls of the Rockies

Festivitea (tea shop)

Shangrila

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

Paravacinis

BJ's

Poor Richards

Chuy's

Urban Egg

Salsa Brava

PF Changs

REI

Scheels

Tattered Cover

Olive Tap

Paninos

Amanda's Fonda

Pierre Debernay Art

Please let us know if we overlooked a business, so we can recognize them in a future newsletter.

**Coming In October
One Day Only!**

AAUW Girls STEM DAY 2023

AAUW Colorado Springs Girl's STEM Day Returns Tuesday, October 17, 2023...And there's a role for you! Coming off the exciting Girl's STEM Day we premiered in November 2022, AAUW Colorado Springs is planning Girl's STEM Day, 2023, with 2x the number of school districts, 2x the number of students, and 2x the number of volunteers needed to plan and execute a successful event.

Are you a member of AAUW?

Then there's a part for you. Whether you volunteer to stuff student bags, register students, serve lunch, source t-shirts, set up student stations for experiments, or any one or more of a myriad of other tasks, it's your participation that will make a real difference. And should you be out of the country from now through October, you can support the STEM effort through a donation to the AAUW Colorado Springs STEM fund. What an exciting opportunity to influence the next generation of girls and women! Girl's STEM Day will focus on 7th grade girls, in Districts 2,3,8 and 11, some of the most diverse school districts in Colorado Springs, with some of the higher percentages of free and reduced school lunch.

Why STEM?

In Colorado, a full 10% of local jobs available are STEM jobs. In fact, there are 2 ½ entry level STEM jobs available for every new four-year college STEM graduate in this state. These jobs are some of the higher paying jobs available to college graduates. And yet, only 26% of STEM positions in Colorado are held by women.

Why 7th grade girls?

Societal messages start early that girls do not belong in these fields...particularly girls of color. By the time they reach middle school and begin to enroll in specific classes, girls are already beginning to avoid the traditional science, math and technology courses that are foundational to an eventual career in STEM. By sharing with young middle school girls the joys of STEM and helping them envision a fun and rewarding career in a STEM field, we'll inspire more girls to explore the possibilities, and begin to sign up for those basic STEM classes that represent a critical gateway to opportunity.

Why AAUW?

What organization is better positioned to lead in STEM than AAUW with its focus on advancing equity for women and girls through education, research and advocacy? In 2023, girls outnumber boys on college campuses nationwide, but there's still significant gaps in earning potential.

Why You?

Girl's STEM Day gives each of us the opportunity to live out our mission and put our values into action. A STEM career is not for every girl, but equal opportunity to explore and pursue STEM is essential!

If you honor AAUW's historic role in supporting education for women, if you appreciate the many interest groups our branch offers so that we can pursue our personal passions, if equity matters, then, yes, there's a STEM role for you!

Watch your inbox for an early July eblast sharing the numerous ways you can choose to help.

Names Honored 2023 Announcement

Recognizing a member for outstanding service to our Colorado Springs Branch has been a tradition since 1976. Along with the recognition by the membership, the recipient receives the gift of having their membership dues for the next year paid by the branch. If you are interested in who has received this honor in the past the list can be found on the [branch website](#). The honoree is chosen from nominations by our members. The request for nominations was in both our February and March newsletters. Thank you to those of you who submitted nominations.

This year's recipient is **Marilyn Frydrych**. Marilyn is the current Co-VP Community Outreach AND Co-Chair of the STEM Day committee. She has also served for many years on the Local Scholarship committee and this year is also helping the Communications committee with newsletter creation.

Marilyn worked for over 3 years to organize the most recent inaugural AAUW STEM Day held

for 75 seventh grade girls. The culmination of her effort was a successful event held in Nov. 2022. Through her efforts, the visibility of AAUW Colorado Springs was spread throughout southeast Colorado Springs. She met with community leaders in three school districts, the United Way, and even met with City Council member, Yolanda Avila, who represents that area. Internally, Marilyn enlisted approximately 40 members to help in some capacity with the event - giving our members an opportunity to support the mission.

In addition, for the past five years, Marilyn has helped judge for the AAUW awards at the Pikes Regional Science Fair at UCCS. This year she helped convince the Board that we really needed to raise our award amount from \$25 to \$100 for each winner (one at the middle school level and one at the high school level). On top of that, at the State level for the past 2 years Marilyn judged for AAUW Colorado's state awards at the State Science Fair competition held at CSU in Ft Collins.

Lastly, she has led the Walkie-Talkies interest group for five years.

Many thanks to Marilyn for all her contributions to our branch!

Sarah Stowell

Chair, Names Honored Committee

Membership Matters

Dear

Members,

Hope you're all having an enjoyable summer! I am closing my term as Membership VP July 1st. I would like to thank each one of you for your kindness and patience over the last two years. We have a great group of ladies in this branch that gladly help to overcome the challenge that comes with the many responsibilities of this office. I know **Suzanne Baldwin Kraus**, our new MVP, can expect the same as a newly elected officer. A special note of BIG THANKS goes to my outstanding membership committee for all their given time greeting and providing AAUW information at the branch meetings, creating name tags, and planning new member events! These ladies deserve a round of applause: **Kathy Griego, Peggy Dolinich, Patti**

Nelson, Jeanne Marsh, Lynn Whitacre, and Mattie O. Rose

Please welcome a new member to your interest groups: Welcome **Nina Rikoski!**

Reminder: RENEW your membership if you haven't done so already! You should be receiving renewal reminder emails from National or will in the future according to your join date. If for some reason, you haven't received these notifications, go to your personal account on Community Hub and update your current contact information. If you need to resubscribe to have National's emails sent, you can do so in My Preferences or contact National at <https://aauw.us/emailoptions>.

Extra	Notes	of	Value:
The Yellow Postcard:	Oral History Project	emails and mailings	has been discontinued by National.
Do not respond to any mailings!			
NEW	Discount		Cards:
Office Depot/Office Max	new discount cards	are available at	www.aauw.org .
Click on Membership**Discounts and Perks**	Scroll to Office Depot/Office Max**Click Here link to ODP Business Solutions**	Click on black Shop Online button	to create your store perks account, print your card, or a QR discount code on your phone!
Thanks	Everyone	for your	AAUW support!

Celebration of Life for Jennie Jo White

We recently received a note from Wayne White, husband of **Jennie Jo White** who passed away last December following a car accident and subsequent fall, and is greatly missed by her AAUW friends.

We are invited to a Celebration of Life on July 30, 11:30-4:30. A catered lunch will be served at 11:30, followed by a service, at the Cordera Community Center, 11894 Grand Lawn Circle, Colorado Springs 80924. Casual and brightly-colored attire in the spirit of Jennie Jo, is requested. No flowers, please

Following the service, there will be a gathering at the home of Hants and Caroline White, 15030, Raton Rd, 80921, from 5:00-10:00 pm.

RSVPs are requested for planning purposes to waynewwhite@live.com

If you have photos or memories you'd like to contribute to a slide show of Jennie Jo, they can

be uploaded to the shared Dropbox folder here:
<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dropbox.com%2FscI%2Ffo%2Fc1expyaa036vayqadatm9%2Fh%3Fdl%3D0%26rlkey%3D26hazw8d7cp9g2h2zr7c1qhvs&data=05%7C01%7C%7Caff16f246b864e80a7db08db72aee427%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638229867713144860%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jp%2FyL3w%2Bgy5mMY7h%2Bz5evv7Mt4geQE%2F6jaZ7GRKi2lo%3D&reserved=0>

You can read Jennie Jo's obituary at the following link:
<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thenaturalfuneral.com%2Fjennie-jo-white%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7Caff16f246b864e80a7db08db72aee427%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638229867713144860%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8>

For those who would like to donate in her memory to continue her legacy of generosity and kindness, the family suggests Wholly Kicks (www.whollykicks.org), an organization that supports individuals and families experiencing economic disparity.

Jan Jones
Membership VP

Did You Know?

News from AAUW National, AAUW Colorado & Other Branches

**It's Official! Colorado Springs Branch to host State Annual Convention,
May 3-4, 2024**

Mark your calendar and Save the Date! We'll be hosting AAUW members from around the state here in Colorado Springs, showcasing both our city and branch. Working with our state officers, we'll plan an exciting activity for Friday evening and a dynamic program for Saturday, concluding

with the annual state business meeting. Have some ideas about venues or activities we should share with our fellow Colorado AAUW members? Please share them with Cindi Zenkert-Strange, cmzenkertstrange@gmail.co



**Branch Student Member, Ana V, Shines at AAUW's Conference for College
Women Student Leaders**

As reported previously, Ana V, a Colorado Springs AAUW scholarship awardee and branch student member, attended AAUW's NCCWSL Conference held at the University of Maryland this past May. Ana received one of two state scholarships available to Colorado student members to attend this prestigious conference. Here's what Ana shared about her experience at NCCWSL:

"Attending NCCWSL this year was an amazing experience. I was able to participate virtually last year but being able to do it in person added a new layer of sorority and encouragement. All the sessions I participated in provided me with a new opportunity to look at my own leadership and analyze the different paths I can take to enact it. One of my biggest takeaways came from the first session named Power, Influence, and Impact: Women and Transformative Leadership by Grace Virtue. She talked about the importance of self-awareness and positive deviance as tools to promote our authentic leadership as women in a professional environment where we face constant barriers due to gender bias. Most of the participants in this session shared similar experiences of being targeted by our racial background in professional settings. We found comfort in knowing these are

not isolated cases, and encouragement in recognizing these differences makes us uniquely valuable. I deeply appreciate the effort of all Colorado AAUW members in supporting my participation in NCCWSL 2023.”

Congratulations, Ana! Read what other student attendees from Colorado had to say about their NCCWSL experiences in the June issue of Colorado Connects at <https://us5.campaign-archive.com/home/u=fa357ac0df1f71c0128720191&id=e87acbb271>

Congratulations to Continuing and Newly Elected State Officers and Board Members! At the Annual Convention held in Aurora in May, new state officers were elected. These include:

State President:	Joan Brown	(2021-'24)
Co-President Elect:	Jill Smith, Carolyn Cooley	(2023-'24)
Treasurer:	Linda Davies	(2023-'25)
Co-VP Program Development:	Susan Brodie, Diane Fuchs	(2023-'25)
Secretary:	Sally Mathewson	(Colorado Springs Branch)
Nominating Committee:	Cindi Zenkert-Strange	(Colorado Springs Branch)
	Sue Ryden, Carolyn Cooley, Susan Schlagel, Ruth O'Brien, Betty Boyd	(alternate)

To read a bit about each of our new officers, see the May Colorado Connects at <https://us5.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=fa357ac0df1f71c0128720191&id=e87acbb271>

Special thanks to outgoing State Secretary, **Pam Maier** (Colorado Springs Branch) and to **Pam and Brenda Wolfe** (Colorado Springs Branch), outgoing members of the State Nominating Committee.

We appreciate your service!

Virtual State Leadership Conference, Sat. August 19, 9 am-12 pm

Theme: Leadership for a Shared Vision
Watch for details and free registration link in the August newsletter.

Laugh, Learn, Be Inspired. Consider inviting other branch members to your house for a watch party!

Collaboration Corner

Pikes Peak Women Offers Latest Podcast

The Role of New Women in the Colorado Legislature. Featuring Regina English and Stephanie Vigil, hosted by Mary Lou Makepeace. Find this podcast at: Studio809: <https://studio809podcasts.com/role-of-new-women-elected/>

Pikes Peak Women, Colorado 50/50, and the Rocky Mountain NAACP

Free Showing of the film "Represent"

Date: Saturday, July 15

Time: Doors open at 1:45 PM. Film at 2 PM. Networking with local elected women officials begins at 3:30

Location: El Pomar's Penrose House, 1661 Mesa Ave

"In the heart of the American Midwest, three women take on entrenched political systems in their fight to reshape local politics on their own terms. 'Represent' is equal parts personal and political, journeying on and off the campaign trail to tell the stories of female candidates from vastly different communities, support systems, and political parties. The politics may be local, but for these women, the stakes are high."

Register for free at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/inspiring-women-to-represent-tickets-663375482927?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&fbclid=IwAR1Q8Fvxv1Z0Duye2IHRX2AvtNV8uTMXQvIfNSrriyKcE8IAa90D472m9Zk>

Interest Group Year End Summary

We are ending a great year of activities in our Interest Groups! We have 24 lively and interesting groups that are well-attended. Some IG Chairs have changed for the coming year. Many are

quite full and 3 are closed temporarily: Chocolate Lovers, Women Who Write, and Afternoon Readers. A new book group was added in January of this year. Books to Films group, (at 8 members currently) where books that have been made into movies are chosen. We read the book and attend a showing of the movie, discussing both afterward. Our Southwest Studies group is also highly attended, as is Visual Arts. Over the summer, I suggest you may look through the IG options and determine if you would be interested in adding a new one to your schedule. If you have any questions, issues, or ideas, please let me know. Thanks to our IG Chairs who do a fantastic job of supporting and promoting our successful and popular groups.

MELANIE HUDSON, IG Coordinator



Environmental Action Interest Group at Blue Star Recycling, June 27, 2023. **Bill Morris**, the founder, is on the right.

Southwest Studies Interest Group

Monthly meeting presentations focus on the unique history and legacy of our annual destination. This year our trip is September 20-24 to Santa Fe, NM.

July Meeting

When: Wednesday, July 26, Doors open 1:30pm, Meeting 2:00pm-3:30pm

Where: East Branch Library, 5550 N Union Blvd

Program: *A Remarkable Frontier: Early Santa Fe as a Women's World*

Co-Chairs

Gayle Krzemien 719-231-5068

Nancy Winston 719-749-0308

AAUW Colorado Springs Branch Interest Groups

(With Contact Information *6/2023)

***Please contact the chair of a group, for up-to-date information and for the hostesses' planning.**

Various Days in the week/month

- **ARTS ON THE GO:** Enjoy local music and theatre with your AAUW friends. Dates and times vary. A spontaneous group; Invite a friend!
- **BRIDGE LIGHT** – Chair: **Nancy Winston** - fornancywinston@yahoo.com (719)205-0377. Improve bridge skills and enjoy time with other AAUW members. Open to all skill levels. Dates, locations, and times planned by participants.

Mondays

- **HARDY HIKERS** – Chair: **Lorena Wilder** (206)-427-2444, Enjoy hikes in the Front Range averaging 3-6 miles. The degree of difficulty varies with each hike. Summer and fall hikes are usually in the mountains; winter and spring hikes are more likely to be local. Meets Monday mornings.
- **BOOKS TO FILMS-** Chair: **Melanie Hudson** (719)-205-7639 heartdesire310@gmail.com Co-Chair: **Kate Meyer Olson** (202)-794-3462, – Read a great book, then watch the correlating movie on streaming or at the theater! Meet at a member's home or a library, first Mondays at 2:30 p.m. Watch the movie together later at a theater or by streaming.

Tuesdays

- **DINNER BOOK CLUB** – Chair: **Nedra Engelson**, (719)-574-5274, nengelson@aol.com. This group meets in various restaurants or a member's home for dinner or dessert and discusses both fiction and non-fiction books. Meets 2nd Tuesdays at 5:30 pm.
 - **GREAT DECISIONS** Chair: **Jeanette Minniti**, (719)-964-8333, jeanetteminniti@gmail.com. An in-depth study of current affairs. Group reads about the eight most pressing global topics from the Great Decisions Foreign Policy Association book, views a 20-minute video, and breaks into discussion groups. Meets February through May 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm on-line or in a library setting.
 - **MORNING GLORIES BOOK CLUB-** Chair: **Jean Koch**. (719)-540-9289. bjkoch68@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.
 - **READERS' POTPOURRI** – Chair: **Betty Fannin**: C: (719)-684-3896, H: (719)-258-9133; fannins@comcast.net. Fiction and non-fiction books are read and discussed. Meets 2nd Tuesdays of the month, 1 p.m., at various members' homes.
 - **TECHNOLOGY** –**Jan McKenzie** - 719-597-7161, jfannins@comcast.net. The group meets to help each other better utilize new technologies. Bring your tech questions for discussion or your latest device or software to show and tell.
 - **VISUAL ARTS** – Co-Chairs: Jeanne Koss jeannee5677@gmail.com and Jan Zellmer: (719) 576-9086, Janzellmer@yahoo.com. An outside speaker or Visual Arts member presents a monthly program related to visual arts/artists. May include occasional car-
-

pooled visits to regional art-related exhibits, sites. Meets 4th Tuesdays, usually at Library 21C , typically at 1:30 pm.

Wednesdays

- **AFTERNOON READERS – (FULL)** Chair: **Mary Carley** – (719)-264-6284 maryecarley@aol.com. Fiction and non-fiction books are read and discussed. Meets September through May on 3rd Wednesdays at 1 pm.
- **CHOCOLATE LOVERS – (FULL)** Co-Chairs: **Ellie Solomon**, (719)-630-7465, elron3@msn.com, and **Sally Mathewson**, (719)-331-3341, mathewson3@juno.com. Study, discuss and eat chocolate. Meets 4th Wednesdays. Times vary as sometimes we meet at a restaurant for lunch or at a member's home.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION (EA)** – Chair: **Pam Maier**, (719)-694-4222, Pamela.S.Maier@gmail.com. Learn about various ways to conserve resources in our communities; participate in environmental activities. Call Pam Maier to learn more. Meets 2nd Wednesdays at 10 am in EVEN months at various pertinent locations.
- **LUNCHEON NOVEL 1** – Co-Chairs: **Georgina Burns**, (719)-360-7541; georgina.b1@juno.com, and **Sally Mathewson**, C: (719)-331-3341 mathewson3@juno.com. Fiction and non-fiction books are discussed after sharing lunch in a member's home or a restaurant for either luncheon or dessert. Call for more info. Meets the 3rd Wednesdays around noon.
- **LUNCHEON NOVEL TOO – (FULL)** Chair: **Betty Slaughter**, (719)-548-8524 bslaugh1@gmail.com Fiction and non-fiction books are discussed after sharing lunch in a member's home. Contact for information. Meets the third Wednesday of the month in the afternoons.
- **SOUTHWEST STUDIES–** Co-Chairs: **Gayle Krzemien**, (719)-231-5068, gaylekrzemien@comcast.net; **Nancy Winston**, (719)-749-0308, forncancywinston@yahoo.com. Monthly meeting presentations focus on the unique history and legacy of our annual destination. This year our trip is September 20-24 to Santa Fe, NM.

Thursdays

- **CHAPTER & VERSE WRITING GROUP** – Co-Chairs: **Janet Condit**, (719)-277-7590, janetcondit@gmail.com; **Caroline Vulgamore**, (719)-661-1275,
-

hvulgamore@gmail.com. A writing group to support and encourage writing activities and improve writing skills. Meets 2nd Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

- **TED TALKS** – Chair: **Kate Meyer Olson**, (202)-794-3462, skrapgirl@hotmail.com. An evening group meets to watch one or more podcasts and discuss, sharing ideas, food, and beverages. Meets 3rd or 4th Thursday evenings at alternating members' homes or at a local library (using streaming).
- **WALKIE-TALKIE HIKES** – Chair: **Marilyn Frydrych**, (719)-574-0252, mfrydrych@comcast.net. Light walks, 2-4 miles, gentle terrain. During spring, summer and fall, walks are often out of town; in winter, walks are centered locally. Meets Thursday mornings (varied times).
- **WOMEN WHO WRITE** – **(FULL)** Co-Chairs: **Phyllis Sperber**, (303) 888-8868, p.sperber@comcast.net, and **Char Gagne**, (719)-641-7570, char50gagne@gmail.com. This group writes, shares (optional) and encourages one another. Come be inspired to write for 20-30 minutes from a prompt provided by the host. Share, and discover the pleasure of a writing group. Meets 1st Thursdays at 9:30 am, rotating members' homes.

Fridays

- **EXPLORING LIVES AND CULTURES:** Chair: **Gwen Weddington**, (281)-352-2153 gwen15515@yahoo.com Nonfiction and fiction books that reflect current social issues are discussed. Meets 1st Fridays at 10 am usually at Library 21c.
- **LOCAL HISTORY** – Co-Chairs: **Pam Doane**, (214)-500-7387, pamdoane1@me.com; **Judie Werschky**, (719)-661-1874, judiewer@aol.com. Visit places of local historical significance and enjoy speakers or other types of programs. Meets 3rd Fridays at 10 am in various places. **Fridays or Saturdays**
- **FELLOWSHIP OF THE GRAPE (FOG)** – Co-Chairs: **Jeanne Marsh**, (719)-590-7237, jmarsh@pcisys.net; Gini Simonson, (719)-481-8843, gini.jim@comcast.net. This is a potluck style gathering. Bring a spouse or guest. Meets monthly at varied members' homes on Friday or Saturday evenings.

**GENERAL INTEREST GROUP INFORMATION, INCLUDING JOINING, STARTING OR
UPDATING INTEREST GROUP INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

Interest Group Coordinator: Melanie Hudson (719)-205-7639, heartdesire310@gmail.com

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

The Colorado Springs Branch is a 501(c)3 organization



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AAUW Colorado Springs Branch

June - July 2023 Newsletter

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

What's Inside

- President's Farewell
- Authors Day Financial Report
- Annual Meeting Report
- STEM Day Opportunities
- Recap of Annual Meeting/Awards/Election

Save the Dates!

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 pitch-in breakfast, scholarship awardees
and the latest on interest groups. Bee there!
Details and free registration to follow

Tuesday, October 17, 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

President's Message



As I compose my last President's message, would it surprise you to know that I have mixed emotions? A fair measure of relief (we made it!), certainly excitement about the future, but primarily gratitude for being given this opportunity to learn and lead such an extraordinary group of women, dedicated to such a critical mission.

We've accomplished a lot together:

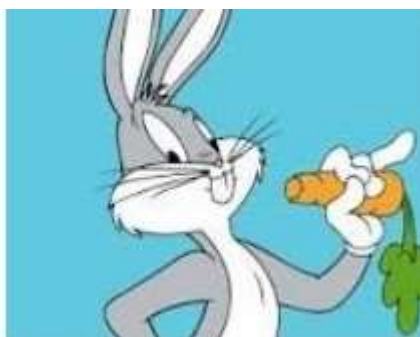
- Added 28 new/rejoining members.

- Successfully navigated a major transition at the national level in how membership data is handled and provided.
- Hosted eight branch meetings with dynamic speakers who both informed and challenged us, including programs that centered diversity, equity ,and inclusion, with an average attendance of 40-60 members/guests at each event (and many more at the Welcome Coffee and Author's Day)
- Published monthly newsletters, eblasts, and updated the website and Facebook to keep members informed about branch, state and national AAUW news.
- Participated virtually or in person in Colorado AAUW meetings, including Leadership, Public Policy, and Annual Convention.
- Partnered with other local women's organizations to sponsor International Women's Day and Wine, Women and Chocolate.
- Raised more than \$7,000 through Authors Day/Silent Auction and added donations throughout the year to fund 6 annual scholarships for deserving women.
- Hosted our 1st annual AAUW Girl's STEM Day for 96 7th grade girls and began planning for the next, including securing outside funding through grants and donations as well as members' generous contributions.
- Participated in the Pikes Peak Regional Science Fair and presented AAUW awards.
- Invested targeted branch funds with the Pikes Peak Community Foundation to maximize interest while minimizing risk.
- Added another new Interest Group, Books to Film, and continued to grow our existing groups.

Congratulations on all you've achieved! And thank you again for the remarkable collaboration, cooperation, and grace you've shown me. I know you will do the same and more for the incoming board led by **Brenda Wolfe** and **Audrey McGuire**. They're going to be an unstoppable duo with complementary skills and lots of creative ideas. I'm excited to see what's in store for us!

Kudos to all of our newly elected officers, and annual award winners! You'll find a complete rundown on these stellar branch leaders in the Annual Meeting Recap that follows.

Cindi



. . . That's all folks!

Annual Meeting Explores Past, Present and Future

On May 20, members made their ways through lingering haze from Canadian wildfires to gather at cozy La Posada. There, over breakfast boxes and coffee, we closed out the '22-'23 year by spending time with the **past**, **present**, and **future**.

How HPA is Preserving Our Past.
Tim Boddington, of the Historic Preservation Alliance, brought us the **past** as he shared both the important work of HPA and a bit about his own family history in Colorado.

Presenting our Newest 50-year Members
Then on to the **present** as we kicked off the annual business meeting with awards and recognition. VP Membership, **Jan Jones**, recognized two 50-year members: **Marilynn Hanlon** and **Judy Sargent** (deceased) who were also recognized by AAUW members and friends, **Sue Neufeld** and **Pam Doane**. Marilyn and Judy become part of an exclusive group of other 50-year branch members, notable for their loyalty and commitment to AAUW and its mission.

Names Honored Award
Then **Sarah Stowell**, who, along with her committee, evaluated nominees for the coveted **Names Honored** award, announced **Marilyn Frydrych** as the '22-'23 Names Honored awardee. Marilyn's contributions to the Colorado Springs branch are legend and include long service on the UCCS STEM steering committee, leading the inaugural AAUW Colorado Springs Girls STEM Day, exemplary service on the branch Scholarship Committee, serving as Community Outreach

VP and most recently stepping up to serve as editor of our monthly newsletter! Thank you, Marilyn, for helping to make possible the many AAUW benefits we all enjoy! Scroll down to see more about this prestigious award. **Cindi Zenkert-Strange**, outgoing president and a former Names Honored awardee, was presented with beautiful flowers and a coveted Barnes and Noble gift certificate, from the '22-'23 Board, thanking her for her service.

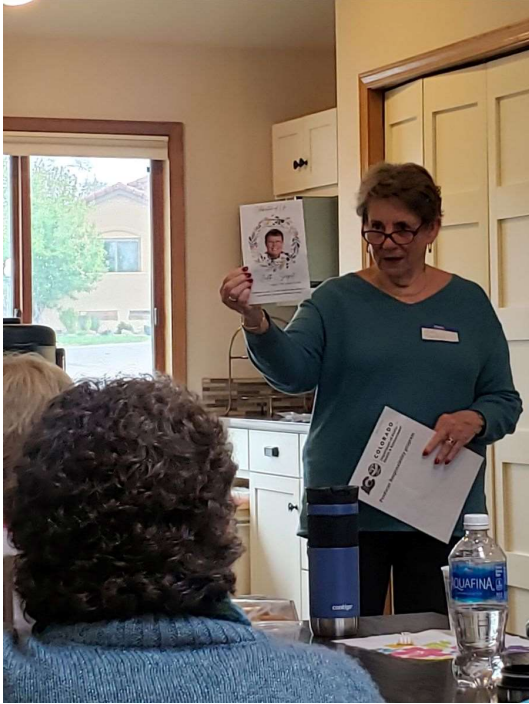
Securing Our Future--Election of Officers
And then it was time to usher in the **future**. After confirming a quorum, and voting to amend the bylaws to permit Co-Presidents, Nominating Committee Co-Chair, **Brenda Wolfe**, presented the slate of '23-'24 officers. As there were no additional nominations from the floor, the slate was voted in by acclamation. Congratulations to:

Co-Presidents:	Audrey	McGuire,	Brenda	Wolfe
President-elect:		Crystal		Stebbins
Secretary:		Cindy		Keeffe
Vice President	Membership:	Suzanne	Baldwin	Kraus
Vice President	Community Outreach:	Marilyn		Frydrych
New Nominating Committee Members:	Jan Jones,	Annabel	Widney	

Congratulations also to board members previously elected and completing their term of office in '23-'24.:

Treasurer:	Joan	Skoog
Co-VP of Programs:	Kathy Olson,	Lynn Whitacre
Nominating Committee Members:	Melanie Hudson,	Vivian McWhorter

Appointed board members and committee chairs will be confirmed at a later date. Minutes of the annual meeting are posted on the branch website.



Sue Neufeld and Pam Doane introduce our latest 50-year members.



Marilynn Hanlon, a new 50-year member, pictured with Pam Doane and 50-Year Members
Attending the Annual Meeting: **Marilynn Hanlon, June Hallenbeck, and Candy Crumb**

2023 Authors Day/Silent Auction Financial Recap

+Net Ticket Revenue	\$3,405.00
+ Net Auction Sales	\$4,367.59
+ <u>Authors Day Donations *</u>	<u>\$1,540.13</u>
	\$9,312.72
• Breakfast Catering	- \$1,587.00
• Broadmoor Church	- \$ 240.00
• <u>Misc Expenses</u>	<u>- \$ 158.85</u>
•	-\$1985.85
Total	\$7326.87

* Several generous donations to our Scholarship Fund came in after Authors Day in April. As these were not designated for Authors Day they are not included here, although donations to our Scholarship Fund are received year-round and go towards scholarships. In last month's newsletter, we saluted the many individual members who contributed to the success of Authors Day. Beyond the members named, our thanks go out to all who purchased a ticket to attend, all who made auction purchases and all who donated auction items or dollars! Thanks also to the many interest groups who either donated money or items for the silent auction. Your participation was essential and appreciated!

Finally, we'd like to recognize the many merchants that were solicited by AAUW members to contribute auction items for free or at a discounted price. Please show your appreciation for their generosity by patronizing the following businesses:

Garden of the Gods Resort
 Flying Horse Country Club
 July Five (Handcrafted Upcycled/Recycled Fashion <https://julyfive.com>)
 Singing Bowls of the Rockies
 Festivitea (tea shop)
 Shangrila
 Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center
 Paravacinis
 BJ's

Poor Richards
Chuy's
Urban Egg
Salsa Brava
PF Changs
REI
Scheels
Tattered Cover
Olive Tap
Paninos
Amanda's Fonda
Pierre Debernay Art

Please let us know if we overlooked a business, so we can recognize them in a future newsletter.

**Coming In October
One Day Only!
AAUW Girls STEM DAY 2023**

AAUW Colorado Springs Girl's STEM Day Returns Tuesday, October 17, 2023...And there's a role for you! Coming off the exciting Girl's STEM Day we premiered in November 2022, AAUW Colorado Springs is planning Girl's STEM Day, 2023, with 2x the number of school districts, 2x the number of students, and 2x the number of volunteers needed to plan and execute a successful event.

Are you a member of AAUW?

Then there's a part for you. Whether you volunteer to stuff student bags, register students, serve lunch, source t-shirts, set up student stations for experiments, or any one or more of a myriad of other tasks, it's your participation that will make a real difference. And should you be out of the country from now through October, you can support the STEM effort through a donation to the AAUW Colorado Springs STEM fund. What an exciting opportunity to influence the next generation of girls and women! Girl's STEM Day will focus on 7th grade girls, in Districts 2,3,8

and 11, some of the most diverse school districts in Colorado Springs, with some of the higher percentages of free and reduced school lunch.

Why STEM?

In Colorado, a full 10% of local jobs available are STEM jobs. In fact, there are 2 ½ entry level STEM jobs available for every new four-year college STEM graduate in this state. These jobs are some of the higher paying jobs available to college graduates. And yet, only 26% of STEM positions in Colorado are held by women.

Why 7th grade girls?

Societal messages start early that girls do not belong in these fields...particularly girls of color. By the time they reach middle school and begin to enroll in specific classes, girls are already beginning to avoid the traditional science, math and technology courses that are foundational to an eventual career in STEM. By sharing with young middle school girls the joys of STEM and helping them envision a fun and rewarding career in a STEM field, we'll inspire more girls to explore the possibilities, and begin to sign up for those basic STEM classes that represent a critical gateway to opportunity.

Why AAUW?

What organization is better positioned to lead in STEM than AAUW with its focus on advancing equity for women and girls through education, research and advocacy? In 2023, girls outnumber boys on college campuses nationwide, but there's still significant gaps in earning potential.

Why You?

Girl's STEM Day gives each of us the opportunity to live out our mission and put our values into action. A STEM career is not for every girl, but equal opportunity to explore and pursue STEM is essential!

If you honor AAUW's historic role in supporting education for women, if you appreciate the many interest groups our branch offers so that we can pursue our personal passions, if equity matters, then, yes, there's a STEM role for you!

Watch your inbox for an early July eblast sharing the numerous ways you can choose to help.

Names Honored 2023 Announcement

Recognizing a member for outstanding service to our Colorado Springs Branch has been a tradition since 1976. Along with the recognition by the membership, the recipient receives the gift of having their membership dues for the next year paid by the branch. If you are interested in who has received this honor in the past the list can be found on the [branch website](#). The honoree is chosen from nominations by our members. The request for nominations was in both our February and March newsletters. Thank you to those of you who submitted nominations.

This year's recipient is **Marilyn Frydrych**. Marilyn is the current Co-VP Community Outreach AND Co-Chair of the STEM Day committee. She has also served for many years on the Local Scholarship committee and this year is also helping the Communications committee with newsletter creation.

Marilyn worked for over 3 years to organize the most recent inaugural AAUW STEM Day held for 75 seventh grade girls. The culmination of her effort was a successful event held in Nov. 2022. Through her efforts, the visibility of AAUW Colorado Springs was spread throughout southeast Colorado Springs. She met with community leaders in three school districts, the United Way, and even met with City Council member, Yolanda Avila, who represents that area. Internally, Marilyn enlisted approximately 40 members to help in some capacity with the event - giving our members an opportunity to support the mission.

In addition, for the past five years, Marilyn has helped judge for the AAUW awards at the Pikes Regional Science Fair at UCCS. This year she helped convince the Board that we really needed to raise our award amount from \$25 to \$100 for each winner (one at the middle school level and one at the high school level). On top of that, at the State level for the past 2 years Marilyn judged for AAUW Colorado's state awards at the State Science Fair competition held at CSU in Ft Collins.

Lastly, she has led the Walkie-Talkies interest group for five years.

Many thanks to Marilyn for all her contributions to our branch!

Sarah Stowell

Chair, Names Honored Committee

Membership Matters

Dear

Members,

Hope you're all having an enjoyable summer! I am closing my term as Membership VP July 1st. I would like to thank each one of you for your kindness and patience over the last two years. We have a great group of ladies in this branch that gladly help to overcome the challenge that comes with the many responsibilities of this office. I know **Suzanne Baldwin Kraus**, our new MVP, can expect the same as a newly elected officer. A special note of BIG THANKS goes to my outstanding membership committee for all their given time greeting and providing AAUW information at the branch meetings, creating name tags, and planning new member events! These ladies deserve a round of applause: **Kathy Griego, Peggy Dolinich, Patti Nelson, Jeanne Marsh, Lynn Whitacre, and Mattie O. Rose** Please welcome a new member to your interest groups: Welcome **Nina Rikoski**! Reminder: RENEW your membership if you haven't done so already! You should be receiving renewal reminder emails from National or will in the future according to your join date. If for some reason, you haven't received these notifications, go to your personal account on Community Hub and update your current contact information. If you need to resubscribe to have National's emails sent, you can do so in My Preferences or contact National at <https://aauw.us/emailoptions>.

Extra	Notes	of	Value:
The Yellow Postcard:	Oral History Project	emails and mailings	has been discontinued by National.
Do not respond to any mailings!			
NEW	Discount		Cards:
Office Depot/Office Max	new discount cards	are available at	www.aauw.org .
Click on Membership**Discounts and Perks**	Scroll to Office Depot/Office Max**	Click Here link to ODP Business Solutions**	Click on black Shop Online button to create your store perks account, print your card, or a QR discount code on your phone!
Thanks	Everyone	for your	AAUW support!

Celebration of Life for Jennie Jo White

We recently received a note from Wayne White, husband of **Jennie Jo White** who passed away last December following a car accident and subsequent fall, and is greatly missed by her AAUW friends.

We are invited to a Celebration of Life on July 30, 11:30-4:30. A catered lunch will be served at 11:30, followed by a service, at the Cordera Community Center, 11894 Grand Lawn Circle, Colorado Springs 80924. Casual and brightly-colored attire in the spirit of Jennie Jo, is requested. No flowers, please

Following the service, there will be a gathering at the home of Hants and Caroline White, 15030, Raton Rd, 80921, from 5:00-10:00 pm.

RSVPs are requested for planning purposes to waynewwhite@live.com

If you have photos or memories you'd like to contribute to a slide show of Jennie Jo, they can be uploaded to the shared Dropbox folder here: <https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dropbox.com%2Fsc1%2Ffo%2Fc1expyaa036vayqadatm9%2Fh%3Fdl%3D0%26rlkey%3D26hazw8d7cp9g2h2zr7c1qhvs&data=05%7C01%7C%7Caff16f246b864e80a7db08db72aee427%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638229867713144860%7CUnknown%7CTWFPbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjojV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jp%2FyL3w%2Bgy5mMY7h%2Bz5evv7Mt4geQE%2F6jaZ7GRKi2lo%3D&reserved=0>

You can read Jennie Jo's obituary at the following link: <https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thenaturalfuneral.com%2Fjennie-jo-white%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7Caff16f246b864e80a7db08db72aee427%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638229867713144860%7CUnknown%7CTWFPbGZsb3d8>

For those who would like to donate in her memory to continue her legacy of generosity and kindness, the family suggests Wholly Kicks (www.whollykicks.org), an organization that supports individuals and families experiencing economic disparity.

Jan
Membership VP

Jones

Did You Know?

News from AAUW National, AAUW Colorado & Other Branches

**It's Official! Colorado Springs Branch to host State Annual Convention,
May 3-4, 2024**

Mark your calendar and Save the Date! We'll be hosting AAUW members from around the state here in Colorado Springs, showcasing both our city and branch. Working with our state officers, we'll plan an exciting activity for Friday evening and a dynamic program for Saturday, concluding with the annual state business meeting. Have some ideas about venues or activities we should share with our fellow Colorado AAUW members? Please share them with Cindi Zenkert-Strange, cmzenkertstrange@gmail.co



**Branch Student Member, Ana V, Shines at AAUW's Conference for College
Women Student Leaders**

As reported previously, Ana V, a Colorado Springs AAUW scholarship awardee and branch student member, attended AAUW's NCCWSL Conference held at the University of Maryland this past May. Ana received one of two state scholarships available to Colorado student members to attend this prestigious conference. Here's what Ana shared about her experience at NCCWSL:

"Attending NCCWSL this year was an amazing experience. I was able to participate virtually last year but being able to do it in person added a new layer of sorority and encouragement. All the sessions I participated in provided me with a new opportunity to look at my own leadership and analyze the different paths I can take to enact it. One of my biggest takeaways came from the first session named Power, Influence, and Impact: Women and Transformative Leadership by Grace Virtue. She talked about the importance of self-awareness and positive deviance as tools to promote our authentic leadership as women in a professional environment where we face constant barriers due to gender bias. Most of the participants in this session shared similar experiences of being targeted by our racial background in professional settings. We found comfort in knowing these are not isolated cases, and encouragement in recognizing these differences makes us uniquely valuable. I deeply appreciate the effort of all Colorado AAUW members in supporting my participation in NCCWSL 2023."

Congratulations, Ana! Read what other student attendees from Colorado had to say about their NCCWSL experiences in the June issue of Colorado Connects at <https://us5.campaign-archive.com/home/u=fa357ac0df1f71c0128720191&id=e87acbb271>

Congratulations to Continuing and Newly Elected State Officers and Board Members! At the Annual Convention held in Aurora in May, new state officers were elected. These include:

State	President:	Joan Brown	(2021-'24)
Co-President	Elect:	Jill Smith, Carolyn Cooley	(2023-'24)
Treasurer:	Linda Davies	(2023-'25)	
Co-VP	Program Development:	Susan Brodie, Diane Fuchs	(2023-'25)
Secretary:	Sally Mathewson	(Colorado Springs Branch)	

Nominating Committee: **Cindi Zenkert-Strange** (Colorado Springs Branch)
Sue Ryden, Carolyn Cooley, Susan Schlagel, Ruth O'Brien, Betty Boyd (alternate)

To read a bit about each of our new officers, see the May Colorado Connects at
[https://us5.campaign-
archive.com/home/?u=fa357ac0df1f71c0128720191&id=e87acbb271](https://us5.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=fa357ac0df1f71c0128720191&id=e87acbb271)

Special thanks to outgoing State Secretary, **Pam Maier** (Colorado Springs Branch)
and to **Pam and Brenda Wolfe** (Colorado Springs Branch), outgoing members of the
State Nominating Committee.

We appreciate your service!

Virtual State Leadership Conference, Sat. August 19, 9 am-12 pm

Theme: Leadership for a Shared Vision
Watch for details and free registration link in the August newsletter.
Laugh, Learn, Be Inspired. Consider inviting other branch members to your house for a
watch party!

Collaboration Corner

Pikes Peak Women Offers Latest Podcast

The Role of New Women in the Colorado Legislature. Featuring Regina English and Stephanie
Vigil, hosted by Mary Lou Makepeace. Find this podcast at: Studio809:
<https://studio809podcasts.com/role-of-new-women-elected/>

Pikes Peak Women, Colorado 50/50, and the Rocky Mountain NAACP

Free Showing of the film "Represent"
Date: Saturday, July 15
Time: Doors open at 1:45 PM. Film at 2 PM. Networking with local elected women officials begins
at 3:30
Location: El Pomar's Penrose House, 1661 Mesa Ave

“In the heart of the American Midwest, three women take on entrenched political systems in their fight to reshape local politics on their own terms. ‘Represent’ is equal parts personal and political, journeying on and off the campaign trail to tell the stories of female candidates from vastly different communities, support systems, and political parties. The politics may be local, but for these women, the stakes are high.” Register for free at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/inspiring-women-to-represent-tickets-663375482927?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&fbclid=IwAR1Q8Fvxv1Z0Duye2IHRX2AvtNV8uTMXQvIfNSrriyKcE8IAa90D472m9Zk>

Interest Group Year End Summary

We are ending a great year of activities in our Interest Groups! We have 24 lively and interesting groups that are well-attended. Some IG Chairs have changed for the coming year. Many are quite full and 3 are closed temporarily: Chocolate Lovers, Women Who Write, and Afternoon Readers. A new book group was added in January of this year. Books to Films group, (at 8 members currently) where books that have been made into movies are chosen. We read the book and attend a showing of the movie, discussing both afterward. Our Southwest Studies group is also highly attended, as is Visual Arts. Over the summer, I suggest you may look through the IG options and determine if you would be interested in adding a new one to your schedule. If you have any questions, issues, or ideas, please let me know. Thanks to our IG Chairs who do a fantastic job of supporting and promoting our successful and popular groups.

MELANIE HUDSON, IG Coordinator



Environmental Action Interest Group at Blue Star Recycling, June 27, 2023. **Bill Morris**, the founder, is on the right.

Southwest Studies Interest Group

Monthly meeting presentations focus on the unique history and legacy of our annual destination. This year our trip is September 20-24 to Santa Fe, NM.

July Meeting

When: Wednesday, July 26, Doors open 1:30pm, Meeting 2:00pm-3:30pm

Where: East Branch Library, 5550 N Union Blvd

Program: *A Remarkable Frontier: Early Santa Fe as a Women's World*

Co-Chairs

Gayle Krzemien 719-231-5068

Nancy Winston 719-749-0308

AAUW Colorado Springs Branch Interest Groups

(With Contact Information *6/2023)

***Please contact the chair of a group, for up-to-date information and for the hostesses' planning.**

Various Days in the week/month

- **ARTS ON THE GO:** Enjoy local music and theatre with your AAUW friends. Dates and times vary. A spontaneous group; Invite a friend!
- **BRIDGE LIGHT** – Chair: **Nancy Winston** - fornancywinston@yahoo.com (719)205-0377. Improve bridge skills and enjoy time with other AAUW members. Open to all skill levels. Dates, locations, and times planned by participants.

Mondays

- **HARDY HIKERS** – Chair: **Lorena Wilder** (206)-427-2444, Enjoy hikes in the Front Range averaging 3-6 miles. The degree of difficulty varies with each hike. Summer and fall hikes are usually in the mountains; winter and spring hikes are more likely to be local. Meets Monday mornings.
- **BOOKS TO FILMS-** Chair: **Melanie Hudson** (719)-205-7639 heartsdesire310@gmail.com Co-Chair: **Kate Meyer Olson** (202)-794-3462, – Read a great book, then watch the correlating movie on streaming or at the theater! Meet at a member's home or a library, first Mondays at 2:30 p.m. Watch the movie together later at a theater or by streaming.

Tuesdays

- **DINNER BOOK CLUB** – Chair: **Nedra Engelson**, (719)-574-5274, nengelson@aol.com. This group meets in various restaurants or a member's home for dinner or dessert and discusses both fiction and non-fiction books. Meets 2nd Tuesdays at 5:30 pm.
-

- **GREAT DECISIONS** Chair: **Jeanette Minniti**, (719)-964-8333, jeanetteminniti@gmail.com. An in-depth study of current affairs. Group reads about the eight most pressing global topics from the Great Decisions Foreign Policy Association book, views a 20-minute video, and breaks into discussion groups. Meets February through May 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm on-line or in a library setting.
- **MORNING GLORIES BOOK CLUB-** Chair: **Jean Koch**. (719)-540-9289. bjkoch68@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.
- **READERS' POTPOURRI** – Chair: **Betty Fannin**: C: (719)-684-3896, H: (719)-258-9133; fannins@comcast.net. Fiction and non-fiction books are read and discussed. Meets 2nd Tuesdays of the month, 1 p.m., at various members' homes.
- **TECHNOLOGY** –**Jan McKenzie** - 719-597-7161, jfannins@comcast.net. The group meets to help each other better utilize new technologies. Bring your tech questions for discussion or your latest device or software to show and tell.
- **VISUAL ARTS** – Co-Chairs: Jeanne Koss jeannee5677@gmail.com and Jan Zellmer: (719) 576-9086, Janzellmer@yahoo.com. An outside speaker or Visual Arts member presents a monthly program related to visual arts/artists. May include occasional car-pooled visits to regional art-related exhibits, sites. Meets 4th Tuesdays, usually at Library 21C , typically at 1:30 pm.

Wednesdays

- **AFTERNOON READERS** – **(FULL)** Chair: **Mary Carley** – (719)-264-6284 maryecarley@aol.com. Fiction and non-fiction books are read and discussed. Meets September through May on 3rd Wednesdays at 1 pm.
 - **CHOCOLATE LOVERS** – **(FULL)** Co-Chairs: **Ellie Solomon**, (719)-630-7465, elron3@msn.com, and **Sally Mathewson**, (719)-331-3341, mathewson3@juno.com. Study, discuss and eat chocolate. Meets 4th Wednesdays. Times vary as sometimes we meet at a restaurant for lunch or at a member's home.
 - **ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION** (EA) – Chair: **Pam Maier**, (719)-694-4222, Pamela.S.Maier@gmail.com. Learn about various ways to conserve resources in our communities; participate in environmental activities. Call Pam Maier to learn more. Meets 2nd Wednesdays at 10 am in EVEN months at various pertinent locations.
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- **LUNCHEON NOVEL 1** – Co-Chairs: **Georgina Burns**, (719)-360-7541; georgina.b1@juno.com, and **Sally Mathewson**, C: (719)-331-3341 mathewson3@juno.com. Fiction and non-fiction books are discussed after sharing lunch in a member's home or a restaurant for either luncheon or dessert. Call for more info. Meets the 3rd Wednesdays around noon.
- **LUNCHEON NOVEL TOO** – (FULL) Chair: **Betty Slaughter**, (719)-548-8524 bslaugh1@gmail.com Fiction and non-fiction books are discussed after sharing lunch in a member's home. Contact for information. Meets the third Wednesday of the month in the afternoons.
- **SOUTHWEST STUDIES**– Co-Chairs: **Gayle Krzemien**, (719)-231-5068, gaylekrzemien@comcast.net; **Nancy Winston**, (719)-749-0308, fornancywinston@yahoo.com. Monthly meeting presentations focus on the unique history and legacy of our annual destination. This year our trip is September 20-24 to Santa Fe, NM.

Thursdays

- **CHAPTER & VERSE WRITING GROUP** – Co-Chairs: **Janet Condit**, (719)-277-7590, janetcondit@gmail.com; **Caroline Vulgamore**, (719)-661-1275, hvulgamore@gmail.com. A writing group to support and encourage writing activities and improve writing skills. Meets 2nd Thursdays at 1:00 pm.
 - **TED TALKS** – Chair: **Kate Meyer Olson**, (202)-794-3462, skrapgirl@hotmail.com. An evening group meets to watch one or more podcasts and discuss, sharing ideas, food, and beverages. Meets 3rd or 4th Thursday evenings at alternating members' homes or at a local library (using streaming).
 - **WALKIE-TALKIE HIKES** – Chair: **Marilyn Frydrych**, (719)-574-0252, mfrydrych@comcast.net. Light walks, 2-4 miles, gentle terrain. During spring, summer and fall, walks are often out of town; in winter, walks are centered locally. Meets Thursday mornings (varied times).
 - **WOMEN WHO WRITE** – (FULL) Co-Chairs: **Phyllis Sperber**, (303) 888-8868, p.sperber@comcast.net, and **Char Gagne**, (719)-641-7570, char50gagne@gmail.com. This group writes, shares (optional) and encourages one another. Come be inspired to write for 20-30 minutes from a prompt provided by the host. Share, and discover the pleasure of a writing group. Meets 1st Thursdays at 9:30 am, rotating members' homes.
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Fridays

- **EXPLORING LIVES AND CULTURES:** Chair: **Gwen Weddington**, (281)-352-2153 gwen15515@yahoo.com Nonfiction and fiction books that reflect current social issues are discussed. Meets 1st Fridays at 10 am usually at Library 21c.
- **LOCAL HISTORY** – Co-Chairs: **Pam Doane**, (214)-500-7387, pamdoane1@me.com; **Judie Werschky**, (719)-661-1874, judiewer@aol.com. Visit places of local historical significance and enjoy speakers or other types of programs. Meets 3rd Fridays at 10 am in various places. **Fridays or Saturdays**
- **FELLOWSHIP OF THE GRAPE (FOG)** – Co-Chairs: **Jeanne Marsh**, (719)-590-7237, jmarsh@pcisys.net; Gini Simonson, (719)-481-8843, gini.jim@comcast.net. This is a potluck style gathering. Bring a spouse or guest. Meets monthly at varied members' homes on Friday or Saturday evenings.

**GENERAL INTEREST GROUP INFORMATION, INCLUDING JOINING, STARTING OR
UPDATING INTEREST GROUP INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

Interest Group Coordinator: Melanie Hudson (719)-205-7639, heartdsdesire310@gmail.com

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

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