



January Program

Insight into the Colorado Civil Rights Commission



Heidi Hess, Colorado Civil Rights Commissioner

The Colorado Civil Rights Commission is a seven-member, bipartisan panel appointed by the Governor of Colorado pursuant to the Colorado Civil Rights Act. Heidi Hess was appointed in 2013. She will speak about the many various aspects of the mission of the Commission, and her work thereon.

Heidi is relatively new to Colorado, having moved to the Western Slope in 2009 from North Dallas, Texas. Born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, Heidi has been actively involved in LGBT rights and activism since 1982. Heidi Hess is the Western Slope Field Organizer for One Colorado, coordinating the organization's grassroots efforts, developing diverse coalitions, and bridging gaps within LGBT communities in Grand Junction and along the Western Slope.

She has a Bachelor of Science in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Communication both from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. While at university, Heidi was President of the Gay Lesbian Student Organization, served as a long-time volunteer at Nebraska AIDS Project when it was first formed, and worked to establish the first-ever LGBT Pride Parade in Omaha.

In her spare time, Heidi enjoys reading, going on day trips with her partner, Helen, and being involved with their church. Heidi serves as a member of the Church Council for First Congregational Church in Grand Junction.

Where: *Someplace New!* **Horizon Room** in the **Grand Vista Hotel** *Someplace New!*

(Located at the corner of Horizon Drive and Crossroads Boulevard) (Lori W says it's great!)

When: Saturday, **January 14**.....beginning at **11:30 am**

Meal: Order from the menu.....Delicious Chili, Salads & Sandwiches

(Prices run between \$7.56 and \$16.45, which includes coffee or tea, tax and tip.)

Reservations: Contact Jane at 241-9684 or mjfitz2cats@gmail.com by January 11th at noon.

Payment: *****You will need to bring a blank check.** Treasurer is required to collect all monies for meals and then give one total payment to the Hotel. Given the uneven dollar amounts, making change for you is not an option. Credit cards will not be accepted by the Hotel.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lori Wood

Happy New Year! I hope that this message greets everyone in good health and with plenty of happiness.

Fifteen years ago, I was installed as Branch President for the first time on our 70th Anniversary. After some time off, I was re-elected for what was to become a two term Presidency. I'll finish my final term on our 90th Anniversary. How amazing is that?!? Our Branch IS NINETY years old this year! I wonder what our founding mothers, Mary Rait and Josephine Biggs, would say if they knew that their endeavors to start a branch in Grand Junction would still be appreciated 90 years later.

In an effort to continue the work of our illustrious founders, Jane Fitzgerald and I met with Rick Adleman, Director of Development for Colorado Mesa University, last week. We signed a Memorandum of Understanding for our third Scholarship to CMU. It will benefit a female veteran – working on any degree. Other than maintaining the standard level of a GPA that is required by our other scholarships, the only requirement is that they served in America's military. They can also be a current Reservist. Lori Newsom, a Marine veteran who served in Vietnam and Desert Storm, also served on the committee and helped with great insight as to the needs of female veterans.

While we were with Rick Adleman, Jane & I also spoke with him about him helping us with CMU becoming a College/University Partner to AAUW. He was positive and gave us some ideas to help get this accomplished.

I'd like to see a special event in May to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of our Branch so we will be discussing this at our **next Board meeting on January 19th at 9:30 am at my office** – 751 Horizon Court. If you have any ideas for the Anniversary Celebration, please send word with one of the board members.

The ninth annual AAUW Art Contest is Here!

We hear about the gender gap all the time — in salary, in math and science fields, in leadership. But one of the most glaring and longstanding gaps is in the art world. For centuries, women artists were unrecognized, unencouraged, or even discredited simply because they were not men.

Today, things have changed ... some. Still, in 2012, only 4 percent of artists on display at the Metropolitan Museum were women. There remains just **one** major museum in the world dedicated solely to women artists. That's why we host an annual art contest to give women artists the equal attention they deserve.

Plan to enter the 2017 AAUW Art Contest.

Share your artwork with thousands of AAUW members

Submit your painting, drawing, sculpture, collage, or other work between January 4 and January 31, 2017.

The six winning entries will be featured in a collection of note cards mailed to AAUW members in the spring.

For more information on the AAUW Art Contest, go to <http://www.aauw.org/resource/art-contest-rules/>. Members are required to log in with an AAUW member ID to enter.

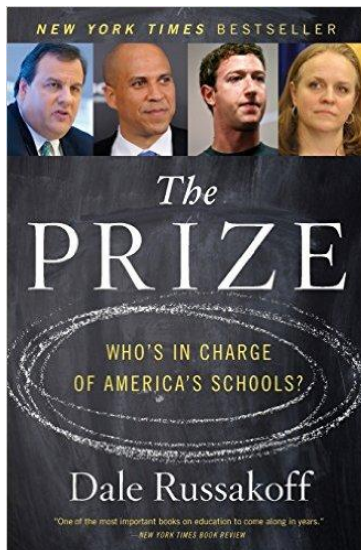
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Jane Quimby Book Group

Last month's book, **"Hammer Head"** by Nina McLaughlin, was definitely a mixed-bag for the members of our book group. This book about a female who, after a modest career in publishing, chose to take a non-traditional female job working in home repair and renovations, make up the memoirs from this author. Some truly enjoyed the details of construction tools and their history. Others, felt that it left them wanting. And, such is the life of books. Some we like. Some we don't. Some we're just sort of 'lukewarm' about. If you don't like the one you just read, you are eager for the next one. If you loved the last one, you are hesitant to move on to another. And, so goes the life of the book club. The one constant is that we all like to read, and we all look forward to the discussions about each of the books. They are always interesting! If you're not already a member, we invite you to come and see for yourself

Many thanks to our leader, Barb Boudreaux, for sharing background information, and giving us direction in our discussion, as well as to our hostesses, Betsy and Katie Zollner (and accomplices) for the lovely holiday decorations and delicious treats. (Especially those wonderful meringues!)

January's book is **"The Prize"**, by Dale Russakoff.



"A brilliantly reported behind-the-scenes account of one city's attempt to right its failing public schools [New Jersey]. . . . Russakoff maintains a clear-eyed distance, her observations penetratingly honest and incisive to what she sees and what she hears. I suspect some may have regretted letting Russakoff in. We couldn't have asked for a better guide. . . . THE PRIZE is paradoxically a sobering yet exhilarating tale. For alongside the stories of those calling the shots [the politicians, et al], Russakoff tells the stories of those most profoundly affected by their decisions: teachers, students and their parents. . . . I repeatedly found myself writing in the margins, 'Wow,' either because of the heroic efforts by teachers and staffers or because of the obstacles facing their students. . . . THE PRIZE may well be one of the most important books on education to come along in years."

—Alex Kotlowitz, *New York Times Book Review*

WHERE: AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

WHEN: 9:30 AM – SOCIAL HOUR WITH MORNING COFFEE
(Barb Boudreaux, Hostess)

10:00 AM – BOOK DISCUSSION
(Kaye Wergedal, Leader)

EVERYONE IS ALWAYS WELCOME, AND BRING A FRIEND!

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.

- January 7 @10:55am
Fathom Events presents *Live from the Met: Nabucco*, an opera by Verdi shown at the Regal Theater (3 hours)
- January 8 & January 11 @ 2:00pm and 7:00pm
Fathom Events' 60th Anniversary showing of the movie **Carousel** at the Regal Theater
- January 11 @ 6:30pm
Encore presentation of **Nabucco** at the Regal Theater
- January 15 & 18 @ 2:00pm and 7:00pm
Fathom Events' 65th Anniversary showing of the movie **Singing in the Rain** at the Regal Theater
- January 21 @ 10:55am
Fathom Events presents *Live from the Met: Romeo et Juliette*, an opera by Gounod shown at the Regal Theater (3 hours)
- January 22 @ 10:55am
Fathom Events presents *Direct from the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow: Sleeping Beauty*, a ballet with music by Tchaikovsky shown at the Regal Theater (2-1/4 hours)
- January 25 @ 6:30pm
Encore presentation of **Romeo et Juliette** at the Regal Theater
- January 28 @ 2pm
Ragtime Legacy of Scott Joplin – Piano Salon Series at The Art Center, Grand Junction
- January 29 @ 2:00pm and 7:00pm
Fathom Events' 30th Anniversary showing of the movie **Dirty Dancing** at the Regal Theater

Coffee & Chat



This informal group normally meets the 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30 AM to try to solve world/local problems through fun discussions. On January 28th, we will meet at the Artful Cup. Hope to see you there. Call Jane at 241-9684 with any questions.

Thank You Letters Received from 2016/2017 AAUW Scholarship Recipients

From Crystal Murten:

Dear Mrs. Woods:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support through the Mary Rait/Mary Jewell Willsea Endowed Grants Fund. Receiving this scholarship will help reduce my financial burdens and will provide some much needed assistance as I pursue my degree.

Growing up in a household that had financial challenges has helped me to realize the value of a college education. I am the first in my family to attend college, and this scholarship will help me to become the first to graduate from college as well.

As well as being a college student, I am also a single mom and work as a CNA. It has always been my dream to become a RN. At this point I have not decided what I want to do as an RN. However, I know that the world is full of opportunities.

Thank you very much for your assistance. Without a doubt, this scholarship will play a key role in allowing me to achieve my educational goals. Your generosity will make a difference in my life as well as the lives of the patients that I will be able to care for.

From Jill Barker:

Dear AAUW,

I would like to graciously accept, and give my sincere thank you for awarding me this WCCC Scholarship. I am honored to be chosen for your scholarship. Your generosity will allow me to have more time to focus on classwork and have more time at home with my son, instead of trying to pick up more hours at work to be able to pay for college costs that I would not have been able to cover without this gift. Because of support from professors and scholarships, such as yours, I will be the first member in my family to attend college and obtain a degree.

As I complete my Associates in Construction Technology and Supervision, not only will this impact my own knowledge and ability in the field of construction, it will positively impact my employer by giving them access to a well-rounded and knowledgeable employee who is an asset to their company to help the establishment grow and maintain excellence.

To me, education is my key to a bright future with a rewarding career in a field I'm passionate about, and to have better resources and opportunities to provide an improved future for my family. This scholarship will help me tremendously. Thank you again for rewarding me with this thoughtful gift. I am delighted to have been selected for such a considerate gift.

From Cynthia Coron:

Dear AAUW,

I am truly honored to be chosen as a recipient of the Mary Rait/ Mary Jewell Willsea Endowed Grants Fund. I am extremely grateful for your support and want you to know that it will be so valuable to me in my final year of college.

I will be graduating in May of 2017 with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Technology. This summer I have been working for Colorado Parks and Wildlife and have been able to utilize my education in many areas. I have the knowledge to use to benefit our natural resources, wildlife, and balance their needs with the needs of people to experience wildlife.

Though being an older student is very challenging, I am elated to have the opportunity to receive a college education. Thank you so much for your generous help and for recognizing the desire of non- traditional to return to school to better themselves as well as the world.

More than 100 Companies Pledge to Pay Women Fairly

AAUW commends the 44 additional companies that signed the White House Equal Pay Pledge on December 7. This diverse group of businesses including AT&T, eBay, the Estee Lauder Companies, Yahoo, and Zillow Group joins a list of more than 100 top companies such as Amazon, L'Oréal USA, and PepsiCo. President Barack Obama announced the creation of the pledge in June 2016, and initially the group featured 28 of America's leading businesses expressing their commitment to closing the gender pay gap. As part of the pledge, companies promise to conduct an annual company-wide gender pay audit, review hiring and promotion procedures, and address problems of implicit gender bias in hiring and pay structures. These are all best practices backed by AAUW research and advocacy.

"Equal pay is an issue whose time has come," said AAUW Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy Lisa Maatz. "In 2016, the country furthered innovative approaches to closing the gender pay gap at the federal, state, and local levels, including a wave of pay equity legislation in red, blue, and purple states. We also continued to see this type of positive action by the business community, as well as smart use of executive actions by President Obama."

The incoming Donald Trump administration should keep this in mind as they consider their view on executive branch reforms such as the Employer Information Report ([EEO-1 data collection effort](#)) and the [new overtime rule](#). "The will for equal pay is at a high tide, which the new administration and Congress ignore at their peril," noted Maatz. "Any rollback of individual elements of the equal pay agenda will do real harm to people's paychecks. But, even if Trump and Congress fail to see the light, state legislatures and grassroots advocates will keep equal pay moving."

"The pay gap is stubborn and pernicious," said Maatz. "By committing to getting their own houses in order, these businesses are setting an example and showing that pay discrimination must not be tolerated."

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:

January 2 - Becky Zlebnik

January 11 - Marjorie Ebright, Deborah Krabacher and Lori Newsome

Anita Johnson – January 29