



# AAUW Colorado Springs Branch

## April 2024 Newsletter

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

### What's Inside

Co-Presidents' Messages

State Convention Signups

Authors Day

### Save the Date!

**Friday and Saturday, May 3, 4**

AAUW State Convention in Colorado Springs

Sign up for Friday evening and/or Saturday State Conference Activities

**Saturday, June 1, 2024**

Authors Day and Scholarship Fundraiser

[Click Here to Purchase Your Tickets for Authors Day](#)

**Friday, November 1**

STEM Day

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## Co-Presidents' Message

Two feet of snow gives way to wonderful Spring flowers. With the tulips, hyacinth, and iris comes our desire for Spring house-cleaning. About 40 members joined us for the Annual Business Meeting this month. Out with the old Board – in with the new Board. We appreciate all our volunteers!

Also, it's that time of year for the AAUW National Election. Two years ago, only 33% of our COS Branch members voted. Your vote will serve to represent our branch with a much higher percentage of membership voting. **PLEASE EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!** “

You should have all received your email with voting instructions. Voting will take place online starting April 3. AAUW is utilizing an independent, third-party voting system for this year's vote. Most members will receive emails from **AAUW** (however; when hovering over it, you will see: [vote@simplyvoting.com](mailto:vote@simplyvoting.com)) with your unique Elector ID and Password to vote. Subject line will read **AAUW Election 2024**. All members without an email address on file will receive a paper ballot by mail. No additional paper ballots will be sent during the voting period. **Voting will close on Wednesday, May 15 at 12:00 pm ET.**

If you cannot find it – please check your Spam folders. In conjunction with this membership campaign, AAUW National put together a webinar highlighting all the changes our organization has been through since 1881. It is worth the watch - click on this link:


[Click here to watch AAUW National's Past Webinar on Their Membership Question](#)

We respect everyone's position on the membership question. As shown, AAUW has a deep, rich history. We admire the effort of the inspiring women who have led the way in earning their degrees. We recognize, however, that in today's world higher education degrees are one of several paths needed to advance equity for women and girls. Professional certifications, on the job training, career technical experience and life experience all are alternative paths to obtaining education and the skills needed to become leaders and advocates for ending discrimination against women.

Finally, we ask everyone to plan on attending the State Convention with us on May 3-4. As you will note in the promo material, a great line-up of speakers has been secured all representing different aspects of women in leadership. Don't forget to sign up to volunteer for odd-jobs. You may receive a \$50 rebate for doing so.

### **Audrey and Brenda**

Click [here](#) to sign up to help at the State Convention and become eligible for a \$50 refund.



*AAUW National Election*  
*April 3 - May 15, 2024*

This spring AAUW members will vote on the long-standing membership requirement for joining AAUW...

*To eliminate the degree requirement and create open membership for all*

We encourage you to consider the options on this important issue by studying the information provided by clicking [here](#).

Look for an email from National around April 3 so you can cast your vote.

*Let Your Voice be Heard!*



## **AAUW State Convention in Colorado Springs**

Have you Heard? Our Branch is hosting the State Convention here in Colorado Springs, May 3 and 4th.

And your participation is essential to making it a success!

**Check out what's in store and plan to register for Friday evening at the Peel House and Saturday at The Antlers. Then go to the volunteer survey and let us know how you can help.**

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

#### **FOR STATE CONVENTION -MAY 3-4, 2024**

It takes a village to host a State Convention. Please review the list of tasks in the attached survey and sign-up to assist.

**Important: Members who sign up for both Friday at the Peel House (5 pm-7 pm) and Sat 9 am-3:30 at the Antlers Hotel and sign up to volunteer for at least one conference task before, during or after the conference, will receive a \$50 discount off the \$120 registration fee. Register online or by mail and receive a \$50 credit (on your credit card or by check) right after the conference.**

[Volunteer Survey](#)

Thanks - Cindi Zenkert-Strange , Convention Host Chair



# AAUW of Colorado 2024 State Convention



## *Women in Leadership: Barriers and Bias*

The Antlers Hotel  
Colorado Springs, Colorado  
May 3-4, 2024

Join us **Saturday, May 4 from 9:00 AM-3:30 PM at the Antlers Hotel, in downtown Colorado Springs as we explore Women in Leadership: Barriers and Bias.** You won't want to miss this full day of dynamic speakers, robust discussion and opportunities to interact with fellow AAUW members!

- How has the rise of women's leadership in business, the military, academia, government, and nonprofits changed these institutions for good?
- Why/where are there still leaks in the leadership pipeline?
- How can we navigate/eliminate barriers and bias?

And there's more!

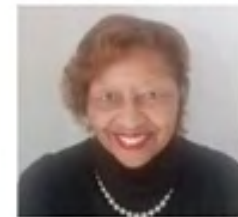
Choose to arrive on **Friday, May 3 to join us for the evening Pre-Conference at the historic Peel House**, just a short and easy drive from **The Antlers**. And don't forget to make hotel accommodations if staying overnight. See the Pre-Conference and hotel accommodation boxes below for additional information.



Rebecca Love Kourlis  
CO Supreme Court Justice  
1995 - 2006



Brigadier Gen. Linell Letendre  
AFA Dean of Faculty



Julia Brown  
AAUW Board Chair



Dr. Pam Shockley-Zalabak  
UCCS Chancellor & Professor  
Emerita

## Friday Evening Pre-Conference

Friday, May 3, 2024, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM



### The Peel House

1515 N. Cascade, Colorado Springs

Short driving distance from The Antlers

Enjoy delectable small bites and libations and great conversation as we open our exploration of Women in Leadership, with a look at the forgotten women of STEM. You'll find their stories thrilling, tragic, frustrating, and inspiring, but always fascinating!

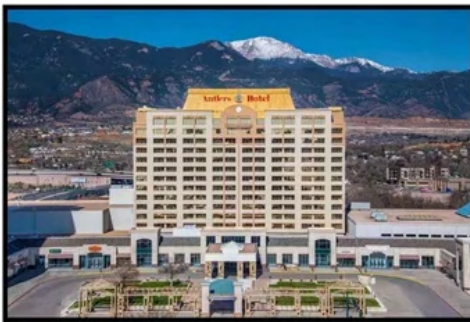
Our guide for this casual evening will be Jessie Randall, published poet and author of *Mathematics for Ladies*.

Sign up for Friday evening and/or Saturday State Conference Activities

## Hotel Accommodations

The Antlers, a Wyndham Hotel

4 S. Cascade, Colorado Springs



- Members are responsible for making reservations for overnight accommodations.
- Overnight Accommodations: \$139 plus taxes
- Overnight Parking: \$10, in and out privileges
- Day Parking: Free for those attending Saturday only
- Breakfast available at hotel, not included in price
- Check-in after 3:00 pm Friday, May 3

### Deadline for Hotel Accommodations: April 26, 2024

Note: Those needing an accessible room, or those who would like to extend their stay, pre or post-conference, should call the Antlers Reservation line at 719-955-5600 and reference the AAUW Conference to receive the conference room rate. Also, contact the hotel if you require an earlier check in.

Sign up to Stay at the Antlers



## **AAUW Annual Authors Day and Scholarship Fundraiser**

**Saturday, June 1. 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Doors open at 9:00 for browsing)**

**Broadmoor Community Church**

**315 Lake Avenue 80906**

**Words, Birds, Breakfast, Browsing, Bidding, Buying**



## ...and all for a good cause!

This year's event features two outstanding Colorado authors:

**Shelley Read, author of the acclaimed debut novel *Go as a River***

From Good Reads: A sweeping, heart-stopping epic of a young woman's journey to becoming, set against the harsh beauty of mid-century Colorado. *Go as a River* is a drama of enthralling power, combining unforgettable characters and a breathtaking natural setting that reveals the deepest mysteries of love, truth, and fate.

**Brook Eddy, author of the nonfiction *STEEPED: Adventures of a Tea Entrepreneur*.** From Good Reads: Isolated, broke, and restless in a drafty mountain A-frame with colicky twins, Brook Eddy needed a path out. This is the story of one woman's passionate spirit and how it transformed despair into entrepreneurial success. *STEEPED* is brimming with provocative prose, transcendent images of travel throughout India, and advice for aspiring entrepreneurs, idealists, and travelers.

Both books were listed on 2023's NPR Books We Love List.

**Tickets are \$45 and may be purchased at the Eventbrite link below.**

**Don't miss this opportunity to support a new flock of scholars! Come feather your nest with great books and silent auction items, activities, and gift certificates.**

[Click Here to Purchase Your Tickets for Authors Day on Eventbrite](#)

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**Authors Day is Sat., June 1.**

**Here's How You Can Help!**

**Check any, and all, that apply!**

Authors Day, with its silent auction, is THE major fundraiser for our local branch scholarship program. You met our wonderful scholarship recipients at the Fall Welcome Coffee... what a difference these scholarships make in women's lives!

**Each AAUW member can and should help in this important effort.** Some may be only able to help in one way, many of you contribute across multiple categories. Please review the list below and decide how you can do your part.

**Individuals may**

- **Buy a ticket** and join us on June 1. Tickets are \$45, with 50% or more of the ticket price going to support scholarships.
- **Invite your friends!** They'll enjoy a great breakfast, presentations from 2 stellar CO authors, and shopping fun at the silent auction.
- **Buy a book(s)** on Authors Day. The authors keep the sales, but your purchase encourages authors to want to participate in future Authors Days.
- **Donate to the AAUW Scholarship Fund**, by going to our website and selecting the Donate button. or send a check to Joan Skoog, Treasurer. Be sure to include Scholarship Fund in the memo line.
- **Volunteer your time.** We need event set-up, registration, breakfast servers, auction runners, cashiers, and clean-up. Call or email **Lorena Wilder, Kathy Olson or Crystal Stebbins and they'll hook you up.**



- **Contribute new, fun, creative gifts, services, or experiences** in a variety of price ranges for your fellow members' silent auction shopping pleasure. For example.
  - + Free or discounted gift certificate to a favorite restaurant, spa, exercise studio, nail salon. Many restaurants/businesses will even allow you to request a gift certificate donation online. Easy-peasy.
  - + Vacation home for a weekend?
  - + A special skill or interest to share with or teach other members? (i.e. cooking, a sport, wine/beer-making or appreciation, a tour ...? Remember Paella with Pip? Brunch with **Bonnie**? Pickleball with **Pam**? Surprise us!
  - + Themed basket of smaller items (spa, travel, movies, wine, tea, food...)?
  - + Tickets to a concert, museum, outdoor activity

**As always, you may also have an opportunity to participate in Authors Day through your Interest Group. Since many of you are members of multiple groups, you may opt to participate through a single group (we understand!), you may participate at a modest level with all your groups, or you may choose not to participate in this way...your choice!**

### **Interest Groups may choose to**

- **Contribute a gift basket, gift certificates, or an experience**, themed to the IG (or not) purchased from individual donations (\$10-\$15) collected from your fellow IG members.
- **Make a group donation to the Scholarship fund** (by check or online) based on \$10-\$15 donations from your fellow IG members.

### **Our AAUW Branch's 501(c)3 Status Offers Tax Deductions for Donors!**

Planning on approaching a business to donate an item or gift certificate? If you'd like to mail a solicitation letter, or provide one to a business in person, a template is posted on our branch website. You can personalize this [letter](#) to provide to the business describing our organization and nonprofit status. If you plan to solicit a particular business, please email **Crystal Stebbins** [crystal.stebbins@compass-usa.com](mailto:crystal.stebbins@compass-usa.com) so we can avoid approaching any business more than once. Thank you!

### **Convenient Drop-Off for Auction Items to Be Announced**

We'll announce drop-off dates for auction items in May and provide three different drop-off locations for your convenience...stay tuned for those times and locations.

**This event takes the proverbial village to make it successful. Please support your AAUW branch and its annual scholarships in whatever way you can. Thank you, Generous AAUW Members**

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## **Membership Matters**

Dear Members,

Most of our members have memberships which will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. It's anticipated that renewal letters from National will begin soon, so watch your inbox. In the meantime, if you have any questions. Please contact me.

It is now officially Spring. Last month's snowy weather impacted attendance at our March Branch Meeting, Weather on April 13<sup>th</sup> should be much better, so please attend. Your vote counts!

**Suzanne Baldwin Kraus**, Membership VP

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

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

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## Public Policy

Members, please see the latest AAUW Legislative Update dated 4.05.24 on the AAUW-Colorado state website. It covers current activity over the last few months with targeted legislative bills.

**Betty Griner**, Public Policy Director

[Click here for AAUW State's Summary of State Bills](#)

[Click Here for Current State Legislative Bills](#)

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Outgoing board members honored at April Branch Meeting

## Collaboration Corner



*Are you a creative living and working in the Pikes Peak region? Are you looking for mentorship, business support, and new resources for your craft?*

[www.CulturalOffice.org](http://www.CulturalOffice.org)

### **Forum on Attainable Housing in the Pikes Peak Region**

**Friday, June 21**

**5-7:30 p.m.**

**Penrose House Garden Pavilion**

**1661 Mesa Ave., Colorado Springs**

***Formal invitation and RSVP link below.***

[Click Here for Moving Upstream Invitation](#)

El Pomar Foundation, in collaboration with Colorado Springs Leadership Institute and Colorado Springs Utilities, presents Moving Upstream: Navigating the Future of Water in the Pikes Peak Region. This event is a follow up to last year's Pikes Peak Heritage Series event which focused on the history and current state of water in the region. The upcoming panel will convene local leaders working in water policy, conservation, and advocacy to bring awareness about our regional water plans, and how community members can get involved.



AAUW COS' display at Wine, Women, and Chocolate -- March 20.

Photo by **Crystal Stebbins**

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## **LGBTQ+ Teens Inside Out Featured in Gazette Article May 27**

Our diversity panel at our Feb 17 Branch Meeting included Liss Smith from Inside Out.

[Click Here to Read Gazette Article about Inside Out](#)

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## **Interest Groups**

**Melanie and Rocky Hudson, Co-Ordinator's**

### **Technology Interest Group**

### **Leads to Opportunity for Us All to Become More Organized**

#### **Getting Your Ducks in a Row –June 8<sup>th</sup>**

Whether financial and estate planning, keeping medical records, planning for emergency evacuations, or simply making our lives (and those of our heirs) less stressful, we all know we should be better organized. Since we don't know where to start, we procrastinate. Senior advisor Judy Rough has spent her career helping older clients organize their lives, and she has produced a series of YouTube videos for that purpose. Though she lives in Denver, she has



offered to sponsor a free community seminar in Colorado Springs. The only cost will be for materials, in case you want to build a physical binder, rather than keep everything online. The list of what is needed will be available upon registration. The workshop is only a starting point--be prepared to devote some time to following her advice—but her seminar will provide direction and inspiration for the task. Bring your friends (open to the public) and join us on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, for a potluck brunch (bring whatever you wish), followed by the workshop 9-12 at St. Paul's UMC, 2111 Carlton Avenue. Contact **Jeanne Marsh** ([jmarsh@pcisys.net](mailto:jmarsh@pcisys.net)) to register for this event.

Jeanne Marsh

## Southwest Studies Interest Group

Want an exciting and new adventure?

**Please join Southwest Studies for their trip to Utah, October 6-12th, 2024.**

Visit the Canyonlands and Arches National Park with an experienced guide; travel the Colorado River one evening as the history of Moab is cast upon canyon walls. Visit Newspaper Rock Monument, a rock panel caved with one of the largest known collections of petroglyphs. Journey to Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, known by the Navajo as Tse'Bii'Ndziszgaii, is said to be one of the most photographed places on earth. The valley is host to towering sandstone rock formations that have been sculpted over time and soar 400 to 1,000 feet above the valley floor. If, this isn't enough excitement, other sites include a trip through the Colorado Monument, tour of Hovenweep National Monument, and a hands-on experience at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. And don't forget the good food, camaraderie and memorable experiences. Please contact **Sharon Rice**, [srice43@comcast.net](mailto:srice43@comcast.net) OR **Kathy Olson**, [kathrynlolson@msn.com](mailto:kathrynlolson@msn.com)

## 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 below:

[Click Here for More Information on Interest Groups](#)

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### **American Association of University Women**

4660 Adieu Cir, Colorado Springs  
United States of America



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