



AAUW Colorado Springs Branch

October 2023 Newsletter

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

What's Inside

- Co-President's Message
- STEM DAY Opportunities
- Socially Responsible Investing
- December Holiday Festivities
- Highlights of SW Studies Tour to Sante Fe
- November Branch Meeting

Save the Dates!

Thursday, October 19, 2023
AAUW's Girls STEM DAY
(No branch meeting in October so
that members can participate in STEM DAY)

Saturday, November 4, 2023

Environmental Action Interest Group is happy to sponsor:

“Socially Responsible Investing: Doing well while doing good.”

Panel discussion led by financial experts and moderated by our own new member,
Marj Charlier.

Penrose House’s Carriage House (9:30 Coffee, 10:00 Panel Discussion, Q & A)
1661 Mesa Ave
COS CO 80906

Saturday, December 2, 2023

Holiday Festivities

Italian Buffet and Program

Biaggi's Restaurant, Promenade Shops at Briargate
1805 Briargate Parkway

Saturday, January 20, 2024

Branch Meeting: Public Policy : Building the Bridge to Digital Equity
Location and time TBD

Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024

DEI Program

LGBTQ Panel Discussion with representatives from Inside Out and PFLAG
Hillside Community Center, 925 S. Institute St, COS 80903

Saturday, March 2, 2024

Colorado Springs International Women's Day Celebration.
Details TBD

Friday-Saturday May 3-4, 2024

AAUW State Convention hosted by Colorado Springs Branch



Co-Presidents' Message

Our Welcome Coffee on September 16 hosted 90+ AAUW members and guests. The room was “buzzing” with activity inspired by the Beehive theme so creatively designed and executed by **Cindi Zenkert Strange, Kathy Gutnayer, and Sherri Bristol.**

Undaunted by the loss of lighting and with the assistance of Sunrise Methodist’s Church’s IT parishioner and Praise Band Leader Wes Livingston, we moved forward.

Suzanne Krause welcomed members and guests and updated us on membership numbers.

Audrey McGuire, Co- President, proceeded with a welcome message including introducing the program and acknowledging all who put this beautifully done event together.

Cindi Zenkert-Strange interviewed **Marilyn Frydrych** focusing on the upcoming STEM DAY (October 19) engaging 7th grade girls in electrical circuits, chemistry and math activities. **Marilyn Frydrych** and **Smith Holt**, co- chairs of the Stem Committee, have planned a dynamic program for these students.

Cyndy McBee, representing the Scholarship Committee, introduced this year’s scholarship winners. Each shared their compelling stories of challenges and achievement in pursuit of their degrees and careers. Our members were captivated by their revelatory, outstanding accomplishments.

Mo Siegler was acknowledged for superb leadership of the Scholarship committee for the last 5 years. Committee members **Gayle Krzemien, Kathleen Borelli, Deb Levin-Stankevich and, Cyndy McBee** were also acknowledged for their significant contributions to the committee.

The success of the welcome coffee involved many members: Kathy Olson for securing the venue; Melanie and Rocky Hudson - IG Chairs - for arranging the sumptuous food and setting up locations for our interest groups; and **Sherri Bristol, Cyndy McBee,**

Cindy Keffe, Betty Griner, Marilyn Frydrych, Suzanne Kraus, Joan Skoog, Mo Ziegler, Lorena Wilder, and Audrey McGuire for setting up the space.

We now look forward to an enriching and fun-filled year ahead.

Scholarship Winners and Committee



First row (L to R) Scholars: Avrianna Barnes, Marissa Benavidez, Kailene Black, Hayden Cushman, Ella Hall, Amenda Walls. Not Pictured: Stephanie Castro, Ermelinda (Linda) Ruiz

Second Row (L to R) Scholarship Committee Members: **Mo Sigler, Debi Levin-Stankevich, Cyndy McBee, Gayle Krzemien, and Kathleen Borrelli.**

It's Almost Here!
Thursday, Oct 19 Girl's STEM DAY

Can You Help?

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 showcase our second STEM DAY. This year's event will be bigger and better than last year, with approximately 200 girls participating from four southeast and south-central Colorado Springs school districts, and more AAUW and community volunteers ensuring they have a great experience!

A FEW MORE HELPING HANDS NEEDED.

Your participation will help make this day a success! From greeters...to registration desk... to experiment set-up and clean-up... you'll make a difference!

Please join us, if you possibly can, to make a difference in a young woman's life!

Please contact Marilyn Frydrych at

[719-574-0252](tel:719-574-0252) or mfrydrych@comcast.net

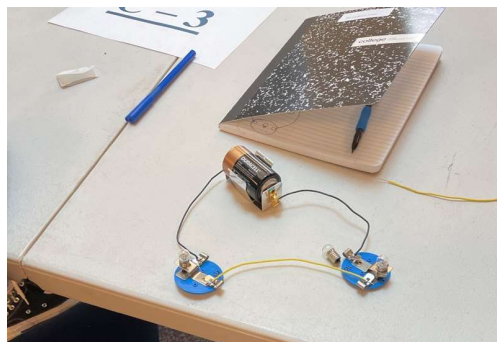
or sign up online at

Volunteer for STEM DAY



Chemistry experiment 2022

by Nancy Winston



Circuits Experiment 2022

by Nancy Winston

AAUW Colorado Springs chapter meeting
November 4, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Doing Well while Doing Good: A discussion about ESG investing

We will be joined by two Certified Financial Planners who specialize in both ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) investing and in helping women meet their financial goals; and an economist from Colorado

College whose research focuses on sustainable and responsible business practices. Learn how to align your investments with your values, while keeping your financial goals in mind.

Whether you are interested in clean air and water, climate change, fair labor practices, or women's and girls' education, you may want to support those interests as you manage your financial future and independence.

Q & A to follow the panel discussion.

Carriage House at Penrose House, 1661 Mesa Avenue,
Colorado Springs, CO.

Coffee and conversation at 9:30.
Ample parking west of the house.

RSVP via Eventbrite.



*Janae Winner, CFP, CDEA,
ChSNC, financial advisor,
UBS, Boulder*



*Gabrielle Mellick, CFP,
CSRIC, financial advisor,
Mercer Advisors, Denver*



*Celeste Diaz Ferraro,
Economics instructor,
Colorado College*

*Panel discussion moderated by
AAUW member, Mary Charlier,
former WSJ reporter and
corporate financial executive.*



[Sign up here.](#)

Buon Appetito!



Open the holiday season with [AAUW](#)
Saturday, December 2, at 11:30 a.m.
with a

Italian Buffet and Program

Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano, Promenade Shops at Briargate
1805 Briargate Pkwy, 80920

Salads, Pastas, Entrées, Bread, Beverage
(Gluten Free, Vegetarian, and Cash Bar Available)

Tickets are \$30 at [Eventbrite](#)

(Register early, only 70 tickets available)

[Sign up for Dec 2](#)

Membership Matters

Dear Members,

In September we had the Welcome Coffee and enjoyed the company of friends both old and new. New friends were invited by members and some new friends sought us

out on their own. October is here and now it is time to get to work. We love our coffees and interest groups, but let's not forget the purpose of our group.



This month's STEM activity is coming up soon. Please join us by volunteering to make a difference in the lives of 7th grade girls. I did not have opportunities like this when I was their age. Fortunately, I did have women in my life who were mentors and role models. I owe it to these women to do the same for young girls today, and so do you!

I've seen the fall colors and it's invigorating. Let's harness that energy and get to work!

Please welcome these new members to our group. **Laura Lucero, Jill Phares, Pamela Ann Benton, Carolyn Heinz and Bonnie White.**

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)



SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024

Branch Meeting: Public Policy Building the Bridge to Digital Equity

Broadmoor Community Church

315 Lake Ave Colorado Springs, CO 80906

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

Deb Walker, Ting Community Engagement and Public Affairs Manager will lead a panel of representatives from Catholic Charities, Silver Key and Centro de la Familia. They will discuss meeting the digital needs of members of their respective communities in order to equitably partake in society's daily activities and endeavors.



SW Studies Sante Fe Trip

Our trip to Santa Fe, Sept 20-24, was our first taking a motorcoach arranged though **Sharon Rice's** (one of our SWS members) travel company. This worked out very well as members on the trip did not have to drive. Two of the highlights of the trip were **El Rancho de las Golondrinas** which is a living history museum located on 200 acres in a rural farming valley, and a trip to Georgia O'Keefe's home for a guided tour.

Our 2024 trip will be to Utah. Among the sites that could be included on the trip are: Grand Junction wine country, Moab, Arches National Park, Canyonland National Park, Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, Hatch Trading Post, Four Corners Hovenweep National Monument, and Cortez & Durango area opportunities.

Gayle Krzemien

2024 Great Decisions Registration Information

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. Each year, the Foreign Policy Association releases a [Briefing Book](#) on the 8 most pressing global topics facing the country. Participation in the group includes reading the chapter on the topic for each meeting and watching a twenty minute [DVD](#) on the topic prior to breaking into groups for discussion. The first meeting is on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. The group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday during the months of February, March, April and May from 1:30 to 3:30 at the Pikes Peak Library District-**East Library**. To register, please provide your email address and phone number to Jeanette Minniti at jeanetteminniti@gmail.com or call [719-964-8333](tel:719-964-8333). **Briefing books are \$35.00.** **There is a 20% discount on Briefing books if you register by the end October.**

AAUW Colorado Springs Branch Interest Groups

Our AAUW Branch Welcome Coffee was a huge success and great fun. We have 22 lively and very active Interest Groups, doing wonderful things. We hope each attendee was able to visit all the IG Chairs/representatives at their tables to learn about that group's exciting activities. If you do not hear back from the Interest Group(s), or have ideas, questions, or suggestions for an existing IG, or wish to start a NEW IG group, please email or call us to discuss! (We can always use one more "Book Group.")

IG Co-Coordinators: **Melanie Hudson** – [719-205-7639](tel:719-205-7639) heartdesire310@gmail.com;

Rocky Hudson – [719-460-2566](tel:719-460-2566) iamrocky68@msn.com

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

American Association of University Women

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United States of America

