



AAUW Colorado Springs Branch

May 2024 Newsletter

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

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Co-Presidents' Messages

Authors Day

State Conference Recap

Brenda Wolfe Awarded AAUW Colorado Legacy in Leadership

Save the Date!

Saturday, June 1, 2024

Authors Day and Scholarship Fundraiser

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

Saturday, September 21, 2024

Branch Welcome Coffee

First United Methodist Church

420 N Nevada

Friday, November 1

STEM Day



Co-Presidents' Message

As the year of our presidency winds down, we would like to say what a pleasure it has been to serve as your co-presidents. We believe that our branch has accomplished a lot and feel that we are in good shape to pass the gavel to **Crystal Stebbins** and the new Board.

- We were honored to be recognized as a Three-Star Branch by National – which could only have been accomplished due to our hard-working committees. We hope you will continue to support our STEM, DEI and Local Scholarship committees as they gear up for another stellar year.
- It is exciting to see the participation at our monthly Program meetings which included themes on environmental sustainability, DEI, public policy and some just plain fun from the Legendary Ladies and the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame.
- We are proud that our Branch can fund so many meaningful local scholarships and are grateful for the work of our Interest Groups to make the Silent Auction successful and scholarships a reality for so many young women in need.
- We have enjoyed the opportunities to represent our Branch in the community as a partner with Pikes Peak Women, International Women's Day, and spread our message through our involvement with the Pikes Peak Community Fund.
- Finally, it is no small feat to pull off a State Convention! KUDOS to **Cindi-Zenkert-Strange** and her team for providing an engaging and memorable convention. We appreciate all the volunteers who stepped up to help with this event.

So, ta-ta for now and we look forward to seeing everyone at Author's Day.

Best regards, **Audrey and Brenda**

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!



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](#)

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.

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!

[letter Crystal Stebbins](mailto:crystal.stebbins@compass-usa.com) crystal.stebbins@compass-usa.com

Convenient Drop-Off for Auction Items

Auction items can be dropped off at one of the following collection points. Please call ahead so arrangements can be made to accept your items. Auction items should be in by Oct 18th.

Cindi Zenkert-Strange for the North of Colorado Springs, off Voyager Pkwy, South of Northgate, North of Interquest Blvd, [12130 Piledriver Way](#), [\(317\) 650-1005](#)

Melanie and Rocky Hudson, near Woodman and I-25 (off Dublin), 960 Pulpit Rock Circle South, [\(719\) 205-7639](#) – [\(719\) 460-2566](#)

Kate Meyer Olson, South of Filmore – North of Union, near Colorado College and Peel House, [2115 N Cascade Ave](#), [\(202\) 794-3462](#)

Audrey McGuire, From I-25 take South Academy west across Hwy 115, then continue West on Broadmoor Bluffs Drive toward Cheyenne Mountain, turning right on Kirkstone Lane to – 165 Kirkstone Lane, [\(719\) 661-3087](#)

Please have all auction items turned in by Friday. May 24!

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.

Membership Matters

2024-2025 AAUW Dues

It's time to renew your AAUW Membership. Please know how much your participation is valued in our Branch!

No increase and the dues will be:

National \$72

Colorado \$10

Colorado Springs \$25

Total \$107

Please note, this year the full \$72 of National dues is tax-deductible.

To pay dues by Check: Make check payable to AAUW.

- Mail check to Joan Skoog
- 5540 Canvasback Ct.
- Colorado Springs, Co 80918
- **Do Not Send Membership Checks to National.**

To Pay Dues Online: Go to AAUW.org to log in.

Please note: Carefully read the instructions on the log-in page. If you have recently changed your email address or are uncertain what email address should be used in the login, please contact **Suzanne Kraus** Do not continue if you are unsure of your email address as a duplicate record may be created.

If you have visited the Community Hub before and have already established an account, you can log into your Personal Snapshot.

1. Scroll down to the bottom and review your Membership End Date.
2. If your membership is expiring soon, (many will be June 30, 2024), click on the RENEW button to renew your national, branch, and state memberships.
3. Follow the online directions. You will need to re-enter your Branch(es) and State when asked if you want to add them. Don't skip this step!
4. Colorado Springs Branch code is CO8004.
5. **Dual members** should self-renew all memberships at once.

If you Forgot your Password or this is a First Time Login:

1. Scroll below the blue login button and click **Forgot Password** at the bottom.
2. Enter your email address, then click **Reset your Password** to receive your login email within 5-10 minutes.
3. Once the email arrives, enter your email address and **Create and Confirm your Password**. Access your Personal Snapshot.
4. Scroll down to the bottom and review your Membership End Date.
5. If your membership is expiring soon (many will be June 30, 2024), click on the RENEW button to renew your national, branch, and state memberships.
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Suzanne Baldwin Kraus, Membership VP

Sbaldwin101@yahoo.com

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

Public Policy

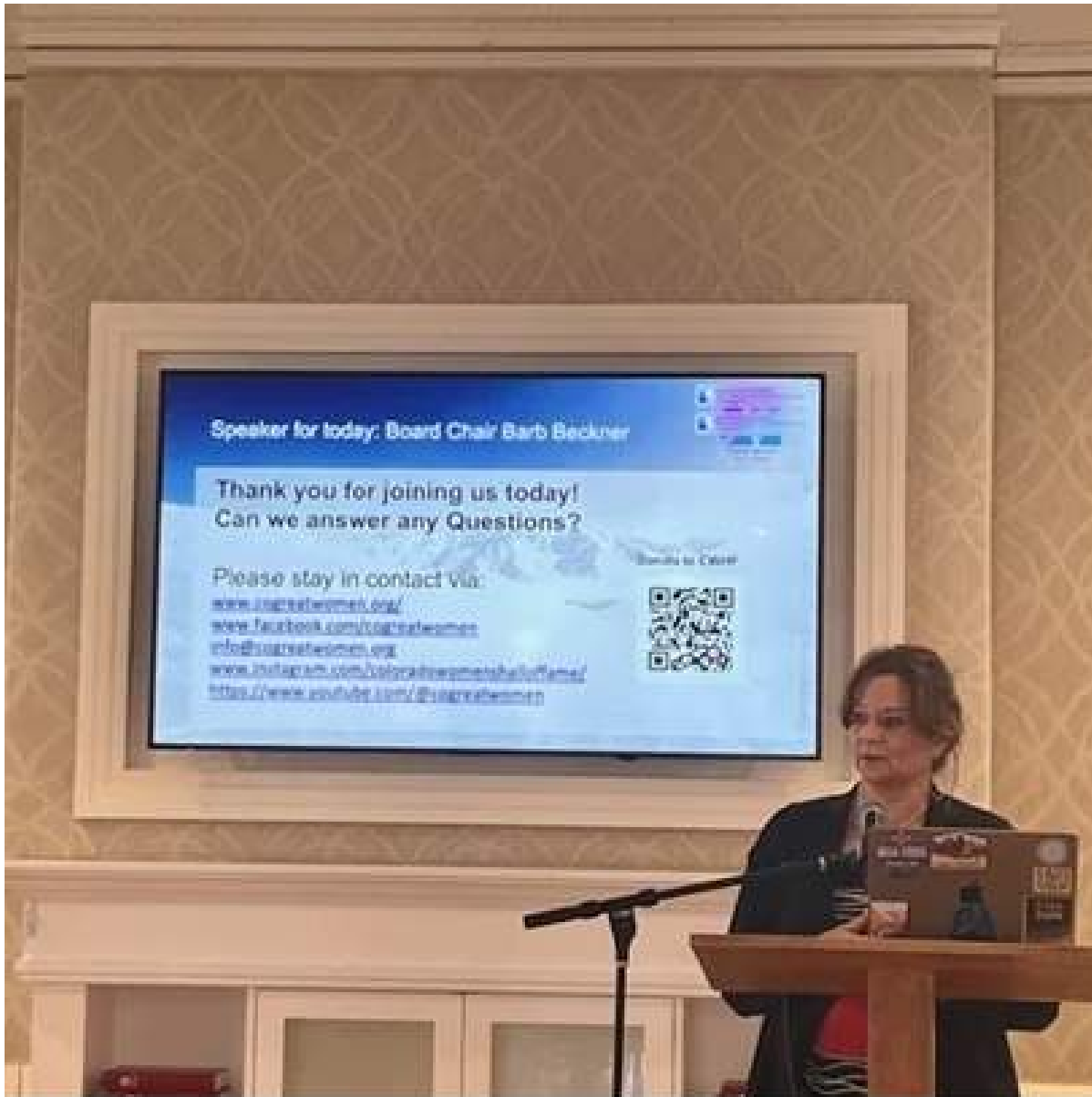
The link below shows AAUW Colorado's stance on the current bills in the Colorado Legislature as of March 22, 2024

Betty Griner, Public Policy Director

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

April Meeting Recap

We had a wonderful presentation by Board Chair Barb Beckner from the Colorado Womens Hall of Fame. She highlighted women from the Pikes Peak Region who have been inducted to this Hall of Fame and some of the process by which this happens. She would like to see more women from our area inducted and our member, Cindi Zenkert-Strange, volunteered to help anyone with the nomination for someone who has an idea for an inductee.



Board Chair Barb Beckner from the Colorado Womens Hall of Fame

Photo by Kathy Gutnayer

Brenda Wolfe then Called-to-Order the Annual Business meeting. The Minutes for this meeting can found on the branch website. We recognized our outgoing Branch Board of Directors, 50 yr Members in attendance as well as our past Presidents and past Names Honored recipients. Each year we honor outstanding service to the Branch and Mission by recognizing them in conjunction with our giving to National AAUW Funds. This year we raised over \$2500 for AAUW funds and felt we could recognize two members. The 2024 Names Honored Award Recipients:

Maureen “Mo” Sigler: Mo earned her Bachelor's degree in Business from Minnesota State University-Mankato Degree in 1976. She then earned a Masters Ed. in Counseling-emphasis in Higher Education from North Dakota State University (in Fargo,ND) in 1980. She joined the AAUW Colorado Springs Branch in 2018 and immediately became involved with the Local Scholarship Committee. She has served as the LS Chair and Board member for the past five years. She continues on the committee and is invaluable as our FAFSA guru. Currently is also a Regional Director for Gamma Phi Beta promoting their DEI projects.



Mo Sigler Receiving Outstanding Service to AAUW Colorado Springs

Photo by Kathy Gutnayer

Melanie Hudson: Melanie earned her Bachelors degree in English Secondary Education from Montana State University in Bozeman, MT in 2000 while raising 2 pre-teens on her own and working 2-3 jobs in her community. Her career encompasses being an educator in three states.

Melanie joined the AAUW Colorado Springs Branch in 2016 at Pip Bodkin's exuberant urging. In her second year, she was elected to the position of Membership VP during the start of a big transition within our branch, state and national AAUW. She then served as coordinator for the Interest Groups for the past 2 years - making it a total of six years on the Board and was Co-Chair of the Nominating Committee. This past year, her member-husband, Rocky has co-Chaired Interest Groups with her. Currently, she is on the Author's Day Committee and will continue to Co-Chair the newest IG Group, BOOKS TO FILMS with Kate Meyer Olson.

Melanie states. "It's been my pleasure and privilege to be a member of AAUW and I humbly appreciate the Names Honored award for 2023-2024. I have met so many wonderful women through these leadership opportunities."



Colorado Springs Branch Hosts Successful State Convention

On May 3,4, the Colorado Springs branch hosted fellow AAUW members from around the state for the 2024 Colorado AAUW State Convention, with a conference theme centering women in leadership.

And speaking of women in leadership! More than 30 branch volunteers responded in a spectacular way to showcase our Colorado Springs branch and our beautiful city as we celebrated together all that has been accomplished: the barriers and bias that have been

overcome, the obstacles that remain, and the sacrifice and responsibility we are called to if we are to fulfill our mission of equity for women and girls.

From the opening event on Friday at the historic Peel House, with poet Jessie Randall, who shared with us some of the forgotten women of STEM; to the amazing presenters at The Antlers on Saturday when female leaders across disciplines shared their personal stories as well as the obstacles that remain; it was an amazing weekend that encouraged, inspired and challenged.

Thanks to each AAUW branch member who supported our branch and Colorado AAUW through your attendance

Thank you to the **State Convention Committee: Susan Brodie, Diane Fuchs, Carolyn Cooley, Joan Brown, Linda Davies, Linda Joseph, Kathy Olson, Joan Skoog, Brenda Wolfe, Audrey McGuire, and Cindi Zenkert-Strange.**

And special thanks to our branch volunteers. What amazing work you did this weekend! The conference feedback has been great, with many specifically commenting on how much they appreciated the very warm and friendly reception they received Friday evening and Saturday. Attendees truly felt welcomed and cared for, and the weekend came off without a hitch, thanks to your professionalism, creativity, and diligence:

Schon Beechler, Robin Depies, Claire Drodz, Lyn Francis, Marilyn Frydrych, Betty Griner, Kathy Gutnayer, Melanie Hudson, Rocky Hudson, Phyllis Hurley, Jan Jones, Cindy Keefe, Bonnie Kittel, Jeanne Koss, Suzanne Kraus, Sally Mathewson, Audrey McGuire, Cyndy McBee, Vivian McWhorter, Connie Miles, Jeanette Minnitti, Margaret Nestor, Sue Neufeld, Kate Meyer Olson, Kathy Olson, Mo Sigler, Joan Skoog, Crystal Stebbins, Lorena Wilder, Brenda Wolfe, Cindi Zenkert-Strange.



Just some of the Colorado Springs Branch attendees at the State Convention
on Saturday

All Convention Photos by Kate Meyer Olsen



A full house on Friday listens intently as poet Jessie Randall shares poems and stories about forgotten women of STEM.





Left: Julia Brown, Esq., AAUW National Board Chair

Right: Outgoing Colorado AAUW President, Joan Brown, is honored at the Convention business meeting





Left: Pamela Shockley-Zalabak, Chancellor, UCCS

Right: Panelists Naomi Lopez, Secretary of Latina Equity Foundation and Lola Woloch, CEO Southern Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce





Left: Brigadier General Linell Letendre, Dean of Faculty, AFA
Right: Rebecca Love Kourlis, Justice Colorado Supreme Court





Left: Poet Jessie Randall reads from *Mathematics for Ladies* and her soon-to-be-published sequel, *The Path of Most Resistance*.

Right: Friday evening buffet catered by Graze Craze

Brenda Wolfe Awarded AAUW Colorado's Legacy

in Leadership Award at 2024 AAUW Convention

The Colorado Legacy in Leadership Award is given biannually to an AAUW CO member for contributions to AAUW's mission and leadership at the branch, state, or national level or a combination thereof, with the emphasis on contributions at the state level.

The Purpose is to honor and recognize outstanding AAUW service and support of AAUW's mission.

As we listened to the award presentation at this year's convention, only the award committee (and the awardee's mother) knew who was being honored...

- At the AAUW branch level, she's served as President, Membership-Treasurer, Community Outreach VP, and Interbranch Representative, and has been an active contributor to branch STEM initiatives
- At the State level, she was the 2008 Colorado State Convention Chair and has served as the Colorado State President 2010-2012, the Colorado State Bylaws Director, and State Parliamentarian, and in 2016, was the National STEM Committee Co-Chair
- She's attended AAUW Association Conventions as both a Branch and state delegate
- She's served on multiple fundraising committees, including "Dames Who Donate."
- Joining AAUW right after graduating from the Colorado School of Mines, the 2024 awardee has been a life member of AAUW *for 40 years* and can remember a day when, working in oil fields, she had to attend branch meetings wearing a hat and gloves!

Brenda, we are not worthy! Thank you for your trail-blazing commitment to increasing equity for women and girls and your incredible record of service to AAUW. We are so proud that you are a member of the Colorado Springs Branch and thrilled that you could be honored in this way in front of your hometown crowd!



Brenda and her Mom, Candy Crumb

Brenda Received AAUW Colorado's Legacy in Leadership Award

Photo by Kate Meyer Olsen

Given her mother, Candy Crumb's, long record of service to AAUW, Brenda claims she had no choice; it was pre-ordained from the womb. We are grateful for this legacy in leadership!

Collaboration Corner

AAUW members are invited to the 10th Annual WCCS Triple T Party!

The event is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm, at The Warehouse Restaurant, 25 W Cimarron St.

You can purchase your ticket to attend on Eventbrite. Just search for "Triple T Party Colorado Springs." Please contribute feminine product as well. The collected feminine product will go to these local nonprofits serving women: Partners in Housing, School District 11, TESSA, The Place, We Fortify – Tiny Houses, Westside Cares.

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 to follow

Join us at this informational event featuring a panel of local experts who will discuss the various economic, regulatory, and community factors impacting housing challenges in Colorado Springs. This forum will focus on how we got here and explore potential solutions.

Moving Upstream: Navigating the Future of Water in the Pikes Peak Region

Wednesday, June 26

4-6 p.m.

Penrose House Garden Pavilion

1661 Mesa Ave., Colorado Springs

<https://www.elpomar.org/programs/pikes-peak-heritage-series/>

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.



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

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](#)

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Interest Groups

Chocolate Lovers Interest Group

Wednesday, May 22nd

We will meet for lunch at the Edelweiss Restaurant, 43 East Ramona Avenue, 80905, at 11:30 A.M. for our monthly "get-together." (Separate check for each of us!) RSVP to Louise DeBernay by Friday, May 17th! louisedebernay@msn.com

Southwest Studies Interest Group

Want an exciting and new adventure?

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

Only two spots left as of May 9th.

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'Ndzigaii, 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 OR **Kathy Olson**, kathrynlolson@msn.com

Interest Group Summary

from Melanie and Rocky Hudson

2024 Interest Group Support for our Scholarship Success

As this Newsletter comes out and we approach our June 1st Authors Day and Silent Auction 2024 Program, we want to celebrate each Interest Group, each active member of our Interest Groups, and especially every Interest Group Chair who have once again worked long and hard to canvas our community, gathering Auction items, Individual Gifts, and wonderful Donations supporting our Annual Scholarship Program. Our sincere thanks to each of you!

To our entire Branch Membership, our Silent Auction is our Branch's Cornerstone of this amazing Scholarship fundraising effort – yet it is not the beginning, nor is it the end for each year. Please, we ask each and every member of our Colorado Springs Branch to continue to share our great Scholarship Mission with your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and the many businesses, for-profits and non-profits that you frequent, to please support and contribute whatever they can, to our local talented students selected during the upcoming selection process.

2024-2025 Interest Group Leadership

Selection and Confirmation

Every year, as summer approaches, we ask each Interest Group to confirm their Interest Group Chair(s). We recommend that each IG have at least two Co-chairs. As we all have experienced – “LIFE HAPPENS”. Just when a very important event or meeting is about to happen, each of us has had the “unexpected” happen instead. Help each other, plan ahead, and find that “Co” this year.

Also, this year – we have the great opportunity to establish a new “CO-Coordinator Team” with **YOUR** great vision of our IGs' Future. As Melanie and Rocky move to new adventures in AAUW, here is your and your best friend's (think Doppelganger) opportunity to Grow and Energize all our wonderful IG's.

Respectfully,

Melanie and Rocky Hudson

AAUW COS Branch Interest Group Co-Coordinator

Heartsdesire310@gmail.com lamrocky68@msn.com

[\(719\) 205-7639](tel:(719)205-7639) [\(719\) 460-2566](tel:(719)460-2566)

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](#)

American Association of University Women

4660 Adieu Cir, Colorado Springs
United States of America



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