



## **AAUW Colorado Springs Branch**

### **May 2025 Newsletter**

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

### **What's Inside**

Authors' Day and Silent Auction Saturday May 3

SW Studies Interest Group's Colorado Trip This Fall

### **Save the Date!**

**Saturday, May 3**

### **Authors' 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**

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## President's Message



Thank you to all of those that attended our Annual Meeting, it was a joy to listen to our three lifetime members, Vivian McWhorter, Georgina Burns and Candace Crumb. Congratulations to Audrey McGuire and Nancy Holt as our Names Honored awardees- they have done an amazing job representing DEI and AAUW mission, vision and values. What a way to honor AAUW and the Colorado Springs Branch and community! If you have not purchased your ticket for our Annual Authors' Day, don't delay! The committee has been hard at work to ensure a great event and amazing authors! On Wednesday, June 11, please consider supporting WCCS for their annual Triple T party- they have expanded the reach, in the community, for the donated feminine hygiene products. It is a great time for a great cause, and it helps to support our community at large! A special thank you to the Environmental Action Interest Group and the members for collecting the 1000 lbs needed to donate a bench-and, thank you to Joan for her donation of 125 lbs of plastic.



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

**Author's Day is May 3rd.**

**Do you have your ticket yet?**

Deadline to reserve a place at this year's Authors Day is April 29. Come hear our talented Colorado authors and shop the Silent Auction! There are so many wonderful items! Just to name a few: bid on a gift for yourself such as a luxurious night at Flying Horse Resort or a basket of beauty items, watch the birds come to your feeder with a built-in camera bird feeder, be entertained with 2 season tickets to Theatreworks, or buy one of the many gift cards to restaurants you already enjoy such as Marigolds, Garden of the Gods Resort, Chuy's, Heart of Jerusalem plus many, many more. While your credit card is welcomed, a fee for processing will be added. If you prefer not to pay the processing fee, be sure and bring your checkbook or cash. New this year – gently used books will be offered for sale, cash (or check) and carry only.



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

## AAUW Annual Authors' Day and Scholarship Fundraiser

**Saturday, May 3: 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**(Doors open at 9:00 for auction browsing)**

**Broadmoor Community Church**

**315 Lake Avenue, 80906**

**Authors (and their Books), Bountiful Brunch,**

**Browsing, Bidding, and Buying**

**...all for a good cause!**

***Featuring Two Outstanding Colorado Authors***

**Buzzy Jackson** is the author of *To Die Beautiful*, a Colorado Book Award for Historical Fiction winner, and a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. Her gripping and timely debut novel is based on the true story of Hannie Schaft, a heroic young Dutch woman who joined the Dutch Resistance in World War II.

**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 foster care system.

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

**Tickets are \$50 and may be purchased at the Eventbrite link below.**

**Spread the word and invite a friend!**

**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>

**Thanks for supporting college scholarships for local women with your  
attendance, attention, donations, and auction finds!**



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

## Convenient Drop-Off for Auction Items

If you have auction items to donate, they 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

**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 Auction.

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## Membership Matters

Well done, Ladies! Networking works! We have 2 new members to welcome to our branch. **Alice Balin** attended the International Women's Day and learned about AAUW and joined immediately. Alice has attended other events for women in the community and is a volunteer for Silver Key. **Alycia Doctor** came to our last branch meeting with a friend and joined before she left the event. She is a volunteer at the FAC and the East Library Bookstore. Please welcome Alice and Alicia to our branch.

## Upcoming Membership Dues

For most of our members, dues are due June 30th. The fee will be \$109.00. Please bring your checkbooks so you can renew before Authors' Day, on May 3rd. Make checks payable to AAUW for \$109.00. You can also pay by mail, by sending a check and mailing it 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](mailto:Sbaldwin101@yahoo.com) 719-235-7481

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## AAUW Colorado Springs Business Meeting,

**April 12, 2025**

The meeting was called to order, with a welcome by **Crystal Stebbins**, President of the Colorado Springs branch. She recognized and thanked the outgoing Board members: **Secretary, Cindy Keefe, Membership, Suzanne Kraus and Community Outreach, Marilyn Frydrych.**

The election of the new Board members followed and were presented to the members by **Marian Phelps**, Nominating Committee chairperson. She presented the slate of new board members: **President-elect, Lorena Wilder, Secretary, Charlotte Gagne, Membership, Elizabeth Leslie, Community Outreach, Crystal Stebbins and Nominating Committee, Brenda Wolfe and Pip Bodkin. Marilyn Frydrych** moved to accept the Nominating Committee report, and it was seconded by **Robin Depies**. Motion was approved. Thank you to our Nominating Committee and to our New Board Members.

**Joan Skoog—President-Elect** talked about the upcoming Authors' Day and encouraged members to invite friends and shared several auction items she brought to stimulate their interest.

All members were encouraged to sign up to be on a committee of their interest to share the work and to stimulate new ideas.

**Marian Phelps**, Co VP of Programs, introduced three 50-plus years members who shared some of their memories during their years with AAUW.



**Marian Phelps photo by Kate Meyer Olson**

**Vivian McWhorter** joined AAUW in 1967, her first two years of college were at Mt. St. Clair in Iowa. She then went on to Iowa State Teachers College and earned a degree in Social Science. She brought memorabilia that she collected over the years- the one that stands out is a cookbook where the members shared their favorite recipes, signed their names to the recipes and sold copies of the book. They had a dinner-party to share the recipes and charged only \$5. She also shared that, at one time, they became tour guides for Colorado Springs to earn money for the Branch until the tours became too popular.



**Georgina Burns** joined AAUW in 1968 and graduated from UC Boulder with a degree in Elementary Education. She taught in Los Angeles, CA, and Cherry Creek in Prince Georges County, MD. Georgina told us that the first local scholarships that were offered were \$50. Branches had Study Groups instead of Interest Groups and the topics were provided by National. One year they had their own Legislative Day and invited Governor Lamm's wife, Dottie, as keynote speaker. All the Colorado legislators attended!

**Candy Crumb** joined AAUW in 1962 when she graduated from Colorado College with two degrees, a BA in English and American History. She spent her career teaching in District 11 schools in Colorado Springs, CO. She pointed out that originally colleges had to be accredited by AAUW to have their graduates be members. She talked about the fun she had and the friends she made at national, state and local conferences over the years, especially in Washington, DC where National had conventions every 4 years. She remembered the convention in Albuquerque when the members voted to allow male members.

Ms. Phelps acknowledged all the 50-plus years members and noted the newest member of the club is Sally Mathewson.

On behalf of the Names Honored committee, **Brenda Wolfe** presented the Branch recipients for 2025. A separate article follows.

The meeting was concluded with a warm thank you to the members for choosing to spend their Saturday with us, Appreciation was given to **Kate Meyer Olson** for taking pictures and to our Hospitality Committee for providing refreshments.

Submitted by **Brenda Wolfe**

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## 2025 Names Honored Recipients

Each year the Colorado Springs Branch contributes to National AAUW in the name of a member or members who have made significant contributions to AAUW at all levels (branch, state and national) and who have served our community.



Nancy Holt and Audrey McGuire photo by Kate Meyer Olson

**Nancy Holt:** Nancy has been a member of AAUW for 12 years. She was Branch President in 2017-18 and is currently co-chair of our DEI committee. She has helped with the STEM Day as Volunteer Lead. Nancy has also served on other committees including the Nominating committee. She received her BA in Home Economics Education from the University of Washington in Seattle in 1970. After working for the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services in Child Protective Services, she went back to the UW and got her Master of Public Administration in 1976. Shortly after receiving her masters, she became a single mother of an infant daughter with the loss of her husband which changed her career path. She moved back to Oklahoma to be close to her family - supporting herself and her daughter by investing in real estate and was a landlady for over thirty years in Stillwater, Oklahoma renting to college students. She has been married to her husband, Smith, for 24 years, whom many of you have met, as he is a supportive member of AAUW.

**Audrey McGuire:** Audrey has been a member of AAUW for 7 years. She was Branch co-president last year and is currently co-chair of our DEI committee, where she has served since 2021, and is a member of the State Nominating committee. She has a passion for Public Policy and has been our PP Director and recently represented us in Nov. on the League of Women Voters election program panel. She graduated from Baldwin Wallace College with a BA in Philosophy and then received an MA Ed in Counseling from East Carolina University. She began her career as a teacher in East Harlem, NY. With the move to Colorado in 1985 with her husband and two sons, she assumed a position as an elementary school counselor for Harrison District 2, Colorado Springs. She retired in 2005. She joined the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Docent program in 2006 and served as Docent President, 2013-2014. Her AAUW Interest groups include Visual Arts, Southwest Studies, Hardy Hikers, Exploring Lives and Cultures, Pickleball and Bridge light. The outdoors also calls to her for more than occasional tennis and golf. For Audrey, AAUW is and continues to be a wonderful source of enrichment, including great friends and remarkable camaraderie.

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Community • Volunteering • Friendship



**WCCS**  
est. 1902  
The WOMAN'S CLUB of  
COLORADO SPRINGS  
General Federation of Women's Clubs



**PARTY WITH A PURPOSE**  
FOOD | DRINKS | SHOPPING | GAMES  
TIARA PARADE | DOOR PRIZES | FUN!  
A feminine product drive benefitting local non-profits dedicated to those in need.

**WED, JUNE 11TH, 2025 | 5 - 7:30 PM**

The Warehouse Restaurant  
25 W. Cimarron, CSC 80903

**\$35 and a Box of Feminine Products**

← **BUY TICKETS AT [GFWC-WCCS.COM](https://www.gfwc-wccs.com)**

For more information: [WCCSVolunteere@gmail.com](mailto:WCCSVolunteere@gmail.com)

## Interest Groups

### Environmental Action Interest Group





At our AAUW branch's business meeting on April 12 our Environmental Action Interest Group announced the winner of our recycling challenge – incoming Branch President, Joan Skogg. Joan, with the help of a number of people in her network, collected a whopping 125 pounds of plastic in 4 months. We also announced that the recipient of the 2024-25 recycling campaign for a free Trex bench is The LaunchPad. This new facility is a 50-unit permanent supportive apartment home community for young adults aged 18 to 24. It's not a shelter; instead, residents commit to a 1-year lease. Within The Launchpad, The PLACE assumes the role of providing secure support and fostering connections among the young adult tenants.

(Source: <https://theplacecos.org/the-launchpad/>).

Schon Beechler with a bag of flexible plastic Photo by Kate Meyer Olson

In prior years the EAIG has collected enough plastic to provide free benches to these other not-for-profit organizations in our community: Millibo Art Theatre, CPCD/Headstart, Voces Unidas for Justice, and Concrete Couch. We are continuing to collect plastic this year and we can't achieve the 1000 pound goal for receiving a bench without your help. So please bring your plastic to our next branch meeting and we will take it from there - co-chairs of the EAIG, Schon Beechler and Pam Maier will continue collecting, weighing, and dropping off plastic for members.



Another 48 pounds of plastic sheeting, ready to be dropped off at King Soopers!

Photo by Schon Beechler

**Southwest Studies Interest Group**

## Join Us on the 2025 Southwest Studies Annual Trip

Are you looking for a fun and unique experience this summer? If so, consider joining the SW Studies group for the **Historic Gems of Colorado Trip** from **Sept. 15 - 19th**.

The mountains are calling, and we must go! No matter how long or short a time you've called Colorado home, this trip offers new adventures, learning experiences, great food, amazing scenery and plenty of camaraderie!

The trip is still under development, but some of the highlights include:

- A tour of the Opera House in Leadville and the famous National Mining Hall of Fame Museum.
- A possible gondola ride on the Silver Queen in Aspen, followed by a guided tour of historic Aspen, and another event to be announced.
- Visit a Lavender Farm in the morning and take a wagon ride through a Palisades peach orchard in Paonia in the afternoon.
- Enjoy a jeep ride in scenic mountains of Marble; followed by a visit to Frank Mechau's (a well-known Colorado artist) home; and a possible tour of the famous Redstone Castle.
- Last day, enjoy a ride on the world-famous Georgetown Loop Railroad in Georgetown.
- This is a five-day, four-night trip on a comfortable bus, with several meals and all lodging included.

Only a few slots remain, so contact Sharon Rice at [sharonsrice43@gmail.com](mailto:sharonsrice43@gmail.com), 719-290-6426 or Kathy Olson, [kathrynlolson@msn.com](mailto:kathrynlolson@msn.com), 719-3331-8891. A \$100 deposit reserves you spot.

## 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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