



## Grand Junction Branch Newsletter

### March Program in honor of Women's History Month



Dr. Erika K. Jackson,  
Assistant Professor of History  
Colorado Mesa University

At this presentation, Dr. Jackson will discuss the importance of women's role within American history, as well as the topic of her book manuscript, *The Importance of Nordic Whiteness*. The forthcoming book explores ideological, gendered concepts of Nordic whiteness and Scandinavian ethnicity employed by native-born Americans in Chicago during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries to construct hegemony. This topic advances a more comprehensive understanding of the Scandinavian-American experience by examining the process by which Nordics became the embodiment of whiteness. Rather than crafting an authentic persona of the common Nordic immigrant, Scandinavians chose to play upon the observations of the American media as a means of benefitting their cause.

Dr. Jackson is an Assistant Professor of History at Colorado Mesa University and teaches courses in women's and gender history; the history of sexuality; immigration, race, and ethnicity; labor history; and urban history and is a faculty advisor for the minor in Women's and Gender Studies at CMU.

***Wednesday, March 2, 11:30 am***  
***The Egg & I Restaurant***

Please send a Yes, No, or Maybe about your attendance to Jane Fitzgerald at 241-9684 or [mifitz2cats@gmail.com](mailto:mifitz2cats@gmail.com) by noon on Monday, February 29th. This would be a good day to bring your friends.

**Note the change of Speaker from that printed in the AAUW Yearbook or last month's newsletter.**

<b>Branch President</b> Lori Wood 234-5674	<b>VP Membership</b> Virginia Brown 201-0386
<b>VP Program</b> Executive Board	<b>Treasurer</b> Jane Fitzgerald 241-9684
<b>Secretary</b> Kathy Kain 242-1323	<b>Newsletter Editor</b> Jane Fitzgerald

**The Next Program Meeting:** Saturday, April 2, Bookcliff Country Club at 11:30 AM. The presenter will be John Marshall, Vice President of Student Services at CMU speaking on Rape & Sexual Assault Prevention at CMU.

**What You May Have Missed at the Last Program Meeting:** Dr. Kate Dreiling, Assistant Professor of Criminology at CMU presented very interesting statistics on the increase in the numbers of women in prison in the last few years, the possible reasons and the subsequent impact on families and communities. She further indicated that she encourages women to become police officers and prison wardens because research has shown that women are generally better at defusing tense situations due to superior communication skills.

### *Message from Branch President, Lori Wood*

**All AAUW Members: Yes, this is a repeat of last month's message since there has been minimal response to my request.**

Please consider how you might contribute to the success of our AAUW Branch going forward. There are three positions open on the Board for the 2016-2017 year, which starts on July 1<sup>st</sup>. For the last several years, we have been recycling the same people through the various Board positions. As capable and dedicated as they are, this does not seem to make for a vibrant branch. Please contact me if you would consider volunteering for:

- **Secretary** (records and keeps minutes of all Board and Annual meetings, sends get-well, sympathy, or congratulatory cards to members, as appropriate)
- **Vice-President Membership** (greet meeting attendees, ensures people are welcomed to the branch and know what AAUW is about, works with the Board on recruiting new members)
- **Vice-President Program** (arranges meeting locations and speakers in conjunction with assistance from other Board members)
- If you feel that you cannot take a Board position, would you be able to volunteer to help choose recipients for the Mary Rait/Mary Jewell Willsea Grant? The work involves reading the application forms provided from CMU (in March), and then notifying CMU of the results.

**A member of the Nominating Committee may be contacting you to accept a position. Please consider saying "YES!" Or, better yet, contact me now with your "Yes, I Can!" Our branch really needs you.**



### **Shop with Scrip**

Just a reminder: The sales from Scrip cards help finance some of the branch activities. So far this year the branch has netted **\$105.29**. Order Scrip cards at [www.shopwithscrip](http://www.shopwithscrip). At this web site you may see all the wide variety of cards available. The good news is you get the card for the value you paid, and our branch gets a kickback percentage.

You can order on line by setting up an account. If you need help with instructions, contact Marilyn Zimmerman at [mz812@earthlink.net](mailto:mz812@earthlink.net) or calling 314-7482. She can also order for you. Orders should be placed by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month for personal delivery at the following month's meeting.

## 2016 AAUW-Colorado Legislative Agenda

*Each year during Public Policy Day, which is held during the Legislative session, AAUW votes on which bills are of interest to women. Some we support and some we don't. Here are the current findings.*

Bill #	Sponsor	Other House Sponsor	Recommendation
<b>HB 16-1001</b>	Danielson & Buckner	None	Support
	State Contractors Must Comply with Equal Pay Standards. Women's Economic Security		
<b>HB 16-1002</b>	Buckner	Kerr	Support
	Parental Involvement in Child's Academic Activities using paid or unpaid leave		
<b>HB 16-1003</b>	Pettersen & Young	Merrifield & Todd	Support
	State Income Tax Deduction for College Invest – adjusts formula to benefit lower to middle class investors		
<b>HB 16-1007</b>	Joshi	None	Oppose
	Offenses against an Unborn Child - Personhood Anti-Choice		
<b>HB 16-1045</b>	Singer	Merrifield & Kafalas	Support
	Start Child Tax Credit - Repeals need for passage of Federal Marketplace Fairness Act – Refundable Tax Credit Women's Economic Security		
<b>HB 16-1050</b>	Pettersen	Merrifield	Active Support
	Task Force to address child care needs of low-income parents as they seek to advance their own education. Two generation Approach. Women's Economic Security		
<b>HB 16-1072</b>	Fields (D)	Cooke	Active Support
	Remove Statute of Limitations for Sexual Assault (Bi-Partisan Sponsorship ) Civil Rights/Freedom from Violence		
<b>HB 16-1110</b>	Neville P	Neville T	Oppose
	Parents' Bill of Rights. Gives parents liberty interest in care, custody and control of children 17 and younger, restricting governmental entities from infringing on these rights. Among concerns is access to Comprehensive Sex Education and Reproductive healthcare		
<b>HB 16-1113</b>	Humphrey	Lundberg	Oppose
	Protection of Human Life beginning at Conception. Compromises abortion care, criminalizes doctors Felony 1 Anti-Choice		
<b>HB 16-1146</b>	Landgraff & Sias	None	Oppose
	Born Alive Infant Protection Act - Problematic definition of human and child. Anti-Choice		
<b>HB 16-1156</b>	Danielson & Salazar	None	Active Support
	Ends prohibition of action against an employee for sharing wage information. Bill includes all employers not covered in federal law Women's Economic Security		
<b>HB 16-1166</b>	Pettersen & Winter	Donovan	Active Support
	Unfair Employment Practice for Employer to seek Salary history from Applicant Women's Economic Security-Pay Equity		

- HB 16-1167** Winter & Pettersen      Todd & Donovan      Support  
Family First Employer Act recognizes employers who meet family friendly practices  
Women's Economic Security
- HB 16-**      Lontine & Esgar      None      Support  
Health Care coverage for contraceptives for women. Requires coverage for all 18 categories of  
contraception under the Affordable Care Act and for follow-up care      Pro-Choice
- HB 16-**      Kagan & DelGrosso      Hill & Crowder      Support  
Exemption from child support requirements for teen parents and victims of  
domestic violence in the CO Child Care Assistance Program. (Bi-Partisan sponsorship)
- SB 16-005** Marble (Merrifield)      Saine      Support  
Eliminate 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Assessments in English & Math as allowed by new federal law  
Education      Bi-Partisan in Senate
- SB 16-022** Martinez-Humenik      Pettersen      Support  
Extends to all counties pilot program to mitigate cliff effect for low-income working families receiving  
child care assistance      (Bi-Partisan Sponsorship)      Women's Economic Security/Child Care
- SB 16-072** Kerr      None      Support  
Increase Annual BEST (Building Excellent Schools Today) lease-purchase cap  
Education
- SB 16-096** Heath      None      Support  
Recreate Pay Equity Commission that sunsetted last year.  
Women's Economic Security/Pay Equity
- SB 16-114** Carroll & Ulibarri      Danielson      Support  
Requires employers provide employee-earned paid sick time to their employees on a sliding scale based  
on number of employees      Women's Economic Security/Workplace
- In addition, AAUW is monitoring some legislation and may take a position once more facts are known.  
Those bills are:***
- HB 16-1016** Young ... Using Multiple Measures of Student Academic Growth - Task force to find  
alternative measures in determining educator effectiveness.
- HB 16-1022** Young ... Funding for School Districts to Provide Full Day Kindergarten
- SB 16-023** Kerr ... Funding increase for full day Kindergarten from TABOR Surplus and refer to voters  
Education
- SB 16-024** Jones ... Private Student Loan Cap
- SB 16-052** Kerr ... Authorizers of multi-district on-line schools
- SB 16-104** Todd ... Incentives to build number of Rural Teachers      (Bi-Partisan Sponsorship)
- SB 16-105** Merrifield & Marble ... Adjustment to teacher evaluation standards. No more than 20%  
for student performance

## 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](mailto:anitap@bresnan.net) or call Virginia Gibson at 242-7422.

#### Upcoming Events:

February 23 @ 7:30pm (2 hr, 10 min)

A Fathom & Arts Alliance Event with Jonas Kaufman ***An Evening with Puccini***, from the June 14<sup>th</sup> concert in Milan, Italy. Regal Theater. Senior tickets \$12.50

March 1 to April 2

March 4 – Opening Reception

***Rockies West National Watercolor Exhibition 2016*** (24<sup>th</sup> annual) at  
The Art Center

March 5 @ 10:55am

March 9 @ 6:30pm (encore)

*Live from the Met in HD* performance of Puccini's opera ***Manon Lescaut*** at the Regal Theater

March 13 @ 12:55pm

*Bolshoi Ballet from Moscow* presentation of ***Spartacus*** at the Regal Theater

April 2 @ 10:55am

April 6 @ 6:30pm (encore)

*Live from the Met in HD* performance of Puccini's opera ***Madame Butterfly*** at the Regal Theater

April 10 @ 10:55am

*Bolshoi Ballet from Moscow* presentation of ***Don Quixote*** at the Regal Theater

Many more events can be found at <http://www.visitgrandjunction.com/events-calendar>.

*"On Saturday January 30th, 114 attended the opera 'Turandot' at the Regal Theater and I think most of us would agree that it was sensational.*

*You may have heard this quote by the actor Richard Gere in the 1990 movie Pretty Woman.*

***'People's reactions to opera the first time they see it is very dramatic. They either love it or they hate it. If they love it, they will always love it. If they don't, they may learn to appreciate it-but it will never become part of their soul.'***

*The opera they were attending was La Traviata at the San Francisco Opera House." ... Jim Ward*

## Coffee & Chat

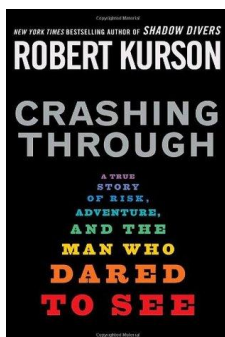


Well friends, Java Junction is no longer a possibility for a meeting place as they have become a “coffee bar” with no seating for a group. After Susan and I scouted other possibilities we decided that on **February 27<sup>th</sup>** we will meet at **The Artful Cup** located in the old Miller Homestead building at 3090 North 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Grand Junction (next to the tall Primary Care Partners building and in front of the Hospice Care Center). So please come at 9:30 AM to try some new coffees, teas, and treats in an intriguing atmosphere. This is a good chance to get to know your fellow AAUW members in an informal way, as well as support the mission of Hope West. Guests are welcome. We will let you know later about the location for March 26<sup>th</sup>. Jane Fitzgerald

## The Jane Quimby Book Group

Our trip to Australia via discussing Bill Bryson’s *In a Sunburned Country* proved most interesting at our February gathering, with 14 members in attendance. Who would have known that Lois Jarre, our presenter, had gone there to visit, and stayed, living and working there, for two years? Or that Peggy Rawlins had at one time played in a jazz band, and during her visit to the largest island in the world to speak to women, on behalf of women’s rights, would find herself playing in one again? Yes, the Jane Quimby Book Group far exceeds expectations for the ordinary book club, because it is made up of such an immensely interesting and widely diverse group of women. We invite you to join us.

Our next gathering will be on Friday, March 18th, at American Lutheran Church, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Jean Yale is our Presenter and Erna Ingram, our Hostess. We will be discussing ***Crashing Through: The Extraordinary True Story of Risk, Adventure, and the Man Who Dared to See*** by Robert Kurson, a stunning true story of one man’s heroic odyssey from blindness into sight.



Mike May spent his life ‘crashing through’. Blinded at age three, he defied expectations by breaking world records in downhill speed skiing, joining the CIA, and becoming a successful inventor, entrepreneur, and family man. He had never yearned for vision. Beautifully written and thrillingly told, *Crashing Through* is a journey of suspense, daring, romance, and insight into the mysteries of vision and the brain. Robert Kurson gives a fascinating account of one man’s choice to explore what it means to see—and to truly live.

----- Kaye Wergedal



## Birthdays News

- ✚ Congratulations to **LaVeta Bermudez**, AAUW Branch Participant and mother of AAUW Member Kathy Kain, who celebrated her **90<sup>th</sup> Birthday** on January 28.
- ✚ Mark Your Calendars and **Save April 9<sup>th</sup>!!** AAUW Member **Betsy Zollner**'s family is planning a birthday bash to celebrate Betsy's **90<sup>th</sup> Birthday** which will occur on April 11. Further party details will be in next month's newsletter.
- ✚ We would like to acknowledge all members' birthdays (not necessarily the year). Please email me the month and day of yours. *Jane Fitzgerald*

### A Condensed History of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment

The [United States Constitution](#), adopted in 1789, left the boundaries of suffrage undefined. While scattered movements and organizations dedicated to women's rights existed previously, the 1848 [Seneca Falls Convention](#) in New York is traditionally held as the start of the American women's rights movement. Through the activism of suffrage organizations and independent political parties, women's suffrage was established in the newly formed constitutions of Wyoming Territory (1869), Utah (1870), and Washington Territory (1883).

The Nineteenth Amendment was first introduced in the Senate by Republican Senator [Aaron A. Sargent](#) of California. Sargent, who had met and befriended Susan B. Anthony on a train ride in 1872, was a dedicated women's suffrage advocate. He formally introduced a constitutional amendment in January 1878. The proposal sat in a committee until it was considered by the full Senate and rejected in a 16 to 34 vote in 1887.

A three-decade period known as "the doldrums" followed, during which the amendment was not considered by Congress and the women's suffrage movement achieved few victories. After 1911, over the next few years most western states passed legislation or voter referenda enacting full or partial suffrage for women. These successes were linked to the 1912 election, which saw the election of Democratic President [Woodrow Wilson](#). Not until 1914 was the constitutional amendment again considered by the Senate, where it was again rejected. President Wilson spoke out in favor of women's suffrage in his 1918 State of the Union address before Congress.

There was considerable desire among politicians of both parties to have the proposal made part of the Constitution before the 1920 general elections, so the President called a special session of the Congress so the proposal would be brought before the House again. On May 21, 1919, it passed the House and on June 4, 1919, it was brought before the Senate and it was passed. Within a few days, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan ratified the amendment, their legislatures being in session. Other states followed suit at a regular pace, until the amendment had been ratified by 35 of the necessary 36 state legislatures. Colorado ratified on December 15, 1919. Tennessee was the last state to pass the amendment on August 18, 1920, during a special session right before the ratification period was to expire. This provided the final ratification necessary to add the amendment to the Constitution. So, 72 years to get the right for women to vote, after many hard-fought battles where women were beaten & jailed. Don't waste this. *Article suggested by Peggy Rawlins*

# Are You Biased against Women Leaders?

If asked, most of us would say that discrimination against women in the workplace is wrong and unacceptable. Unfortunately, research shows that treating women and men equally in hiring decisions, job evaluations, and leadership positions is more of an ideal than a reality. So if we agree that sex discrimination is wrong, why is it still happening? One answer is that we all have (often unconscious) mental associations between gender and a variety of concepts, many of which affect our beliefs about [women in positions of leadership](#).

## Unconscious biases are everywhere.

[Psychology research shows](#) that most Americans tend to automatically associate positivity with white people and negativity with African Americans, an association that has [pervasive effects](#) on our society. Studies of racial bias were some of the first to use implicit measures, which allow for the investigation of attitudes or associations that people may consciously deny, reject, or even be unaware of. Studies [using the Implicit Association Test \(IAT\)](#) have shown that most people more easily associate men with science and women with the arts, men with careers and women with homemaking, and men with being leaders and women with being supporters.

## Prejudices happen even on paper.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, given the pervasive gender associations documented by researchers, academic scientists who evaluated identical résumés belonging either to “John” or “Jennifer” perceived Jennifer as less competent. They were less likely to offer to mentor Jennifer and were [more likely to say they would hire John](#) to be a lab manager. What’s more, when asked what starting salary they’d offer the two candidates based on the same résumé, scientists proposed a salary that was \$4,000 (13 percent) higher for John than for Jennifer. And female scientists showed the same type of bias against Jennifer that male scientists did.

## We can reduce bias!

Fortunately, studies suggest that it may be possible to reduce bias in our minds and in our workplaces. [One study](#) found that systematic consideration of personal judgments can help combat bias in the evaluation of women in leadership positions, while [another study](#) of university professors found that a program of anti-bias education improved the environment in their departments.

Knowing about the unconscious associations and connections we hold is the first step toward correcting our biases.

**That’s why AAUW is conducting our own original research on people’s associations between gender and leadership, and you can contribute by participating online!**

## [Take 10 minutes to fight gender bias. Take the test\\*](#)

*Desktop or laptop computer required. Not compatible on mobile or tablet devices.*

We appreciate your role in helping us understand — and eliminate — the barriers and biases facing women in leadership. If you cannot follow this link, go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) to find the test,