



AAUW Colorado Springs Branch

April 2025 Newsletter

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

What's Inside

2025 Annual Meeting Saturday April 12

Author's Day and Silent Auction Saturday May 3

Save the Date!

Saturday, April 12

2025 Branch Annual Meeting

Election of Officers 2025-2026

Honoring 50 years plus members

Doors open 9:30 AM Program from 10:00 AM to 12 PM

Place: Bethel Lutheran Church

4925 Farmingdale Drive 80917

**[Click here to register for
2025 Annual Meeting](#)**

Saturday, April 26

2025 Colorado State Annual Zoom Meeting

Election of Officers 2025-2026

Changes to Bylaws

Starts at 9:00 AM

**[Click here to register
for the April State Annual Zoom Meeting](#)**

Saturday, May 3

Author's Day and Scholarship Fundraiser

9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Broadmoor Community Church

315 Lake Avenue

**[Click here to buy tickets
for Authors Day](#)**

Saturday, September 12

Welcome Coffee



AAUW Colorado Springs Annual Meeting

Election of Officers 2025-2026

Celebrating 50 years plus members

Saturday, April 12. Doors open 9:30 AM

Program from 10:00 AM to 12 PM

Bethel Lutheran Church

4925 Farmingdale Drive, 80917

Join us for light refreshments, installation of new officers and hear:

Vivian McWorter

Georgina Burns

Candy Crumb

tell their stories about why they joined AAUW 50 years ago, what they have experienced over the years, why they continued their membership and their thoughts about AAUW today.

2025-26 SLATE OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee presents the following for Election to the Board at the April 12 Annual Meeting:

President-Elect-**Lorena Wilder**

Membership VP-(Still working on it, but have 3 so far for a committee)

Secretary-**Char Gagne**

Community Outreach-**Crystal Stebbins**

A short bio will be presented on each candidate at the April 12 meeting.

Thanks to our Nominating committee: **Marian Phelps, Louise Debernay, Jan Jones and Kate Meyer Olson.**

**Click here to register
for 2025 Annual Meeting**

or

Copy and paste this link into your search bar.

<https://https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-cos-annual-business-meeting-celebrating-our-stars-tickets-1267585364949?aff=oddtcreator>

In addition to bringing your good selves and your checkbooks to pay your AAUW branch dues, please bring

1. any and all clean old socks for **Kate Meyer-Olson's** project on providing stuffing for dog beds, and
2. your clean plastic sheeting for the Environmental Action Interest Group's current drive for a new Trex bench to go to a non-profit in our community.

We have just started our 2025-26 drive and so far have a good start with about 100 out of the 1000 pounds of plastic needed to receive another bench.

With many thanks, **Schon Beechler**

AAUW Annual Authors Day and Scholarship Fundraiser

Saturday, May 3, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
(Doors open at 9:00 for auction browsing)
Broadmoor Community Church
315 Lake Avenue, 80906

Books, Brunch, Browsing, Bidding, and Buying
...all for a good cause!



A word, after a word, after a word, is power!

Tickets are \$50 and may be purchased at the Eventbrite link below.
Spread the word and invite a friend!
Come support our scholarship fund with your
attendance, donations, and auction finds!

To register:

**Click here to buy tickets
for Authors Day**

or

copy and paste the following into your search bar:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-annual-authors-day-and-scholarship-fundraiser-tickets-1267595354829?aff=oddtcreator>

**To learn more about the inspiring authors who are
joining us
for Authors Day, read on!**

Buzzy Jackson is the author of *To Die Beautiful*, winner of a Colorado Book Award for Historical Fiction, and a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award.

From Good Reads: a gripping and timely debut novel, based on the true story of Hannie Schaft: a heroic young Dutch woman who joined the Resistance in Holland during World War II and became one of the Nazis' most wanted women. Alongside the heartrending story of Hannie, the book offers a timely look at how fascism flourishes and what good people do to fight back.

Jackson holds a PhD in history from the University of California, Berkeley, and lives in Colorado with her family and their free-thinking dog, Ralph. She is currently at work on her next novel, inspired by a historical true crime.

Michelle Theall is the author of *The Wind Will Catch You*, an eye-opening, gritty, and hopeful novel about upheaval and resilience, forgiveness and family, love and unexpected allies, all set in motion by issues of social justice and a broken American foster care system. In this powerful story, a young woman searches for the truth about her childhood, and what she finds forever alters her beliefs about home, identity, and family. In addition to her debut novel, Theall is also the author of three nonfiction titles, including her intriguingly titled memoir, *Teaching the Cat to Sit*.

An editor at Alaska magazine and an award-winning nature photographer (think grizzly bears), Michelle Theall splits her time between Kodiak, Alaska and Boulder, Colorado with her wife, their son, and two pups.

Don't miss this opportunity to be inspired by these authors and their stories!

Author Selection and Host Committee:

Sherri Bristol, Frieda Dunlap, Cindy Keeffe, Beth Krasovec, Kathy Olson, Chair, Fran Schaeffer, and Cindi Zenkert-Strange



A word, after a word, after a word, is power!

**Authors Day and Scholarship
Fundraiser
How Every Member Can Help**

Authors Day is THE major fundraiser for our local branch scholarship program. Last September you met our wonderful scholarship recipients at the Fall Welcome Coffee and heard 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. Questions? Call **Joan Skoog** at 719-201-6289.

Individuals may

1. **Buy a ticket** and join us on May 3. Tickets are \$50 plus \$5.20 Eventbrite fees with approximately 50% of the ticket price going to support scholarships.
2. **Invite your friends!** They'll enjoy a great breakfast, presentations from two stellar Colorado authors, and shopping fun at the silent auction.
3. **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.
4. **Donate to the AAUW Scholarship Fund** by clicking the Donate button on the
5. Branch website homepage [here](#) or send a check to **Robin Depies**, Treasurer. Be sure to include Scholarship Fund in the memo line.
6. **Volunteer your time.** We need event set-up, registration, breakfast servers, auction runners, cashiers, and clean-up. Call, text or email Joan Skoog at 719-201-6289 and she'll set you up.
7. **Contribute** new, fun, creative gifts, services, or experiences in a variety of price ranges for your fellow members' silent auction shopping pleasure.
 - i. Free or discounted gift certificate to a favorite restaurant, spa, exercise studio, nail salon. If you would like to mail a solicitation letter or provide one to a business, a template is posted on our branch website on the "members only" tab or you can call Joan Skoog. You can personalize this letter as needed.
 - ii. Vacation home for a weekend?
 - iii. 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!
 - iv. Themed basket of smaller items (spa, travel, movies, wine, tea, food...)?
 - v. 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) with donated or reduced cost items.
- Make a group donation to the Scholarship fund (by check or online)
- Donate new or gently used books before day of auction. You could gather them in your Interest Group and donate as a group.

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

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.

Joan Skoog, (719)201-6289, 5540 Canvasback CT, 80918

Kate Meyer Olson, (202)794-3462, 2115 N. Cascade, 80907 (after April 14)

Nancy Holt (405)880-1277, 122 S. Olympian Dr., 80905

Auctions items should be in by April 25. NO items will be accepted on day of the Auction.

Membership Matters

How to Renew Dues

For most of our members, dues are due June 30th. The AAUW national will begin sending you email reminders. You can go to AAUW.org and renew online, You will need your correct email and password. If you forgot your password you can change it with just your email address. Please remember to pay national, /state and local dues. The fee will be \$109.00.

If you prefer, you can pay by cash or check at the April 12, 2025 Branch Meeting. Make checks payable to AAUW for \$109.00. You can also pay by mail, by sending a check payable to AAUW for \$109.00 and mail to **Robin Depies**, 1580 Old North Gate Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80921. It would be great if everyone was up to date by their expiration date!

If you have any membership questions or concerns, please contact me.

Suzanne Baldwin Kraus, Membership VP

Sbaldwin101@yahoo.com 719-235-7481



**ANNUAL MEETING AND
CONFERENCE**
SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025
9 AM ON ZOOM
(Registration Link Below)

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

ELECTION OF OFFICERS and APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO BYLAWS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

AAUW Supports Teen Girls' New Challenges

Featuring: **ABIGAIL HASSEN**



Abigail Hassen, MA, LPC, LAC received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY and holds a Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling from Regis University. Abbie is a dedicated and compassionate licensed professional counselor and licensed addiction counselor with over a decade of experience in mental health and crisis intervention.



AAUW NATIONAL UPDATE

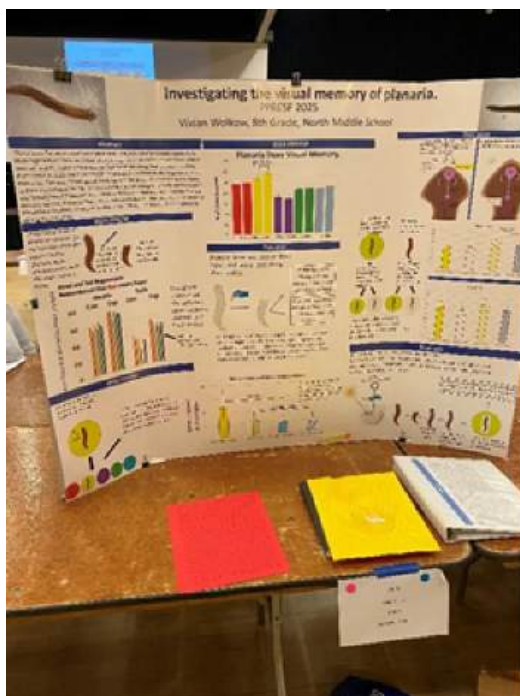
with **CHERYL SOROKIN**

Cheryl Sorokin has held leadership positions at the AAUW branch and national level, including serving on the national board since 2017, and is currently Board Chairman.

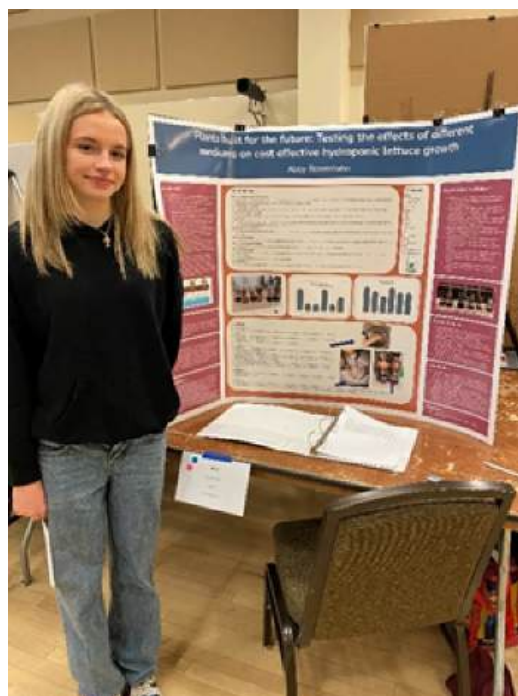


**Click here to register
for the April State Annual Zoom Meeting**

**Click here to view the
changes to the State Bylaws**



Vivian Wolkow North Middle School



Abby Rosenhahn, Palmer High School

Pikes Peak Regional Science Fair – 2025

The AAUW Colorado Springs Branch rewarded two female scientists for their efforts at the 2025 Pikes Peak Regional Science and Engineering Fair which was held at UCCS on Sat. Feb 22nd. Sustainable energy was certainly a hot topic again this year - covering solar, wind, water, and biomass. AAUW recognized participants at both the senior high and middle school levels. Award winners were seventh-grader, Vivian Wolkow, from North Middle School and Palmer High School sophomore, Abby Rosenhahn. The winners each received a \$100 Amazon gift card.

Miss Wolkow 's experiment, entitled "Investigating the visual memory of Planaria", expanded on the results of her past two year's data with planaria showing that they have memories and therefore can be trained. Interestingly, because they can regenerate in two weeks, she showed that the memories are stored throughout the body - since both halves that regenerated remembered that red meant food. Her experiment this year investigated whether the eyes in the front or the eyes along the sides of their bodies contributed the most to memory.

In "Plants built for the future: Testing the effects of different mediums on cost -effective hydroponic lettuce growth", Miss Rosenhahn attempted to differentiate six types of soils. I was intrigued by the project as our branch EAIG had visited a hydroponic farm this past year. Her goal is to develop a solution that is economically viable for third world countries and hopes to introduce her results in Thailand through an organization called 'Joy to the World'. Her biggest hurdle was trying to grow the plants without a supplemental heat/light source since scaled up, this would add to the production cost.

The Science Fair remains a crucial outlet for young ladies to demonstrate their science capabilities and garner confidence and recognition. The pictures above illustrate the amount of work these ladies put into their projects.

---**Brenda Wolfe**, STEM Co-Chair

Environmental Action Interest Group

Listing of Interest Groups

Various Days in the week/month

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, MAHJONG

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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