



AAUW Colorado Springs Branch

November 2023 Newsletter

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

What's Inside

- Co-President's Message
- Holiday Festivities
- January Branch Meeting Reaching for Digital Equity
- Committee Summaries

Save the Dates!

Saturday, December 2, 2023

Holiday Branch Meeting

Italian Buffet and Legendary Ladies Program

Doors Open at 11:30 a.m., Lunch at 12 p.m.

Biaggis Restaurant, Promenade Shops at Briargate
1805 Briargate Parkway

[Purchase Tickets Here for Dec 2 Meeting](#)

Saturday, January 20, 2024

Public Policy Branch Meeting: Reaching for Digital Equity

Doors Open at 9:00, Program at 9:30

Broadmoor Community Church

315 Lake Avenue COS 80906

[Click Here to Register for Jan 20 Meeting](#)

Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024

DEI Program

LGBTQ Panel Discussion with representatives from Inside Out and PFLAG

9:00 - 11: am

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

We are always overwhelmed by the generosity and enthusiasm of our Branch members to support the AAUW mission. On Oct 19th, the Colorado Springs branch hosted our second annual Girls STEM Day. As we surmised last year, it takes a village to pull off a project of this magnitude – but it takes an even bigger village to double the number of participants. This year 175 seventh grade girls and 15 chaperones from four school districts attended. We had seven women experiment leads from the community, of which half were from **Colorado Springs Utilities**. (If you get a chance, check out the nice 'shout out' we got on their Facebook page the next day). Also, a special thanks to **Janet Knox** of our branch, who stepped in at the last minute to be an experiment lead. In addition, two of our UCCS scholarship winners, **Kailene Black** and **Marissa Benavidez**, helped as chemistry table monitors. But, most of all, kudos to the 40% of our membership who stepped up to volunteer in some capacity for this event. This is fantastic! We had over 65 members give their time and energy in some way - which is triple the participation over last year. When we send out the call – our AAUW members answer with a crescendo! We cannot take the space to list all 65 names; but please know that each and every one of you is greatly appreciated and we hope that you enjoyed the day as much as did. We'll leave you with one comment from a chaperone from D8:

"We had such a good time at the STEM Day and our kids loved every minute. They talked about it for days."

We hope this leads to many more women pursuing a STEM career.

Audrey and Brenda



Pictures by Kim Hetherington and Joan Skoog

Positive Feedback from AAUW Girls STEM DAY Oct 19, 2023

7th grade girls from four school districts (2,3,8 and 11), their teachers and chaperones, 10 community volunteers, 65 AAUW volunteers, and our grant partners High Tech High Heels and Colorado Spring Utilities, joined together to create a memorable and meaningful STEM experience for these beautiful young minds.

We've been so pleased with all the positive feedback and STEM love that has come our way since the event, but we are committed to doing rigorous evaluation of both our process and results. This year, the girls completed both a pre-survey and post-survey,

designed to gauge changes in knowledge and attitude about women entering STEM fields, as well as satisfaction with their STEM Day experience, and suggestions for improvement. Results are still being analyzed, but we can share that student surveys indicated a very high level of satisfaction. About 25% of the students said they could see themselves in a science career. That's encouraging since so few women from the environment our students represented have considered such a career in the past. There were only two negative responses out of 175 students about lunch.

In addition to the pre and post student surveys, teachers/chaperones, experiment leaders, and our own AAUW volunteers completed surveys specifically designed to elicit their observations about how we can make the program even better.

Colorado Springs Utilities posted pictures of their volunteers on their facebook page. Click on the green link below. Then scroll down a little to find their photos.

Want to be a part of this important AAUW effort to ensure that girls from all parts of our community can envision and be prepared for STEM as a realistic career goal? Plans for Girls STEM Day 2024 are already underway, with a possible follow-up program in the summer. Stay tuned.

[Click here to view CSU's photos](#)

No December Newsletter

There will be no newsletter in December. Stay tuned for the January newsletter in early January.



Open the holiday season with AAUW

Saturday, December 2, at 11:30 a.m.

with

Italian Buffet and Program

Travel back in time with three of Colorado's Legendary Ladies!

Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano, Promenade Shops at Briargate

1805 Briargate Pkwy, 80920

Salads, Pastas, Entrées, Bread, Beverage

(Gluten Free, Vegetarian, and Cash Bar Available)

Register Below Soon, Only 70 tickets

(Register soon, only 70 tickets available)



Don't miss this opportunity to travel back in time to meet three women who made a significant impact on the West. Presented by Denver's Legendary Ladies non-profit.

Dr. Susan Anderson: 1870-1960 Frontier Physician

Spirited, petite and dedicated to healing, this frontier physician thrived in Middle Park and Fraser, Colorado surrounded by people who needed her skills.

Olga Little: 1910 – 1997 Mule Train Driver

Olga Little was Colorado's only female jack packer. She was a woman doing a man's job that provided a lifeline to mines and miners with her string of pack mules.

Maud Nelson: 1881-1944 American Baseball Player

This baseball barnstormer was a world-renowned Bloomer Girl pitcher, third baseman, scout, manager, and owner of the best baseball teams of her era.

[Purchase Tickets Here for Dec 2 Meeting.](#)

January 20th, 2024 Branch Public Policy Meeting

Doors open at 9:00, Program at 9:30



Reaching for Digital Equity

The internet is essential to fully participate in today's world. Come learn about new public policy around connecting America to broadband, the impact in Colorado, and hear from local leaders working to ensure that our community members have the tools they need to thrive in the digital world.

Talk	Panel Discussion
Deb Walker Community Engagement and Public Affairs Manager; Ting Internet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lauren Hug, HugSpeak, author of <i>Digital Kindness</i>• Tammy Sayles, Pikes Peak Library District• Maria Mendez Rodriguez, Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

January 20, 2024; 9am-11am

*Broadmoor Community Church
315 Lake Avenue, Colorado Springs 80906*

[Click Here to Register for Jan 20 Meeting](#)

At the November Branch Meeting, Experts Share Ways to Align Investments and Values.

AAUW member and Moderator Marj Charlier's probing questions were answered with

delightful insight by panelists Janae Winner from UBS and Gaby Mollick from Mercer Advisors.

Topics from retirement goals of liquidity, longevity and legacy to ESG scores available on Sustainalytics or Yourstake websites and “Greenwashing” were covered. Thematic investing includes long term themes of population growth, aging and urbanization. Lab grown diamonds are a viable option over “blood diamonds” garnered through child labor and dangerous working conditions. Green bonds finance hydroelectric power plants in India.

Costco employees benefit from low turnover and Walmart benefits from less packaging and lower transportation costs. Starbucks has a high Fair Trade score by helping farmers and sustainable processing practices.

It was an inspiring presentation by two highly qualified and engaging Certified Professional Planners who drove here from Boulder and Denver thanks to Cara Koch and Marj Charlier engaging with their financial entities. Thanks to all!

Pam Maier

Environmental Action Interest Group Chair

Committee Odds and Ends

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

The Nominating committee has convened to start working on the leadership slate for 2024-2025. They are tasked with finding candidates for President-Elect, Treasurer, and VP-Programs. Any of these positions can have a ‘co’. Please consider grabbing your BFF and serving on our Board. Please contact Melanie Hudson or Vivian McWhorter with any recommendations for yourself or others and give serious consideration if someone from the committee calls.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

I hope you all enjoyed Audrey’s recap of the Welcome Coffee and the introduction of our scholarship winners in the newsletter last month. It is amazing to see that our Branch has moved from funding just a couple of meager scholarships 10 years ago to being able to raise the money to support six to seven women in their educational endeavors. But, it takes more than your dollars to make this happen. The Local Scholarship committee is currently functioning without a Chair. Please consider volunteering to help this committee as they spread out the duties or volunteer as a co-Chair. Feel free to contact Audrey McGuire, [719-661-3087](tel:719-661-3087), or Mo Sigler, [208-602-1525](tel:208-602-1525), if you want to learn more about the responsibilities of the committee.

STEM STEERING COMMITTEE:

As our Branch continues to expand the activities of Girls STEM Day, the STEM Steering Committee is looking to build more sub-committees. If you were as inspired as we were by the enthusiasm in the room last month, please consider joining this committee. Contact Brenda Wolfe, [719-337-7817](tel:719-337-7817), or Marilyn Frydrych, [719-574-0252](tel:719-574-0252).

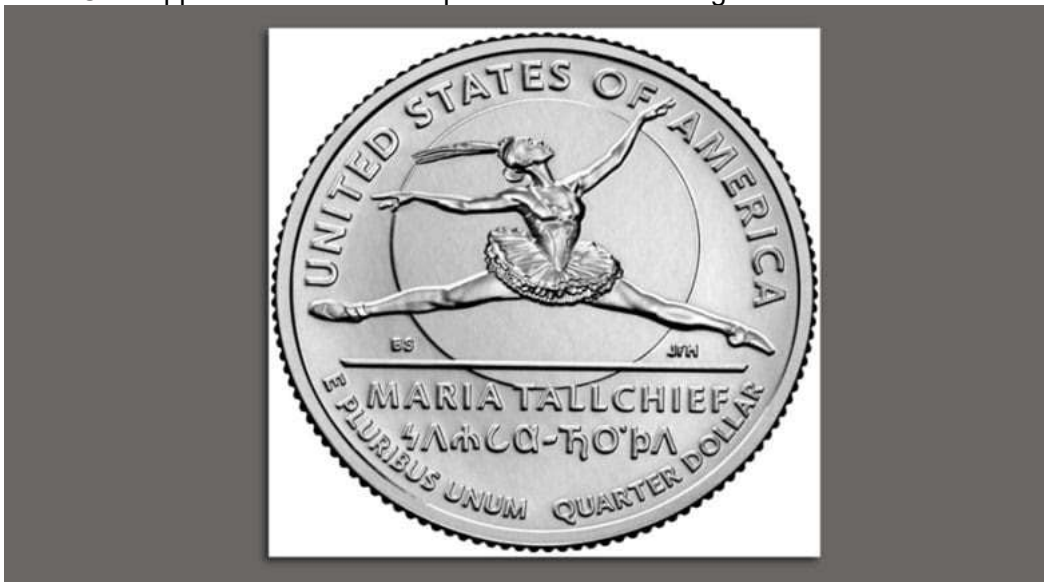
Membership Matters

Dear Members,

I am proud that each month we are able to attract members who share our interests and mission.

Please welcome these new members, Patricia A. Doyle and Rieko McAdams.

In 1917 when my mother was born, women did not have the right to vote! That did not happen until 1920. My mom valued that right and when I was growing up, I remember her always being an Election Judge. Equality is a struggle, and we have a long way to go. There is good news, though. Starting January 1, 2024 the FMLA in Colorado will give new mom's 12 weeks, instead of 6 weeks, paid maternity leave. It is issues like these that AAUW supports!! We should be proud. There is more good news.



Maria Tallchief was a well known ballerina, a woman and a Native American. She is now on the back of a quarter, representing us, Colorado women. The coins are already in circulation. Look in your wallets ladies and be proud.

Lastly, last month's STEM DAY was a success. Thank you for stepping up. Membership Matters!

Suzanne Baldwin Kraus, MVP

Sbaldwin101@yahoo.com

[719-2356-7481](tel:719-2356-7481)

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. **2024 topics are: Mideast Realignment, Climate Technology and Competition, Science across Borders, U.S.-China Trade Rivalry, NATO's Future, Understanding Indonesia, High Seas Treaty, Pandemic Preparedness.**

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.

AAUW Colorado Springs Branch Interest Groups

Our Winter Wonderland

A Merry Holiday Season's Greetings from Melanie and Rocky Hudson

Your Branch Interest Group Co-Coordinators

As most of you know, we decided to create a Co-Coordinator Team last month. Our Colorado Springs Branch Interest Groups (IGs) have continued to grow. Their activities have become so popular that many of our Groups are completely full and have had to close to any more new Group Members. That may initially sound concerning, but in fact it has excited our membership into starting "New - Yet Similar Groups



(NYSGs)."

This Exciting growth opportunity, as we head into 2024, is all part of our Co-Coordinator essential role to keep high-interest topics vital and available for all our new members. Each of our full IG's has offered to help find new IG Chairs, to champion Special Focus Topics, making sure this New Year's Celebration will prove to be the **BEST TRANSITION EVER!!!**

If you and your Branch friends are interested in starting a NYSG, please reach out to us, we are here to help. If your IG is Full and you have members willing to start a NYSG, give us a call.

Finally, our up-to-date November IG List link can be found under the MEMBERS ONLY section in our Branch Website. If you need to share the IG List that does not have IG Chair contact info, that is on the IG Website in the INTEREST GROUP