



# **AAUW Colorado Springs Branch**

## **February 2024 Newsletter**

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

### **What's Inside**

Co-Presidents' Messages

February Meeting: LGBTQIA2+ Panel Discussion

Colorado Springs International Women's Day Celebration.

Summary of January's Branch Meeting

New Monthly Interest Group Column

Membership Matters Wake-up Call

Report on STEM Committee

### **Last chance to Register!**

**Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024**

Branch Meeting DEI Program

LGBTQIA2+ Panel Discussion with representatives from Inside Out and PFLAG,  
Community Partnership and PRISM Community Collective

Doors Open at 9:30

Broadmoor Community Church

315 Lake Avenue COS 80906

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

**Save the Date!**

**Saturday, March 2, 2024**

Colorado Springs International Women's Day Celebration.

Digital Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality

Hosted by Zonta

9:00 - 12:30

Pinery at the Hill, 775 W Bijou, COS 80905

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

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Pikes Peak Women  
Wine, Women and Chocolate

5:30 - 7:30

COS CityHub, 4304 Austin Bluffs

[Click Here to Register for Wine, Women and Choco](#)

**Saturday, April 13**

Branch Annual Meeting

**Fri and Sat, May 3,4**

AAUW State Convention in Colorado Springs

**Saturday, June 1, 2024**

Authors Day and Scholarship Fundraiser

---



## Co-Presidents' Message

Last month, we attended, along with Crystal, the Partners and Cocktails event hosted by Pikes Peak Women. We had a wonderful evening collaborating with sister organizations in the Pikes Peak region including Citizens Project, League of Women Voters PPR, PPLD, the Girl Scouts, Zonta, SCWCC, Women's Club of CS, and the Latina Equity Foundation. It was great to hear about all the activities taking place. Kudos to AAUW member, **Lindy Conter**, for MC'ing the event on behalf of PPW.

While our affiliate agreement does not allow for fundraising for other organizations, we can advise about opportunities for our members to make individual contributions. A foundation has been established to build a statue downtown for Mary Lou Makepeace, the first (and so far, only) woman mayor of Colorado Springs. Look for more information and a QR code in the Collaboration Corner of this newsletter.

We want to thank all members who contributed to AAUW Funds over the past donation year. Our branch raised \$2,672. Most of the funds were raised through our grocery card fundraising. If you shop at Safeway and need a reloaded card; or, if you shop at Kings Soopers and haven't tied your member card to our account, please contact Joan Skoog or Brenda. Such an easy way to contribute to AAUW while we all shop anyway.

The branch also had 45 members participate in AAUW CO's Public Policy Day. Anyone wanting a list of the State Legislature bills being followed by our State Lobby Corp should contact **Betty Griner**, our Public Policy Director.

**Audrey and Brenda**

[Link to National's New Civility Policy](#)





## 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

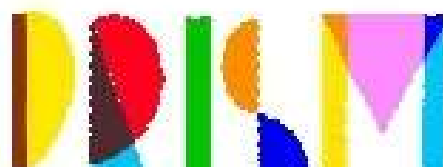
315 Lake Ave 80906

**INSIDE OUT**  
YOUTH SERVICES

**chp**

COMMUNITY  
HEALTH  
PARTNERSHIP

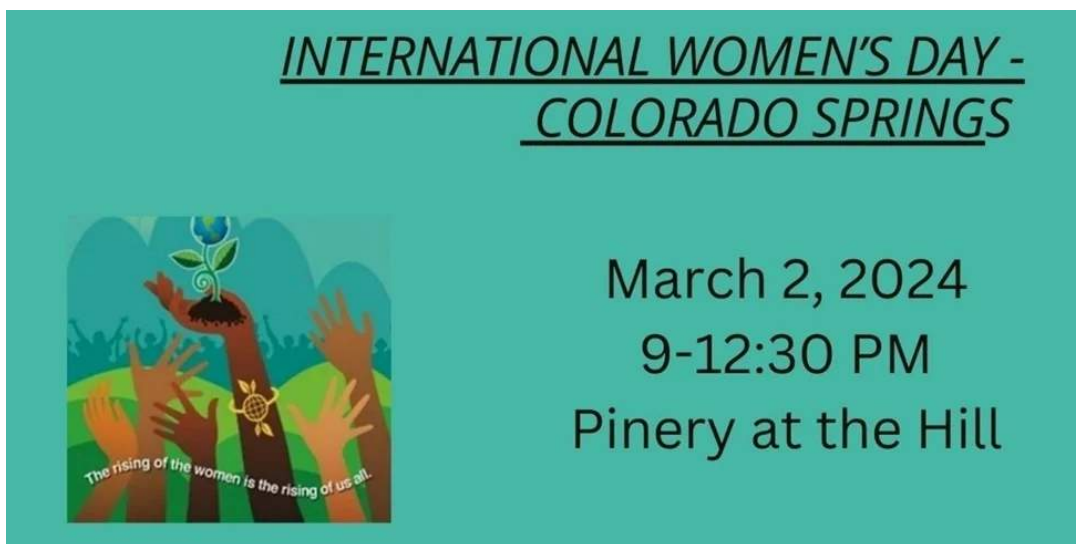
**PFLAG**



Registration required. Free.

## February Branch Meeting

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



The United Nations 2023 theme for International Women's Day will be our focus for the 2024 celebration: *DigitALL Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality*. Join us to take a look at the importance of protecting the rights of women and girls in digital spaces and addressing online gender-based violence.

Additionally, check out the Expo Booth organizations that are supporting us with this fun educational and Networking event!

Saturday Morning, March 2, 2024

Tickets: \$55, Student Tickets: \$25

8:30 - 9:45 Check-in, networking and Brunch

9:45 - 12:30 Program

Join us for the 2024 Celebration!

See their website for details. Click on link below.

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

# Public Policy Branch Meeting: Advancing Digital Equity

January 20, 2024



Photos by Rocky Hudson

Our moderator was **Deb Walker**, of Ting Internet, a citywide internet service implementing fiber optic technology. Deb opened with a Power Point presenting the many hurdles in providing internet access and training to all communities.

Digital equity is obtained when everyone in every community has the technological capacity to fully participate in our society, democracy and economy.

Digital inclusion is a 3-legged stool: Devices, Digital literacy and Connectivity.

Our panelists:

**Lauren Hug**, HugSpeak, author of Digital Kindness:

Most people have no deliberate approach to what, when and why they post. We must be wise and discerning, embracing the goal of being kind to ourselves, and to others.



Since Tik Tok is widely used by most of the younger generations it must be acknowledged.

**Tammy Sales**, Pikes Peak Library District:

Tammy emphasized numerous ways we can use library services, including classes on internet training.

**David Green**, Catholic Charities of Central Colorado:

David partners with non-profit community centers to set up digital classes and service work shops throughout the city.

**Erin Maruzzella**, Innovations in Aging:

Erin gave the five areas of focus: Housing, Workforce, Age Friendly Environment, Health and Wellness, and Social Connection and Communication. Erin gave an overview of their age-friendly action plan through 2028.

Deb led a question-and-answer session between the panel and the audience.

**Betty Griner**

Public Policy Director

---

## **NATIONAL AAUW publishes newly created policy-CIVILITY**

AAUW National provided their newly created Civility Policy on their last DEI Webinar, Jan 5, which can be found on their website.

The Board of Directors developed this new policy in anticipation of possible contention with the proposed change in our bylaws, i.e. opening the membership to people who are non-degreed.

Also, it takes into account other polarized views, some of which prevail in our country at this time.

As branches are affiliates to the State and National Organizations, we adhere to the rights and responsibilities of civility which serve to govern our conduct at our meetings, as well as all AAUW member interactions.

The Webinar and National Website have provided the tools and methods of implementing this policy. It includes seeking to understand other's perspectives in order to keep the conversation going, foster mutual respect and find common ground.

Our branch fulfills this mission and vision with excellent programming and activities throughout the year.

Below is the link to this new policy, which we will adopt, in our working rules, assuring us all of our highly valued camaraderie.

**Audrey McGuire**, Co President

---

## **Membership Matters**

Dear Members,

I recently attended an AAUW Colorado meeting for Membership VPs from across the state. I was shocked to learn that the Boulder Branch of AAUW had to dissolve! They were unable to get their membership to step up to leadership positions within the branch. This should be a wakeup call for our branch. We are the largest in the state, but we need your involvement to continue as a vibrant entity. Please contact me or any board member if you would be interested in serving on the board or want to volunteer your time to our branch.

Thank you for your ongoing support and please step up!

**Suzanne Baldwin Kraus**, Membership VP

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

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

---

## 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:** February 24<sup>th</sup> **Cindy Keffe**, her husband, Alan, and **Marilyn Frydrych** manned a table at King Elementary's first Science Night. We set out some batteries, wires, and lightbulbs for the students and their siblings to manipulate. We challenged the older students to light two bulbs. Nothing was preconnected for them. We completed a circuit with one light bulb for the younger kids. Then we disconnected one end of a wire. They only had to touch the free end to the correct metal surface to light their bulb.

The result was fun and instructive for us to watch. The younger students' faces lit up excitedly when they succeeded in lighting their bulb. They did it again and again with the same huge smile. One older boy was totally engaged with his wires and bulbs for a good 10 minutes or more. He mastered twisting two wires together and hooking an end of a wire under a screw connector.

What interested me, an educator, was watching the parents. Some stood back and let their offspring explore and experience both failure and success. Others jumped in at the first sign of struggle.

Plans for our 3-day summer camp have been put on hold until 2025. The reality of funding taking at least 6 months forced the postponement.

**Cindi Zenkert-Strange** has completed an application to Colorado Springs Utilities for a grant of \$4,300, about half of our total projected budget.



**Marilyn Frydrych**



Photos by Alan Keeffe

---

## Collaboration Corner

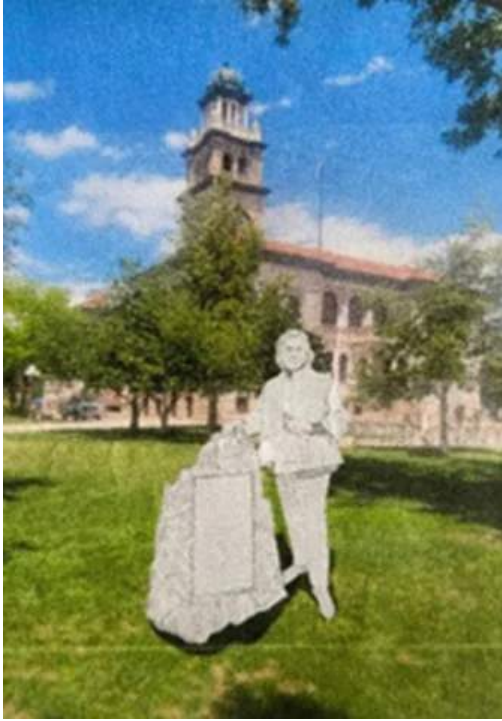
### PIKES PEAK WOMEN:

**Save the Date:** Women Wine and Chocolate : Wed., March 20, 2024. 5:30 – 7:30 pm

MARY LOU MAKEPEACE FOUNDATION – For Women Who Made Colorado Springs. A project to Build a Statue of Mary Lou Makepeace on the Pioneer Museum grounds. The bronze statue is designed by Lori Kiplinger Pandy and celebrates Makepeace's contributions to civic engagement, women's empowerment, and equality.

Click the button below to learn more.

[Click here for Mary Lou Makepeace Foundation](#)



Pikes Peak Women invites you to...

# WINE, WOMEN & CHOCOLATE

HONORING & CELEBRATING HEROINES  
OF THE PIKES PEAK REGION

WEDNESDAY,  
MARCH 20  
5:30 - 7:30 PM



COS CITY HUB  
4304 AUSTIN  
BLUFFS PKWY.

Featuring wine from local distributors, chocolate delicacies and,  
most importantly, the women who lead our community

BUY YOUR \$25 TICKET ONLINE!

[bit.ly/wwc2024](https://bit.ly/wwc2024)

Presented by:



In partnership with:



[Click Here to Register for Wine, Women and Choco](#)

## Colorado Springs Interest Groups

### New Coverage

Greetings, Interest Group Chairs and Members!

Our Interest Group members are happily having lots of lovely, inspiring time in their groups of choice. Our IG groups are as active and busy as ever.

This year, we would like to invite each interest group to submit a small article for our monthly newsletter! Tell us what the most interesting things are that your group has done lately. Does your group have future activities you'd like to share? **Contact: Melanie Hudson** [\(719\) 205-7639](tel:7192057639) or [heartdsdesire310@gmail.com](mailto:heartdsdesire310@gmail.com).

Additionally, are you open to more members joining your IG? If so, what would you like to share that may entice other members to join? Similarly, is your IG group crowded, too large a number? Would someone like to start a new, similar group to ease the crowding? Please call Melanie or Rocky to get assistance with this. **Contact: Melanie Hudson** [\(719\) 205-7639](tel:7192057639) or [heartdsdesire310@gmail.com](mailto:heartdsdesire310@gmail.com). **Rocky Hudson** [\(719\) 460-2566](tel:7194602566) or [iamrocky68@msn.com](mailto:iamrocky68@msn.com)

Attached is the newest IG Groups' short report.

### **Books to Films**

***Books to Films meets monthly, usually the first week of the month, but it does depend on the showing of the film that connects to the book. Sometimes we meet at a theater, watch the film, then go for a meal or dessert and discuss both book and movie.***

***Some books we've read in the last few months are:***

***Boys In the Boat – great saga of the effort of the American Olympic Crewing Team to win gold in the 1936 Games. It was a very inspirational true story. By Daniel James Brown.***

***Killers of the Flower Moon-by David Grann, the story of the Osage tribal members murdered and the beginning of the FBI. It is a 2023 award-winning movie, well-worth seeing. Afterwards, we went for dinner at the Lazy Dog on Academy and discussed the book and the wonderful film. We also love our social time!***

***The Pale Blue Eye – by Louis Bayard is a spell-binding book and film incorporating the real and fictionalized career of Edgar Allen Poe as imagined by the author. We meet Poe as a 19<sup>th</sup> Century West Point cadet. A cadet murder has been committed and Poe is recruited to assist in the investigation. The book is written in the period of Poe and has the same intriguing, darkness. We met at a member's home, streamed the movie, and enjoyed movie treats and sharing thoughts on the movie and the book.***

***Contact Melanie Hudson* [\(719\) 205-7639](tel:7192057639) or [heartdsdesire310@gmail.com](mailto:heartdsdesire310@gmail.com) *for more info on Books To Films Interest Group!***



Walkie-Talkies walk the western end of Rock Island Trail starting at Shooks Run.

Left to right: Jan Zellmer, Kim Hetherington, Margaret Miller, Connie Miles, Marilyn Frydrych

Photo by Brenda Wolfe

## 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](#)

---

**American Association of  
University Women**

4660 Adieu Cir, Colorado Springs  
United States of America



You received this email because you  
signed up on our website or made a  
purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#)

