



January Program – Helping the Victims



Speaker Mary Harmeling of the GJ Police Department

Mary Harmeling is employed as the Victim Services Coordinator for the Grand Junction Police Department. She has served in her position with the GJPD since 2008. She describes her job as gratifying, rewarding, and, too often, heart-wrenching when standing with victims following the aftermath of crime or tragedy. She is excited to talk to us about the role of the Victim Services program and share information about the challenges faced by many women within our community.

Married to her husband for over 40 years, Mary and Jeff have three grown children and are the ecstatic grandparents of 2 grandchildren with another grandbaby to arrive in May 2018. They are both natives of Wisconsin. Jeff is a retired pastor of the Monument Presbyterian Church and now works as a contractor. Prior to working for the GJ Police Department, Mary worked with Habit for Humanity and also worked as an assignment editor at KJCT-TV. When not at work, Mary enjoys hiking, music, and reading.

When: Thursday, January 4th 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Where: The Egg & I Restaurant, 120 West Park Drive

I will need **RSVP's** for this meeting as soon as possible, but **no later than January 1** please. You may email me at jeannedunn01@gmail.com or call my home phone number (970) 242-3177. Please let me know if you invited a guest, which I hope you will do. I look forward to seeing our members at this meeting.

Jeannie Dunn

Branch President Virginia Brown 201-0386

VP Program Jeannie Dunn 242-3177

Secretary Jean Yale 257-0697

VP Membership Open

Treasurer Jane Fitzgerald 241-9684

Newsletter Editor Jane Fitzgerald

What You May Have Missed Last Month

We enjoyed a wonderful holiday potluck social which was well attended by members and others at the home of Virginia Brown...thanks for hosting, Virginia.

THANKS to those of you who contributed to the food and hygiene drive for the food closet at CMU for the homeless and hungry students. You are making a difference. We also look forward to AAUW Grand Junction continuing to make a difference in 2018.



What Not to Miss Next Month

MARK YOUR CALENDAR(S)

for

Tuesday, February 6th

Our Speaker will be Terry Schmalz

Principal of New Emerson Elementary School

Mesa County Central Library

4:30 to 6:00 pm

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Jane Quimby Book Group

The December meeting of the Jane Quimby Book Group was very festive. A very special thanks goes out to Jean Yale's presentation on "[A Dog's Purpose](#)." Most of the members enjoyed the book, but we all cried (so I heard) because the story was sad. We all agreed that the author brought us full-circle, ending on a hopeful note. More thanks to Anita Johnson for letting us use the facility.

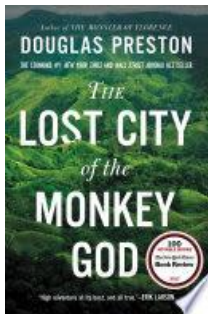
The next book on our agenda is:

[The Lost City of the Monkey God: A True Story](#) - by Douglas Preston

The book will be presented by Deb Krabacher.

The hostesses will be Lynnda and Marj Ebright.

Since the days of conquistador Hernando Cortes, rumors have circulated about a lost city of immense wealth hidden deep in the Honduran interior. Indigenous tribes speak of ancestors who fled there to escape the Spanish invaders, and warn the legendary city is cursed: to enter it is a death sentence. They call it the Lost City of the Monkey God. In 1940, swashbuckling journalist Theodore Morde returned from the rainforest with hundreds of artifacts and an electrifying story of having found the City - but then committed suicide without revealing its location.



Three quarters of a century later, bestselling author Doug Preston joined a team of scientists on a groundbreaking new quest. In 2012 he climbed aboard a single-engine plane carrying a highly advanced, classified technology that could map the terrain under the densest rainforest canopy. In an unexplored valley ringed by steep mountains, that flight revealed the unmistakable image of a sprawling metropolis, tantalizing evidence of not just an undiscovered city but a lost civilization.

To confirm the discovery, Preston and the team battled torrential rains, quickmud, plagues of insects, jaguars, and deadly snakes. They emerged from the jungle with proof of the legend... and the curse. They had contracted a horrifying, incurable and sometimes lethal disease.

Suspenseful and shocking, filled with history, adventure and dramatic twists of fortune, ***The Lost City of the Monkey God*** is the absolutely true, eyewitness account of one of the great discoveries of the twenty-first century.

Friday, January 19th, 9:30 am
American Lutheran Church, 631 26½ Road, GJ

Hope you can come, and if possible, bring a friend. In reading this book, be ready to be "bombarded" with a lot of information. (I've been keeping notes on the side). - Deb

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 contact person for the group.

- January 5 @ 7:30 pm
New Year's Celebration by High Desert Opera at Colorado Mesa University – Robinson Theater
- January 10 @ noon
Songs and Poetry from Spain and Nicaragua: A Little Noon Music Series --- at 1st United Methodist Church, 5th & White in Grand Junction
- January 13 @ 12:55 pm
Fathom Events presentation of **The Opera House**, a Susan Froemke documentary film about the 50 years of The Met ---shown at the Regal Theater (2 hours)
- January 13 @ 7:30 pm
GJ Rockestra Concert at CMU – Robinson Theater
- January 17 @ 6:30 pm
Fathom Events presentation of **The Opera House**, a Susan Froemke documentary film about the 50 years of The Met --- shown at the Regal Theater (2 hours)
- January 20 @ 7:30 pm and January 21 @ 3:00 pm
Grand Junction Symphony presents **The Great American Songbook (GJ Symphony Pop Series)** at the Avalon Theater
- January 21 @ 10:55 am
Fathom Events presentation of *Direct from Moscow: The Bolshoi Ballet's Romeo & Juliet* shown at the Regal Theater (2 ½ hours)
- January 27 @ 12:55 pm
Fathom Events presentation of *Live from the Met: Puccini's Tosca* (opera) shown at the Regal Theater (3 hours, 20 minutes)
- January 31 @ 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm
Fathom Events encore presentation of *Live from the Met: Puccini's Tosca* (opera) shown at the Regal Theater (3 hours, 20 minutes)

Coffee & Chat

This informal (fun) group normally meets the 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30 AM to try to solve world/local problems through discussions. Hope to see you there. On **January 27th** we will meet at **The Artful Cup**, 3090 North 12th, GJ. Call Jane at 241-9684 with any questions.

Message from the Branch President

It is that time of year, where we rush about looking for the perfect present for everyone to whom we give presents. We may even bake cookies, create fudge, and hope that our homemade toffee turns out as well as Enstrom's. For those enquiring minds...my toffee never compares.

December was fairly low key in that we had a potluck luncheon social, I wish I had been in the kitchen for the entire tale from Dustin Dunbar - when she showed up for an evening meeting with her employer.... to be greeted at the door with him wearing only a bathrobe. I would have loved to hear how she handled that.

Many of our members went to the "Conversation with Dan Thurlow" that we co-sponsored with the League of Women Voters. Thank you for those who did. As usual, yours truly came up with a question about wage equality. The fact is that in our local region of Colorado*^{next page}, women are paid 80.9% of their male counterparts for the exact same work. (I am not talking about between **Company A** and **Company B**: I am literally talking about **Company A** choosing to pay Cora less than her male counterpart that is doing the exact same job, with the same responsibilities.) My question for Representative Thurlow? ***What is he doing at the state level to make sure that women are paid the same as men across the board?*** Now, it is important to know that Dan had a mother, he has been married several times, and he has a daughter. His response? He went into great detail about the wonderful young woman who worked for him, raised 3 children and now runs his business here in town. He told us that he sends all the feminism stuff that comes across his desk to this young woman for her input. Her response (supposedly) is that she does not want her pay to be dictated by other companies or to have government have a say in what she makes.

I chatted with him afterwards as I felt he had misunderstood my question... to clarify that I meant literally within the same company, doing the same job, that a woman is getting paid basically 80% of a male counterpart. Dan's response was that No, he understood my question. But, he feels, and is sure, that there are statistics PROVING women are not equal to men. After all we take time off of working to birth babies & raise children... I have a new goal - to inundate Rep Dan Thurlow with all the studies of women that show that women are equal to men.

I realized that Representative Dan Thurlow's point of view is indicative of the issue. Men (especially those who are a bit more "experienced" in life) have been told for years how women are lesser, and therefore continue to pay women less.

We need as a group to educate all men that we are not the lesser gender. We deserve to be treated equally. Imagine a woman and a man both working for the same company, building widgets. Say the man gets paid \$20/hr to produce his widgets. In our area of the state, the woman would most likely be paid 16.18/hr. At the end of the week, she has grossed \$647.20 to his \$800. At the end of the year, she has grossed \$33,654.40 to his \$41,600; a mere \$7,945.60 less. Assuming no wage increases and that both continue this job for 30 years, at the end; the woman has earned \$238,368 LESS than the man. Tell me - Are you worth the less? Is your daughter, niece, granddaughter worth less just because they are female?

Colorado: Tell your member of Congress you want fair pay!

Member of Congress*	District	Men	Women	Earnings Ratio**	Ranking in State***
DeGette (D)	CO-01	\$52,180	\$48,011	92.0%	1
Polis (D)	CO-02	\$56,548	\$46,558	82.3%	5
Tipton (R)	CO-03	\$45,236	\$36,607	80.9%	7
Buck (R)	CO-04	\$54,009	\$44,069	81.6%	6
Lamborn (R)	CO-05	\$47,439	\$40,210	84.8%	4
Coffman (R)	CO-06	\$52,318	\$46,458	88.8%	2
Perlmutter (D)	CO-07	\$50,517	\$43,017	85.2%	3

*The above congressional districts represent the 115th Congress.
**The pay gap figures are from 2016, the most recently available data.
***The congressional districts are ranked from smallest gap to largest.

[*https://www.aauw.org/aauw_check/pdf_download/show_pdf.php?file=Gender_Pay_Gap_Colorado](https://www.aauw.org/aauw_check/pdf_download/show_pdf.php?file=Gender_Pay_Gap_Colorado)

From the Fall 2017 issue of the AAUW Outlook Magazine

The Ongoing Fight for Equal Pay

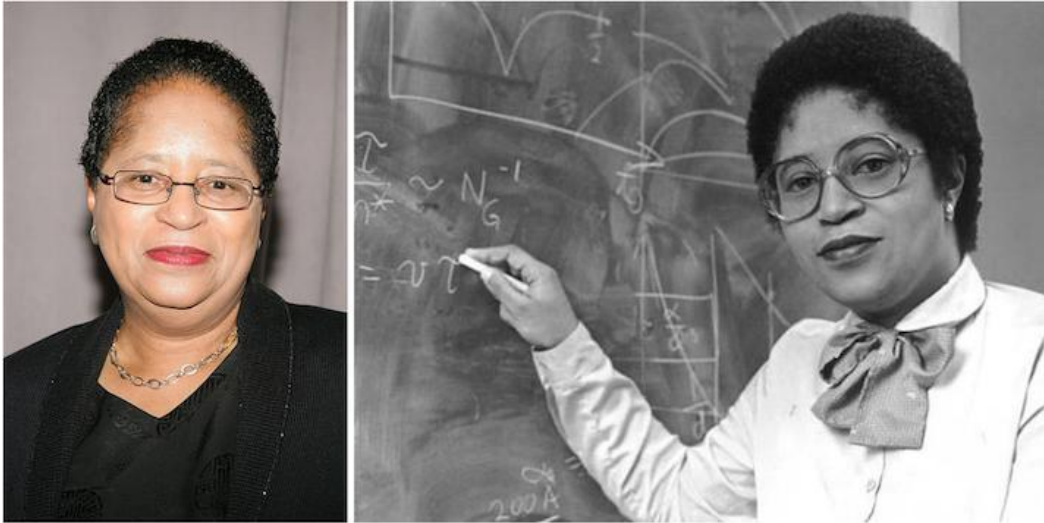
Thanks to an amicus brief joined by AAUW the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals will rehear *Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education*, one of the most significant equal pay lawsuits to wend its way through the court system.

There is a generally accepted trust in the court system as a last hope for justice: When something goes terribly wrong at work, employees believe that they can take their grievance to court, where the facts will be aired and examined and their grievance put to rights. But after five years of paperwork, testifying, appealing, and above all waiting, Aileen Rizo is yet again holding her breath as a court will determine if this will be the year she receives the equal pay she deserves.

What Rizo initially believed to be a simple paperwork error on the part of her then employer has become an all-consuming test of patience. In 2012 she was working as a math consultant at the Fresno County Board of Education when she learned during a lunchtime conversation that she was being paid about 20 percent less than a male coworker even though she had more experience, seniority, and higher education in the form of a master's degree.

When she asked for clarification from her employer's human resources department she was told that new employees were entered into the pay scale solely on the basis of previous salaries –and since her male coworker had been paid more in his previous job than she had been as a teacher, he started at step nine (at about \$79,000 annually) while she started at step one (at \$62,733).see the rest of the story in Outlook.

Did You Know? Inventions by Women




Some of the Telecommunication Technology developed by Dr. Shirley Jackson include portable fax, touch tone telephone, solar cells, fiber optic cables, and the technology behind caller ID and call waiting.

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 upcoming in January.

Becky Zlebnik on the 2nd **Marj Ebright on the 11th** **Deborah Krabacher on the 11th**
Karin Hayes on the 17th **Lani Kline on the 20th** **Kathy Singer on the 23rd**
Jeannie Dunn on the 28th **Anita Johnson on the 29th**



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This Space Available for only \$5.00 per issue



Five Books by Women Authors You Need in Your Life

The best authors dedicate their lives to writing the novels, biographies, and think pieces that expand our understanding of humanity, inspire new beliefs, and help us make sense of the world. From Susan Sontag to Rosalind Wiseman, AAUW fellows and grantees have contributed significantly to the body of published fiction and nonfiction literature. Their works have appeared on best-seller lists, been highlighted in AAUW's ¡Adelante! Book of the Month Club, and been recognized as must-read selections from our alumnae library. Join us in celebrating women writers by exploring the works of some of AAUW's outstanding alumnae.

1. **The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship** --- The fifth publication from 1984–85 American Fellow Patricia Bell-Scott, Ph.D., *The Firebrand and the First Lady* is the February 2018 Adelante book club selection. The biography captures the influential life of activist Pauli Murray and her relationship with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. In responding to a spirited letter Murray sent President Franklin D. Roosevelt criticizing his lack of leadership on racial equality, the First Lady kicked off a correspondence that over the course of the next 25 years would change and shape public discourse about social justice. Bell-Scott's writing captures the profound essence of women's complex friendships and will inspire you to reach out to the women in your life who bring out the best in you.
2. **Finding Time: The Economics of Work-Life Conflict** --- In *Finding Time*, 1997–98 American Fellow Heather Boushey, Ph.D., warns that our approach to work-life balance is antiquated due to the evolving role of women outside the home and in the workforce. Boushey challenges the prevailing strategies for increasing productivity and, in the tradition of many influential American authors, makes a compelling case for policy change. She champions the ideas of a true commitment to a healthy work-life balance and shares ideas that employers will reference for decades to come.
3. **The Awakened Woman: Remembering and Reigniting Our Sacred Dreams** --- Tererai Trent, Ph.D. — 2001–02 International Fellow, 2017 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Awardee, and Oprah's favorite guest — shares how she became a globally known voice for women's empowerment and education in *The Awakened Woman*. Her book inspires and challenges women to follow their "sacred" dreams through nine critical lessons tied to ancient African wisdom. Trent provides tools for women to rediscover their dreams and harness the power of those dreams for the common good.
4. **Flo Kennedy: The Life of a Black Feminist Radical** --- Activist, lawyer, and cowboy hat aficionado Florynce "Flo" Kennedy and her story come to life in 2005–06 American Fellow Sherie Randolph, Ph.D.'s debut release. Randolph weaves together threads of the Black Power and feminist movements of the 1960s to showcase the social progress of the decade and documents the connections Kennedy established and the bridges she built between the two movements.
5. **The Dawn of Detroit: A Chronicle of Slavery and Freedom in the City of the Straits** -- Community Action Grantee Tiya Miles (2012–13), Ph.D., is dedicated to exposing America's complicated and often hidden history. In her fourth book Miles cements her place as a leading historian of our time by pulling back the curtain to reveal the history of slavery in Detroit.

AAUW fellows demonstrate that authors play an essential role in illuminating and shaping American culture. They are the gatekeepers of our history and the architects of our future. We applaud these women and their outstanding contributions to increasing knowledge and understanding of science, society, art, and our world.

This post was written by AAUW Fellowships and Grants Intern Lisa Napper