

AAUW Grand Junction Branch Newsletter

Happy New Year

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January Program



Our next program meeting, “**Women Making Public Policy**” will take place on **Tuesday, January 17th at 11:30 a.m. at Colorado Mesa University, Student Center room 222.** We will have our panel discussion with elected city and county women first and then those who wish to have lunch together can do so in the cafeteria. If you have questions, please call Lori Wood at 234-5674. Hope to see you there. Bring a friend!!



There is a sense that as we age, New Year’s resolutions can perhaps, become less important to make. We may think that we made plenty of resolutions in our younger days and that now, we are what we are. If we haven’t made the lifestyle changes that we should have or wanted to, we won’t be making them now.

On the other hand, if one believes that life is a journey and an ongoing process of learning, then resolutions or renewals for the new year can carry us forward into another precious year of our life with renewed focus and intent. One model for making goals is to identify a focus in the various categories of the physical, intellectual, emotional or technical realms. It’s possible, that in the past, these categories forced us into making resolutions that weren’t, in our heart of hearts, what we truly wanted to improve, accomplish, or experience. Could it be that instead of making **resolution statements** such as “I resolve to lose twenty pounds,” we might ask **guiding questions** of ourselves? Perhaps, questions like these are helpful in renewing our time, energy and focus for 2012: “What am I passionate about?” or “On what do I want to spend my precious time?” or “What social issues do I want to support to make the world a better place?” or “How can I grow spiritually?” or “How can I accomplish true peace and tranquility?” or “How can I show compassion to others?”

Whatever your position is on making resolutions or on what kind of resolutions to make, it is, nevertheless, **a new year.** It is hoped that AAUW will play a bigger role in your life in 2012 as our branch strives to make its mark in our community regarding the AAUW mission of **“advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.”** Join us, won’t you??

Best wishes for the New Year.

Kathleen Kain

Newsletter Deadline

All members are encouraged to submit their articles, news or announcements by the 25th of each month to kkain@bresnan.net. This is your newsletter.

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President's Message—Marilyn Zimmerman

Happy New Year!

We hope you will join us at one of our next meetings. We encourage everyone to bring a friend to a meeting. This is a great time for new members to join at half price from January through March.

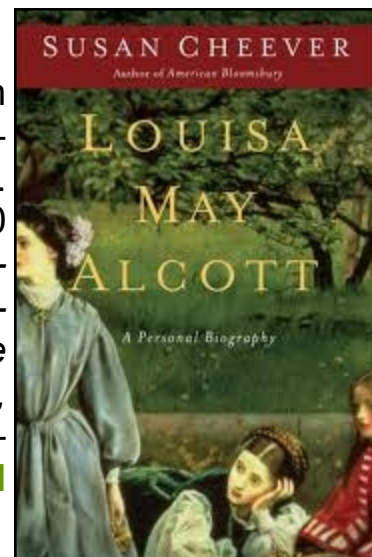
Our Program Vice Presidents, Lori Wood and Anita Pisciotte have great program meetings planned for January through May. Our programs this year are based on the AAUW mission: "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research". This reminds us all why we became AAUW members whether you are new this year or have been a member for many years.

Please join us in supporting the AAUW mission.



Jane Quimby Book Group

The Jane Quimby book club will meet on Friday, January 20th at the home of Betty Burns (242-7462). Betsy Zollner (242-7416) will present **Louisa May Alcott** by Susan Cheever. Lois Jarre, (464-7784) will co-host the event starting at 9:30 a.m. *"Susan Cheever's Louisa May Alcott is a grand achievement, one that delivers a portrait of a woman and artist movingly and vividly. Cheever has a wonderful gift for being able to suggest the emotional weight and bearing of her subjects, to bring them fully to life, and to treat them as human beings."* - Robert D. Richardson, author. **If you have your childhood copy of Little Women, bring it to show.**



READER'S THEATER GROUP will resume meeting **on Saturday, January 28 at 9:30 AM in the home of Jane Fitzgerald, 2327 Eagle Point Court.** Call 241-9684 for information. Anyone is welcome. Bring a play or poem to share.



Reader's Theater requires no memorization, no costumes, no props and yet participants can act and communicate through the author or playwright's character scripts. It's fun, non threatening and a creative way to interact with others and bring a character to life through your own voice. Come join us!!



Public Policy Report

by Peggy Rawlins,
Public Policy Chair 263-4741

AAUW supports the following Top 10 advances for women and **they are at risk.**

1. Legislatures in 30 states are attempting to turn the clock back to when only white males could vote. This is due to new restrictive voter ID laws which target minorities, students and women who do not have documentation with their current legal name. This currently accounts for 32 million women in the U.S..
2. Social Security Act (1935) — Congress conservatives want to gut Social Security which will impact women's economical security. They say Social Security is bankrupting us. No—it pays for itself.
3. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—recent rulings of the conservative majority of the Supreme Court have weakened employment discrimination laws.
4. Medicare (1065) — The conservative majority of the House passed a fiscal 2012 budget bill which would end Medicare and replace (for those now younger than 55) with vouchers to buy private insurance.
5. Medicaid (1965) —The House conservatives' budget has Medicaid targeted for deep budget cuts and conversion into capped block grants to states.
6. Title X, the National Family Planning Program (1970) —The House voted in in 2011 to completely defund Title X. Nine states have reduced family planning and New Jersey eliminated Title X completely.
7. Title IX of the Education Amendments (1972) —The budget cuts and pressure from congressional opponents threaten to weaken enforcement of our anti-sex discrimination. Thus, girls athletics will once again lose out.
8. Roe v. Wade Supreme Court Decision (1970) - More than 1,000 pieces of legislation have been introduced and 162 bills have been passed at the state level to restrict access to any and all abortion and family planning.
9. The Violence Against Women Act (1994) —The bill will expire at the end of 2011 unless it is reauthorized. No bill to do so has been introduced.
10. The Affordable Care Act (2010) —Conservative senators, state legislators and governors have pledged to repeal this health-care insurance reform which will provide women new benefits and preventive care services.

Ever since 1980, women have turned out to be the majority voters at the polls. Make our votes count!!

American Association of University Women

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. By joining, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Mark Your Calendar

January 17	Program Meeting
January 20	Jane Quimby Book Group
January 28	Readers Theater Group



Please Participate in Our Three Fundraisers and Support our AAUW Branch Operations

Shop with Script Gift Cards. Order through mz812@earthlink.net

Take Your Used Clothing and Items to the Encore Shop or Jo's Clothes-AAUW

Donate your gently-used jewelry to the May Program Meeting's Jewelry Jamboree

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