



# **AAUW Colorado Springs Branch**

## **January 2024 Newsletter**

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

### **What's Inside**

Co-Presidents' Messages

January Meeting: Advancing Digital Equity

February Meeting: LGBYQIA2+ Panel Discussion

### **Save the Date!**

## **Sign Up Now for the First Branch Meeting of 2024!**

**Saturday, January 20, 2024**

Public Policy Branch Meeting: Advancing Digital Equity

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

Broadmoor Community Church

315 Lake Avenue COS 80906

[Click Here to Register for Public Policy Program](#)

**Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024**

Branch Meeting DEI Program

LGBTQ1A2+ Panel Discussion with representatives from Inside Out and PFLAG, Community Partnerships and PRISM Community Collective

Doors Open at 9:30

Broadmoor Community Church  
315 Lake Avenue COS 80906

[Click Here to Register for DEI Program](#)

**Saturday, February 3, 2024, 9:00 - Noon**

AAUW CO State Public Policy Day - Virtual Meeting

For more details about the program, go to: <https://aauw-co.aauw.net/>

[Click Here to Register for State Zoom Meeting](#)

**Saturday, March 2, 2024**

Colorado Springs International Women's Day Celebration.

Digital Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality

Hosted by Zonta

9 - 12:30

Pinery at the Hill, 775 W Bijou, COS 80905

[Click Here to Register for Women's Day Celebration](#)

**Saturday, April 13 Branch Annual Meeting**

Fri and Sat, May 3,4 AAUW State Convention in Colorado Springs

**Saturday, June 1, Authors Day and Scholarship Fundraiser**

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## Co-Presidents' Message

Happy New Year!

Besides the New Year's resolutions to clean out the closets, eat better, and exercise more, let's enter 2024 with renewed energy to work for equity for women and girls.

We ended last year with a wonderful Holiday luncheon at Biaggi's and a presentation by the Legendary Ladies. We pledged to honor those women of the past who have paved the way for our ever-expanding (we hope!!) opportunities in the future. Join us this month for our program on Digital Equity. The program is free and open to the public; but please register yourself and guests on EventBrite with the link in this newsletter.

We encourage every member to participate in the **AAUW State Public Policy Day**. The event will continue to be on zoom this year on Saturday, February 3rd. The program is 'Hot Topics in Education': keynote speakers will be **State Senator Janet Buckner** and **State Representative Brianna Titone**, joined by a panel of experts on topics ranging from early childhood education to higher education. Registration can be done via the link in Save the Date section above.

Our Branch has many outstanding talented leaders who carry on the tasks that keep our branch moving forward every day. The Nominating Committee will be contacting members soon to ask for volunteers for future leadership roles. We hope that some of you will accept a position. Without the work of everyone, we cannot move ahead with the important tasks of programming, scholarships, membership, communications, and interest groups, along with many other positions. Please think about your best fit for helping keep our branch vital.

See you all on Jan 20<sup>th</sup> –

Audrey and Brenda

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# Advancing 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

**Deb Walker**  
Community  
Engagement and  
Public Affairs  
Manager; Ting  
Internet

## Panel Discussion

- **Lauren Hug**, HugSpeak, author of *Digital Kindness*
- **Tammy Sayles**, Pikes Peak Library District
- **David Green**, Catholic Charities of Central Colorado
- **Erin Maruzzella**, Innovations in Aging

**January 20, 2024; 9am-11:30am**

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

[Click Here to Register for Public Policy Program](#)



## Panel Discussion with LGBTQIA2+ Members and allies of our community

Our purpose is to educate our members and support the LGBTQIA2+ community. It is lifelong work, core to our mission and vision.

Moderator:

Rev. Mallory Everhart (she/her)

Panelists:

Liss Smith (they/them) from Inside Out Youth Services

Danette Tritch (she/her) from PFLAG

Dara Hoffman-Fox (they/them) from Community Health Partnerships

Stoney Roberts (they/he) from Prism Community Collective

Saturday, February 17

Doors open at 9:30 am

Panel starts at 10:00 am

Broadmoor Community Church

315 Lake Ave 80906

**INSIDE OUT**  
YOUTH SERVICES

**chp**

COMMUNITY  
HEALTH  
PARTNERSHIP



Registration required. Free.

### **February Branch Meeting**

[Click Here to Register for DEI Program](#)

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### **Buon Appetito! AAUW Welcomed the Holiday Season with a Branch Meeting at Biaggi's**

Members in attendance were treated to a festive setting, a bountiful Italian buffet, and a fascinating look at the histories of three women who helped to define the American West. The Colorado-based Legendary Ladies brought us well-wrought portrayals of three women who helped to win the West, including a wonderful narrator and a lively question and answer session. Whether fighting fires, driving mules to supply the mining camps, or providing some of the earliest medical services available, Lillie Coit, Olga Little, and Doc Susie made an indelible impression, both then and now!

Food and service were excellent, fellowship was warm, and each member left with a special packet of simmering pot pouri, courtesy of the Hospitality Committee, to evoke the aromas and spirit of the holiday season.



Legendary Ladies at December Branch Meeting

Janet Knox - photographer





Lunch at December Branch Meeting with Legendary Ladies

Photo by Cindi Zenkert-Strange

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## **Committee Odds and Ends**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Call for Names Honored Nominations



Every year at the Annual Business Meeting, we recognize an outstanding member of the branch. The Names Honored Selection Committee needs your help in selecting that member. Names Honored recipients are acknowledged by National in recognition for Branch Contributions to AAUW Funds. We raise these funds through individual donors and our King Soopers and Safeway Cards fundraising.

The selection criteria are:

- Primary consideration - Service to our branch.
- Secondary consideration - Service at the state and or national level.
- Additional consideration - Community, professional and cultural activities.

Please send your nomination to Candy Crumb at [dccrumb02@aol.com](mailto:dccrumb02@aol.com)

DEADLINE: Feb 28, 2024

**STEM STEERING COMMITTEE:** Plans are being laid to expand STEM DAY to include a summer 3-day program focused on reigniting the fall participants' interest in STEM. This recognizes that a one-day introduction to the absorbing excitement of discovery in STEM isn't something that will change a 7<sup>th</sup> grader's career path. We envision holding this summer event at Pikes Peak State College's southern campus with a half-day of experiments and a half-day of field trips. Students will be asked to apply for admission to this program. It will be designed for 30 to 40 girls. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Brenda Wolfe, [719-337-7817](tel:719-337-7817), or Marilyn Frydrych, [719-574-0252](tel:719-574-0252).

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## Membership Matters

Dear Members, Welcome 2024!



AdAmAn Fireworks on Pikes Peak Jan 1, 2024

by Mark Reis on Twitter

AAUW members have plenty of things to do during the short days and long nights of January. Make a resolution to try a new interest group or volunteer for a branch event. Everything you participate in broadens your horizons. This month's branch meeting is "**Building the Bridge to Digital Equality**". No one wants to be left behind. Practice your digital literacy by familiarizing yourself with our branch website, <https://coloradosprings-co.aauw.net/> Everything you need to know is there and the board is working on making it even more user friendly. Give it a try. If you need help, you can contact me.

Let's welcome our new members: **Gloria Carpenter** and a returning member **Claire Drozd**.

Happy New Year!

Suzanne Baldwin Kraus, MVP

[Sbaldwin101@yahoo.com](mailto:Sbaldwin101@yahoo.com)

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

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## Colorado Springs Interest Groups

Visual Arts

Tuesday, January 23, East Library. Doors open at 1:00, Program at 1:30

## **The Artist's Palette: the Rare, the Precious, the Poisonous and the Fugitive.**

Hear some of the fascinating stories behind the pigments artists have created with through the ages, from Tyrian Purple, beloved by the ancient Phoenicians and requiring 10,000 sea snails to produce a single gram of pigment, to Vanta Black, the blackest black ever created (or is it?). During our stroll over the rainbow with Roy G Biv, you'll also have a chance to see artworks that utilize each of the featured colors.

Our presenter will be Visual Arts member, **Cindi Zenkert-Strange**.

### **Environmental Action**

As of January 1st **we have kicked off our 2024 plastic sheeting collection campaign**. As we mentioned in our newsletter late last year, we have to collect 1000 pounds of plastic in 2024 to receive a Trex bench for our community so we need all of the help you (and your families, friends and neighbors) can provide!

Here is a link from Trex to a one-pager about what plastic films can and cannot be recycled into benches; [https://nextrex.com/jsfapp/cdocs/w493\\_q2\\_sp21\\_0\\_trex-recycling-posterpdf.pdf](https://nextrex.com/jsfapp/cdocs/w493_q2_sp21_0_trex-recycling-posterpdf.pdf)

***Please remember that before dropping off your bags of plastic at King Soopers you need to 1. Photograph the bag(s), 2. Weigh them and 3. Email the weight and photos to Schon who has to submit them to Trex on our group's behalf. Please do this each month when 4 or more pounds are collected. A luggage scale works great to weigh the bags or, if you don't have one, like me, you can just get on your bathroom scale first with, and then without, the bag.***

In addition, if like us, you are spending some of your time on these very cold and wintry days getting a head start on your spring cleaning - looking through garage bins, closets and drawers for items to divest to worthy causes - here's two options for you to keep items out of landfills and into the hands of people who can re-purpose and/or re-use them:

#### **Old Socks:**

Our fellow EAIG member, **Kate Meyer Olson**, is collecting old socks (they can be in any condition but should be clean) which she mails off to be used to fill dog beds for those who are experiencing homelessness. Please bring any socks you would like to donate to monthly AAUW branch meetings.

#### **Unneeded Craft Items, Greeting Cards, etc.:**

**Who Gives a Scrap**, 810 Arcturus Drive, takes craft items that you no longer want or need. As they say on their website: "Does Hobby Lobby, Michael's, or Joann's carry it? We probably do too." For specifics about what they do and don't accept, in what quantities, and how to donate, please go here: <https://whogivesascrapcolorado.com/donations/>

Wine bottles at: Wine Punts, 30 W Las Vegas St., COS. 80903.

**Wrist Watches:** Brenda Wolfe will be shipping off another package to New York in the next month or so. If anyone has non-smart watches they'd like to send/include, let her know! [bjwolfe15@gmail.com](mailto:bjwolfe15@gmail.com) [719-337-7817](tel:719-337-7817)

That's it for January. Stay tuned for our next newsletter with more recycling/re-purposing opportunities in our community. In upcoming monthly newsletters, we will post our members' previous suggestions and any new information that our members share with us. And, of course, feel free to email our group and share your recent knowledge with all of us.

## **Listing of Interest Groups**

Various Days in the week/month

ARTS ON THE GO, BRIDGE LIGHT

Mondays

HARDY HIKERS, BOOKS TO FILMS

Tuesdays

DINNER BOOK CLUB, GREAT DECISIONS (Current World Events), MORNING GLORIES BOOK CLUB, READERS' POTPOURRI, TECHNOLOGY, VISUAL ARTS

Wednesdays

AFTERNOON READERS, CHOCOLATE LOVERS, ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION (EA), LUNCHEON NOVEL 1, LUNCHEON NOVEL TOO, SOUTHWEST STUDIES

Thursdays

CHAPTER & VERSE WRITING GROUP, TED TALKS, WALKIE-TALKIE HIKES, WOMEN WHO WRITE

FRIDAYS

EXPLORING LIVES AND CULTURES, LOCAL HISTORY

Fridays or Saturdays

FELLOWSHIP OF THE GRAPE (FOG)

For those who would like more information about interest groups click here:

[Click Here for Information about IG's](#)

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**American Association of University Women**

4660 Adieu Cir, Colorado Springs  
United States of America



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