



## February Program



### What's Upcoming for the CCHE ???

February's speaker **Mary Beth Buescher** was appointed to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) by Governor Hickenlooper in August 2016 to serve as a Democratic resident of the 3rd Congressional District.

The Commission on Higher Education has a variety of responsibilities to public colleges and universities as well as the state Legislature. Commissioners oversee and develop plans for state higher education, including approving degree programs, creating the formula for higher education funding and recommending statewide funding levels. CCHE's mission is to provide access to high-quality, affordable education for all Colorado residents that is student-centered, quality driven and performance-based.

A lawyer by trade, Mary Beth spent 15 years as a deputy district attorney for Mesa County; ran the Great Books Program at her children's school; served 13 years on the Mesa County Child Protection Team; and, recently, has spent two years on the Colorado Juvenile Parole Board.

Mary Beth was the first woman lawyer to have a practice in Grand Junction. She also worked for Ken Salazar, while he was a United States Senator, helping run the Senate Office for the Western Slope. **Mary Beth has been a member of the Grand Junction Branch of the American Association of University Women since 1994.**

She has served on the boards of many non-profits including, currently, Mental Health Colorado and the Riverside Educational Foundation (REC). REC serves the poorest neighborhood in Grand Junction with after school tutoring and enrichment programs, preparing them for higher education.

Her proudest accomplishment is choosing Bernie as her life partner 44 years ago, raising four great kids -- Michael, Elizabeth, Marcia and Susan -- now all employed, college educated adults.

**Where:** Bookcliff Country Club

**When:** Saturday, **February 11**....beginning at **11:30 am**

**Meal:** Order from the limited menu....see next page

**Reservations:** As a courtesy, please let Jane know "yes" or "no" at 241-9684 or [mjfitz2cats@gmail.com](mailto:mjfitz2cats@gmail.com).

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**Branch President** Lori Wood 234-5674

**VP Program** Elective Board

**Secretary** Kaye Wergedal 314-7644

**VP Membership** Virginia Brown 201-0386

**Treasurer** Jane Fitzgerald 241-9684

**Newsletter Editor** Jane Fitzgerald

## RESERVATION INFORMATION

When you make your reservation (by February 8<sup>th</sup> please), you will need to let Jane know which meal you prefer. Each meal item will cost \$17.90, *which includes TAX and TIP, but does not include any beverage.*

Each person will pay BCC separately after the meal.

### **BCC Burger**

½ ounce hand patty ground CAB sirloin  
Served with French Fries

### **Portabella Sandwich**

Balsamic marinated portabella mushroom, roasted red pepper, fried zucchini, onion, tomato, spinach & brie cheese on a ciabatta bun. Served with French Fries

### **Asian Udon Stir Fry**

Fresh stir fry vegetables & Udon noodles dressed with sesame peanut sauce with chicken

### **Soup and Salad**

Fresh house Salad and a Bowl of French Onion Soup

Additionally, you may add a dessert for \$7.65, *which includes TAX and TIP.*

### **Dessert**

Carrot or Chocolate Cake

Scenes from the January Meeting...thanks to Lori Newsome



*FYI - Member Anita Pisciotte will have shoulder replacement surgery at St Marys on February 13 with recovery estimated to last 6 weeks. Some assistance may be appreciated during her recovery. We look forward to seeing her well again.*

## WHAT YOU MISSED AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Wow! **Heidi Hess** was a terrific presenter...erudite, entertaining and educational...we could have stayed even longer. We now know so much about the workings of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. What an honor for her to have been appointed to the commission.

One of the interesting discussions during the meeting involved companion animals, therapy animals and service animals and the rights and responsibilities thereof, i.e. can 13 chickens in an apartment be considered as companion animals. Branch member Virginia Brown has done some additional research on the topic of what is the difference between a service dog, a therapy dog and an emotional assist animal (companion animal)?

My Shih Tzu could be an **emotional assist animal**, from what I understand, because Carmel makes me feel better when I cuddle her, or she sits on my lap. I could have my family doctor write a letter saying Carmel is needed as an emotional assist animal. I have an anxiety disorder. Carmel has had no formal training to help anyone, I just feel better with her around.

My niece is a licensed counselor. She went through rigorous training with her Chihuahua for the dog to become an **approved therapy dog**. Liz uses her dog to help her clients to be calm, or to feel safe enough to talk in her therapy sessions. The dog (Leila) actually did pass her therapy dog tests when she was tested.

A **service dog** is specifically trained to assist with particular disabilities. Per the American with Disabilities Act, there are only two questions that may be asked of a person with a service dog: (1) is the **dog** a service animal required because of a disability, and (2) what work or task has the **dog** been trained to perform?

In fact, the general public should not pet or distract a **service dog** that is working. Think of it this way - would you play with a person's medically necessary equipment? Would you remove their oxygen to use it for yourself? Would you take their braces or walkers or wheelchairs to play with?

There is a big fad to buy service dog vests and register dogs as **service dogs**. There is **not** a real registry for service dogs. Ethically, one shouldn't just buy a vest and say the dog is a service dog. The real service dogs are very well trained: a service dog has to be trained to be under voice or hand signal control at all times. If a person falsely claims their dog as a service dog, when that dog bites a person or potties in a store or ... then all legitimate service dogs get a bad rap.

**As of January, 2017, it is now illegal to falsely claim a dog as a service dog in the state of Colorado.** House Bill 16-1426 "Concerning Intentional Misrepresentation of Entitlement to An Assistance Animal" makes it a criminal offense to misrepresent a dog as a service dog, or for someone to misrepresent themselves as a disabled person. Persons knowingly violating the law may be fined \$25 for a first offense to up to \$500 for a third offense. It also provides for the education of the public on the issue, including law enforcement officials. The requirements for professionals to determine if someone is disabled and in need of a service dog are now specified.

Additional information can be found at the following links:

<https://www.animallaw.info/article/faqs-emotional-support-animals>

<https://freedom servicedogs.org/about-us/>

Therapy dogs: <https://www.therapydogs.com/Public/FindATO.aspx> (testers in CO)

AKC: <http://www.akc.org/events/title-recognition-program/therapy/>

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### 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. Note: Peggy Rawlins at 263-4741 is the new contact person for the group.

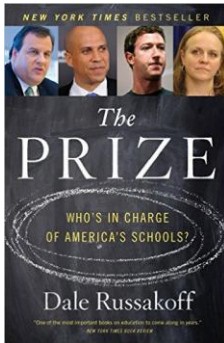
- February 5 @ 12:55am  
Fathom Events presents *Direct from the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow: Swan Lake*, a ballet by Tchaikovsky...shown at the Regal Theater (3 hours)
- February 9, 10 & 11 @ 7:30pm  
CMU's Experimental Theater production of **Constellations**
- February 16 & 22 @ 7:00pm  
Fathom Events presents **Disney's Newsies: the Broadway Musical** at the Regal Theater (2-1/2 hours)
- February 18 @ 12:55 pm  
Fathom Events presents **Disney's Newsies: the Broadway Musical** at the Regal Theater (2-1/2 hours)
- February 19 @ 12:55 pm  
Fathom Events presents George Takei's **Allegiance: on Broadway** at the Regal Theater (2-1/2 hours)
- February 25 @ 10:55am  
Fathom Events presents *Live from the Met: Rusalka*, an opera by Antonin Dvorak shown at the Regal Theater (4 hours)
- February 23, 24, 25 @ 7:30 pm  
February 26 @ 2 pm  
CMU Theater's presentation of **My Fair Lady**

### Coffee & Chat



This informal group normally meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month at 9:30 AM to try to solve world/local problems through fun discussions. On February 25th, we will meet at the Artful Cup. Hope to see you there. Call Jane at 241-9684 with any questions.

## The Jane Quimby Book Group



Contagious colds and frozen roads diminished attendance for the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of THE JANE QUIMBY BOOK GROUP. However, it in no way, reduced interest in this exceptional book; “The Prize” by Dale Russakoff.

Deb Krabacher, (filling in for an ailing Kaye Wergedal) did a wonderful job of presenting this ‘so current’ book on the state of American Education, focusing on the State of New Jersey. The author had thoroughly plumbed information about the ways, means and intent of the officials and donors, both major and minor, who decide how to use, “The Prize.” (the millions of dollars in contributions) for New Jersey’s educational improvement; and the sad and frustrating results that followed.

The discussion covered both the book and situation of our local schools. In fact, interest is so deep it was determined that the conversation is: “to be continued” for a short time at the start of the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting in order to give missing members an opportunity for input on this most important subject.

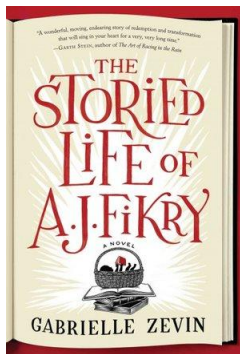
**NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2017  
AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**9:30 – Social Time (with Jan Scheevel as hostess)**

**10:00 – Club Business and Book Discussions**

Lois Jarre will present: “The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry” by Gabrielle Zevin.....

“A simple story told in a lovely way.” This book is a delight to the senses and though sad in places, leaves the reader feeling pleased. **THIS IS A BOOK FOR BOOK LOVERS! BRING A FRIEND!**

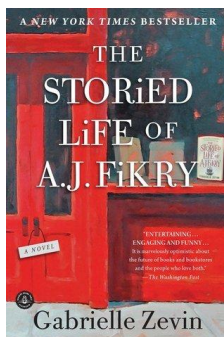


A.J. Fikry’s life is not at all what he expected it to be. He lives alone, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. But when a mysterious package appears at the bookstore, its unexpected arrival gives Fikry the chance to make his life over--and see everything anew.

Thirty-nine year old widower A.J. Fikry is an unlikely romantic hero: He's cranky, he drinks too much, his bookstore is failing and don't get him started on the state of publishing. He's also at the center of Gabrielle Zevin's new novel, *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*.

***Zevin's book is a love letter to the joys of reading. Each chapter begins with the title of a short story or a book and a note from Fikry describing what he likes about it, essentially introducing each character by what they read. Zevin tells NPR's Audie Cornish that it's a book she's been wanting to write for some time.***

“This novel has humor, romance, a touch of suspense, but most of all love--love of books and bookish people and, really, all of humanity in its imperfect glory.” — Eowyn Ivey, author of *The Snow Child*



## Happy Birthday to You

Your AAUW Branch Board wishes to acknowledge its members and let you know we appreciate you.  
Therefore we wish a Happy Birthday to those with Birthdays in January:

**February 4 – Lori Wood    February 8 – Holly Schrader**

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### 2017 AAUW National Election — One Member, One Vote

AAUW members will receive their voter information in early April by e-mail and mail with the Spring *AAUW Outlook!* Candidate slate, bylaws proposals, Public Policy Program proposals, and resolutions will be published in the Spring issue of *AAUW Outlook*. And don't forget to check for the latest updates on the [AAUW National Election web page](#).

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### HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Did you know that seven of the nine women who signed the charter to found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) were AAUW members? The message sent when they signed that charter on February 12, 1909, still rings true today: Civil rights and women's rights are human rights. Today, a central part of AAUW's work includes elevating diverse voices on issues that affect women of all backgrounds.

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## Welcome New Member

The Grand Junction Branch welcomes our newest member, Della Mottram...recruited by Kaye Wergedal. Della has resided in Grand Junction since 1968. Her first employment in the Valley was teaching at the Job Corps, then she moved on to West Middle School, and finally taught math at Mesa State College for 14 years. During her last 3 years at Mesa State, she was also Director of Teacher Education.

Now retired, Della spends one week every month in Denver visiting with the 4 of her 7 grandchildren who reside there. Currently, she volunteers at the SHIP (Senior Health Insurance Assistance) Project which helps seniors navigate through Medicare confusion. An avid reader, Della belongs to two book groups and hopes to join the Jane Quimby Book Group soon.

Add to your yearbook:

**MOTTRAM, Della**

4030 Ptarmigan Piazza, GJ 81506  
BS, College of Saint Teresa, Winona, MN, Math  
MS, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL, Math Education  
PhD, U of Colorado, Education  
243-9443 [dellaspix@gmail.com](mailto:dellaspix@gmail.com)

Birthday May 30