



Grand Junction Branch Newsletter

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

We are excited to welcome you to the start of the 2015-2016 program year and are starting off with a *scrumptious* brunch to introduce new members to our AAUW branch. Please come to meet these wonderful women. And come to meet again with long-time friends.

Like me, many of you branch members have belonged to AAUW for many years. In that time AAUW National has undergone many changes, from bylaws to its funds. Most of us have been only marginally aware of such changes. It's time to get up to speed in a fun, informal way. That's why we are calling this meeting "**AAUW Refresh**". And for new members, we hope this will provide everything you need to know. Of course, one could find this information on the AAUW National website www.aauw.org, but isn't a brunch a nicer way?

Garfield's Off Broadway Restaurant

In the Redlands at 2148 Broadway

10:30 AM

Saturday, September 5, 2015

We will order off the menu. Garfield's does serve breakfast and lunch, not just great fish dinner entrees. This would be an excellent time to bring friends or spouses with you.

RSVP (yes or no) to Jane Fitzgerald at 241-9684 or mjfitz2cats@gmail.com so that the restaurant knows how many. Also contact Jane if you need transportation.

Written by Jane Fitzgerald

Branch President Lori Wood 234-5674

VP Program Executive Board

Secretary Kathy Kain 242-1323

VP Membership Virginia Brown 201-0386

Treasurer Jane Fitzgerald 241-9684

Newsletter Editor Jane Fitzgerald

Welcome New Members

Our Grand Junction Branch of AAUW is pleased to welcome new member **Dr. Jeannie Dunn**. Jeannie grew up in New Orleans and after she graduated from high school, she attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and received her Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education with an emphasis in speech and English in 1971. She first taught 9th grade English in a rural school in Clinton, Louisiana for a year and then taught special education for seven years in Louisiana. Jeannie then received her Masters of Education in special education from Louisiana State University in 1981. In 1997, she received a Doctorate of Education in educational leadership from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

Jeannie then taught middle school in Glenwood Springs. Next, she taught in the Carbondale gifted and talented program. Jeannie then moved to Grand Junction where she was the principal of Tope Elementary for sixteen years. Having retired in June 2013, Jeannie has now started her own educational business and is a certified trainer of the *Irlen Method* which addresses perceptual processing problems particularly as they related to reading.

Jeannie's husband is Richard and they have three daughters and eight grandchildren. Please help welcome Jeannie to our branch of AAUW!

The Branch is also pleased to welcome **Holly Shrader** to AAUW. Holly was born in Danville, Illinois in 1948. She graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1968 with an Associate of Arts in Dental Hygiene. Holly moved to Denver in the fall of 1968 where she went to work as a hygienist. It was in Denver where she met her future husband, Buck, whom she married in 1970. They were married 44 years until his death in 2014.

Buck was employed by the Colorado Division of Highways which meant that every time he was promoted, the couple moved all along the I-70 corridor, and even up to Craig. When he retired in 1999, the couple relocated to Clifton. Holly continued to work as a hygienist for various dentists in the Grand Valley until she too retired in 2010.

Holly has one brother who resides in Florida. Having no children of her own, she loves to visit him there and see his four daughters and 10 grandchildren. Holly loves to read, watch DVD's, do crossword puzzles and play trivia games. But her real passion is travel, and she will be leaving in September for a three month cruise/tour of Australia and New Zealand, with stops in Hawaii and Tahiti.



Message from President Lori

First, I'd like to thank everyone who renewed their membership. It is active members like you that keep our branch alive. The assorted branch special interest groups make being a member fun, but the monthly Program meetings are the bread and butter of our branch. They are what fulfill the "education" aspect of our Association's mission.

In order to make the monthly program meetings a success, we need good attendance. We have a year of top notch, interesting speakers planned by our board members. It is disappointing if we have a speaker who takes their time out of their day - for free - to speak in front of only a handful of people. So please, look through the list of 2015/16 programs in your yearbook and find at least half that you will commit to attend. I'm sure you will find the time spent worthwhile in not only enriching your own life but in providing fellowship to others who enjoy seeing you.

The board still needs someone who will help with sending out press releases. This is a fairly simple job that can be done on your own time, at your computer by composing a press release and emailing them out to the various media in the valley. Training is provided. Call or email me if you would like to visit about it.

Thank you to Peggy Rawlins for offering to help with assistant membership duties. If anyone else would like to help in some small way - helping a board member - helping with a one time commitment – any small involvement will be appreciated. Below is an example of a fun, simple way members volunteered to help.

Lastly, please take a look at the current issue of the ***Grand Valley Magazine***. AAUW, Grand Junction branch is thanked in that issue for judging the Fairy Tale Writing Contest. The contest was a brainchild of Publisher Krystyn Hartmann, I and a few others while on a late night Facebook conversation. We discussed the lack of modern day fairy tales that encouraged women to be strong. One of the rules was: *No princesses allowed*. The tales will be printed over the next three months. Special Thanks to the judging committee: Jean Yale, Barbara Boudreaux and Marie Filip.

Special Interest Group News

Culture Club



The AAUW Culture Club is a loosely organized effort to inform interested members about movies, music and other cultural events in the Grand Valley. It is also a way to find others to attend these events with. If you are interested in these activities, email Anita Pisciotte anitap@bresnan.net or call Virginia Gibson at 242-7422.

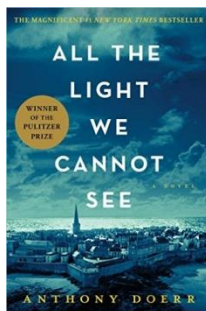
Coffee & Chat



This informal group meets the 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30 AM to try to solve world/local problems through fun discussions. This month we will meet at Java Junction on September 26. Java Junction is located on the back side of Teller Arms Shopping Center, across from the VA Hospital.

The Jane Quimby Book Club

The Jane Quimby Book Club will start off the new season of good reads on Friday, September 18th at 9:30 AM at the American Lutheran Church which is located at 631 26-1/2 Road in Grand Junction. Barb Boudreaux will hostess. Barb can be reached at 858-3359 for any questions or comments.



Deb Krabacher will present ***All the Light We Cannot See*** by Anthony Doerr, winner of a Pulitzer Prize. This beautifully written book deals with a brother and sister, and an amazing young blind woman, finding their way in the midst of World War II chaos. It is a compelling and lovely read.

FYI to my AAUW friends, I thought you might be interested to know about the community's new adult education program, New Dimensions Lifelong Learning Institute, with classes beginning this fall. For one fee (\$50) you can take multiple classes on an array of interesting topics that include film, birding, health and medical issues, rock art, travel. I am teaching a four-session class on mystery-reading, "Books to Die For." The classes have no exams and no papers! For more info or to enroll, see the website at www.newdimensionsgj.org. Best, Lyn Fraser

Save the date - NEXT MONTH'S Program Meeting

AAUW will be doing a joint meeting with the League of Women Voters.

Topic: Citizens for Clean Air will be presenting a panel discussion:
"Update on Air Quality in the Grand Valley".
When: Monday, October 5
Where: Unitarian Universalist Church, 536 Ouray Avenue, Grand Junction
Time: 7 PM

League of Women Voters News

LWV's next meeting will be on September 14 starting at 6:30 PM at Unitarian Universalist Church of the Grand Valley, 536 Ouray. State Senator Irene Aguilar will speak on *The Colorado Health Care Cooperative: What it can do for the State and its Residents*. League meetings are open to the public.

Shop with Scrip



OK, it is early, but have you thought about giving gift cards as holiday gifts? You can really support our branch activities by purchasing gift cards at www.shopwithscrip. You just pay the usual value of the gift card, but the nice thing is that our AAUW branch then receives a kick-back percentage of the cost varying from 2% to 11%. Last year the branch netted \$219.90 on sales of \$4,750. As an example, if you purchased a \$50 gift card, you would send AAUW branch the \$50, and we would order you the card and there would be the full \$50 available on it. BUT, the Scrip company would then send the branch \$2, if the rebate percentage was 4%, or \$4 if the percentage was 8%.

More than 600 companies have gift cards available. Examples are Cabela's (3%), Lowe's (4%), Home Depot (4%), Wal-Mart (2.5%), Amazon.com (3%), and Barnes & Noble (9%). There are cards for groceries, restaurants, travel, almost anything you could use.

You can order on line by setting up an account. If you need help with instructions, contact Marilyn Zimmerman at mz812@earthlink.net or calling 314-7482. She can also order for you.

After ordering, the company mails all the cards to Marilyn. Orders received by the 25th of each month, will be available at the next AAUW General Program Meeting.



Branch Financial News

Our Grand Junction Branch of AAUW finished the 2014-2015 fiscal year (which ended on June 30, 2015) in great financial shape.

The **General Fund** started the year with a balance of \$2,974.37. Income during the year consisted of local dues of \$610, a donation of \$75, and Scrip sales of \$5,170. Expenses paid were \$4,962.50 to the Scrip company, \$42.60 to mail our newsletter to those without email, \$159.30 to print newsletters, \$19.60 for membership expenses, \$175 for insurance, \$64.90 to print yearbooks and mail, \$80.15 for program expenses, and \$7.24 to reimburse officer expenses. The year ended with a checkbook **balance of \$3,318.28.**

The **Money Market Account** consists of several funds. Overall it started the year with a balance of \$7,757.65. Interest was added in the amount of \$3.81 (Wow! Great rate, huh!). Expenses for Cocktails & Conversation events were paid in the amount of \$106.79, and \$100 was sent to CMU Foundation to even the amount for a scholarship. (The balance was paid from the AAUW endowment funds already at the Foundation). The ending **balance was \$7,554.67.**

The remaining balances in the funds are: Scholarship \$ 629.86; Miscellaneous \$200.22; General Fund Reserves \$1,500.00; McClure Bequest \$5,224.59.

AAUW Public Policy Program 2015-2017

Every two years the Public Policy Program is reviewed, updated and voted on by the membership of AAUW. The Public Policy program supports AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research and speaks to women's needs, aspirations, and concerns across the life span.

The Biennial Action Priorities inform state and local action. The priorities for national action are chosen according to the criteria of visibility, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership.

There are **three main priorities** with a number of items under each priority:

1. To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity.
2. Achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women.
3. To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.

Under each of these priorities are a number of supporting statements that more clearly define the Public Policy Priorities for the next two years. The complete Public Policy Program 2015-2017 can be read or downloaded at www.aauw.org/publicpolicy.

Report from Fall Leadership Conference

The Colorado State AAUW Fall Leadership Conference was held on August 25 & 26 at Lion Square Lodge in Vail, with State President (and Grand Junction Branch member) Marilyn Zimmerman leading the meetings. GJ member Jane Fitzgerald also attended. After concluding the usual business of adoption of a budget, approving updates of the strategic plan and public policy program, and various reports, the balance of the conference was focused on developing AAUW mission-based branch programming, marketing our brand, and collaboration with other organizations. Attendees broke into groups and brainstormed ideas...wow, just goes to prove that many heads are better than one. We hope to incorporate some of the suggestions in upcoming meetings here in GJ. This was a great meeting to get really jazzed about AAUW.

AAUW's Colorado eNetwork

Short on time, but long on commitment to empowering women and improving the lives of women?? Our branch of the American Association of University Women can help you connect with leading women across the state. Virtual branches use technology to support networking, online connections, and learning. We welcome technology learners and teachers, and those interested in traditional branch programming such as public policy, book discussions, and women's issues.

The Colorado eNetwork is one of the newest branches of [AAUW](#) – advancing equity for women and girls through [advocacy](#), [education](#), [philanthropy](#), and [research](#). This branch was formed to provide a new kind of community for AAUW members, many of whom do not have a local community-based branch or who are unable to attend local events. We also welcome, as dual members, those who belong to other AAUW branches but wish to support this new structure and interact with other members online.

One of the persons in attendance at the Fall Leadership Conference was Melissa Johnsen, who was representing Colorado's eNetwork. Melissa is also on AAUW National Board of Directors. She really got us interested in joining the eNetwork as a dual member. (Since we already belong to the Grand Junction Branch. It appears the dues would be \$10.) She talked about having video conferences, etc. with other members.

Check this out on the Colorado website <http://aauw-co.aauw.net>. Then go to "join", then "choose a branch", to find out more or to enroll.