



April Program Human Trafficking in GJ ???

This month's program was planned by our new student affiliate group at Colorado Mesa University. We hope you will attend to support these amazing student women. It's a **potluck** meeting and members can bring an item to share or not - surely there'll be plenty of food to eat if you forget. Electrical outlets will be available. **Dr. Tom Acker** will be the speaker.

Originally from the northeastern United States, Tom Acker moved to western Colorado and began teaching Spanish at Colorado Mesa University in 1999. He received his Bachelor of Science from Kutztown University in Pennsylvania. He earned both his Master of Arts and PhD in Spanish and Spanish Golden Age literature, respectively, from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA.



Tom Acker has helped immigrants from Spanish-speaking countries since the 1970's. While residing in Pennsylvania, Acker worked with a federally funded agency to help farmers interact with agriculture workers. That sparked his interest in the United States' immigration-rights movement. He currently acts as a proponent for immigrants on Colorado's Immigrant Rights Coalition.

Acker encourages his students to compare their world view with that of the Spanish-speaking world in order to develop not only proficiency in their second language, but also an appreciation for and understanding of the experiences that have formed and are forming the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

He has been married to his wife, Dianna, for more than three decades. They have three sons — Stanislaus, Henry and Donte.

When: Monday, April 2nd 5:00 to 7:00 pm

Where: CMU campus, Houston Hall, Room 111

Houston Hall is at the corner of 12th Street and North Avenue. Room 111 is on the east side (12th Street) of the building. Parking is available between Houston and the Moss Performing Arts Center – students say not necessary to pay this late in the day. Room 111 is handicapped accessible. Call for car pool.

As a courtesy, please **RSVP** for this meeting by March 31st.
Email jeannedunn01@gmail.com or call (970) 242-3177.

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

At the March 6th meeting, held at the Egg & I, speaker **Barbara Traylor Smith**, president of Retirement Outfitters LLC, certainly held our attention with her dynamic and witty presentation while still delivering some hard truths that women need to face before and after retirement. One example was: current life expectancy tables indicate that someone at age 65 today has a 1 in 10 chance of living past age 95. Another was: retirement hazards for women are outliving assets, loss of spouse, decline in functional status, health care and medical status, and having lower incomes and less wealth. Barbara also covered aspects of long-term care and social security. She expects that jobs in the future may be cyclical, where few people would work in the same field or for the same employer for their whole working life. Therefore, people may not be able to count on having retirement pensions. She left us with the idea that we need to plan ahead to have the life we want.



Barbara also briefly discussed her work as a Grand Junction City Councilperson.



Coming in May

May 3rd – The Grand Junction Branch Annual Meeting **At the Egg & I Restaurant - from 11:30 - 1:00**

featuring the election of new officers, a special timeline of our branch history, and other surprises

May 24th - SPECIAL EVENT

At the Pineapple Place, 510 Main Street, GJ - from 11:00 – 1:00

Approximately 24 members from the Colorado Springs Branch of AAUW are coming to GJ.

They've spent the past several months learning information about the Grand Valley - geography, history, economics, etc. ---and will be visiting many of these special sites. They have requested that members from our branch meet with them to share a meal and visit.

We'll have a speaker talking about the uniqueness of the Grand Valley.

AAUW at CMU News

Constitutions have been written, the proper forms and trainings are being held, the T's are crossed and the i's are being dotted. Bureaucracy in motion can be painfully slow yet incredibly meaningful.

I am happy to announce that AAUW at CMU is now a reality. AAUW at CMU is the student affiliate of the Grand Junction Branch. We've got so many fantastic plans and events already set up at CMU this year, such as 'Smart Start,' which teaches salary negotiations, workshops on resume building, as well as 'how to network 101.' While the logistics of the club are still being straightened out, here are a couple of announcements from AAUW at CMU:

Friday, March 30th, 11AM— 2PM at the Plaza, Hawaiian style plate lunch special will be sold \$10/plate. This meal will include kalua pig (Hawaiian for 'from the ground') pulled pork and cabbage, rice, mac salad.

Tuesday, April 2nd, 5:00PM—7:00PM in Houston Hall, room 111: AAUW at CMU's 1st Annual Public Policy Day. Human Trafficking with speaker, Spanish professor Tom Acker

Friday, April 20th: Krispy Kreme Fundraiser. Donuts will arrive around noon on campus, if you would like to preorder a dozen of donuts for \$12, please call or email Lehua at (808)388-3768 or eplaa@mavs.coloradomesa.edu no later than April 17th.



With all the exciting events taking place, it's hard to contain the energy that we're creating. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for supporting AAUW at CMU. We would not be here if it were not for the rebellious women who have walked this path before us. I can't wait to see what tomorrow will bring.

Aloha,
Lehua La'a
AAUW at CMU President

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 April.

Betsy Zollner on the 11th

Thoughts from Virginia Brown, Branch President

The AAUW Grand Junction Branch will be hosting a luncheon on May 24th for a traveling group from the **AAUW Colorado Springs Branch**. This group plans a trip yearly, and spends the entire year before the trip learning about the community they are traveling to and determining what attractions they wish to visit. The main contact from this group started contacting me and Jeannie Dunn late last summer. The group appears to be eager to share our thoughts about our beautiful area, as well as compare notes on AAUW. Please put this special event on your calendar and plan to attend if at all possible.

AAUW National is gearing up for elections which will run from April 25th to June 9th. One of the most important items on the upcoming vote is whether or not to revise the education requirement for future members. I wish to encourage you to not only think on this topic, but to also vote for the revision. Our local branch had a bit of stress this winter when it was brought to the attention of National that we allow "Branch Participants". We were kindly told to comply with the National bylaws for membership. While working through this, I realized that most of our branch participants may actually qualify to be members under the current membership requirements.

Some points you should be aware of:

- ✚ AAUW is a community standing 170,000 strong for gender equity. Your membership makes our powerful voice even louder on critical issues affecting women and girls. **AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls.** Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political. AAUW with the belief that education could change a woman's life. This remains a fundamental AAUW value. AAUW gives millions of dollars in fellowships and grants to women around the world each year. Through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research, AAUW has played a consistent leading role in the women's movement. From dispelling the myth that college education harms women's health in 1885 to examining the problem of women's under-representation in science and technology today, we have a long history of empowering women!
- ✚ From the organization raising over \$150,000 in 1920 for the purchase of one gram of radium for Marie Curie's Nobel Prize-winning research on radiation to supporting the first legislative proposal for pay equity, which passed as the Equal Pay Act in 1963. **Members helped pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act in '65.** AAUW instituted the Coretta Scott King Award to fund African American undergraduate and graduate women in Afro-American studies, peace studies, and nonviolent change programs. Shortly after that they supported the Equal Rights Amendment and embarked on an ongoing campaign for its passage and ratification.
- ✚ In 1972, **AAUW played a key role in the passage of Title IX** of the Education Amendments, which prohibits sex discrimination in federally funded educational institutions. Moving forward, in 1998, our fellowships program celebrated 100 years, marking 5,000 graduate fellowships and grants awarded to date to women from more than 100 countries. In 1992, AAUW released "How Schools Shortchange Girls", sparking a national debate that improved classrooms across the country. Our member Kathy Kain was involved in this study.
- ✚ Today, **we are still fighting for Fair Pay** as women are still paid less than men are across the board, and that's a frustrating reality for seasoned workers, young professionals, and college students alike. In Congressman Tipton's district, women still are paid an average of 80.9% of what our male counterparts are. Our congressional district actually ranks the lowest in our state. What is worse is that women of color are paid an even lower amount. Our members advocate for laws and policies that support working parents, fair pay, minimum wage workers, and sick leave for employees to care for themselves and their families.

After thinking on all of this, I ask you to consider voting to allow all women (and men) whose personal values include our mission of "Advocacy, Education, Philanthropy and Research" the right to be members of AAUW, whether they have a college degree, or not. It is time for AAUW to be **INCLUSIVE** by accepting as members those who dream of completing a degree by going back to school, or those that simply want something more for themselves or their relatives, friends, or those we mentor, or those we care about. **Let us vote for INCLUSIVENESS.** Watch for info on how to cast your vote.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Jane Quimby Book Group

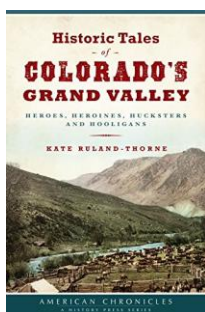
A big THANK-YOU to everyone who showed up at the March meeting! It really was wonderful to see you all. The proposed Book List for the coming year was given-out – for everyone to vote for their favorite selections. Another goal which we hope to achieve soon is the selection of each meeting's Hostess and also who will lead the Presentation of each meeting's selected book. I'm hoping to assemble our complete schedule next month, so I hope that all members will come prepared to volunteer for the Presentation / Hostess for the upcoming meetings.

I believe that we will have an interesting year of reading this coming year. If there is anyone who doesn't already have the list of books we will be reading, please let me know and I'll get it to you.

A special thank-you to Lynnda and Marjorie Ebright for the lovely treats and to Katie Zollner for helping me count the votes! Deb Krabacher

The Presenter for April will be Kate Ruland-Thorne - who will discuss her book

Historic Tales of Colorado's Grand Valley: Heroes, Heroines, Hucksters and Hooligans



Colorado's Grand Valley has an extensive geological and human history going back millennia. Franciscan priests worked in tandem with the native Ute people to plot passage through the territory, opening the valley to unprecedented settlement. The region became the playground of enterprising visionaries, murderous outlaws, hooligans and harlots alike. From the gruesome Meeker massacre and its tragic consequences for the Ute nation to the mysterious murder of Sam McMullin and a showdown with the Ku Klux Klan in 1925, uncover the engrossing stories of an unyielding land. Author Kate Ruland-Thorne recounts many of the defining and damning moments throughout Grand Valley history.

Kate Ruland-Thorne, AKA Sylvia Ruland, was born in Del Norte, Colorado. She holds a BA from Southern Methodist University. Kate has been a journalist/historian for over thirty years. More than one hundred of her articles have appeared in newspapers and magazines across the country. She has been a feature writer for the Denver Post, Arizona Highways, Southwest Art and Wild West, among others. Her first regional history book was Lion of Redstone in 1981. After moving to Sedona, Arizona in 1986, she became the feature writer and later editor of the Sedona Magazine and the first woman editor of the historic Sedona Red Rock News. She wrote seven regional history books on Sedona and Arizona subjects. Currently she lives in Grand Junction, Colorado and was a regular contributor to Grand Valley Magazine.

Friday, April 20th, 9:30 am American Lutheran Church, 631 26½ Road, GJ

Hostess will be Deb Krabacher

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.

- April 1 @ 2:30 pm
Handel's Messiah – Full Performance at the Grand Junction High School Auditorium - Free
- April 4 @ 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm
Fathom Events encore presentation of **Live from the Met**: Mozart's **Così Fan Tutte** (opera) shown at the Regal Theater (4 hours)
- April 7 @ 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm
Bookcliff Barbershop Harmony Chorus – Celebrating 50 Years of Music -- at the Avalon Theater
- April 8 @ 12:55 pm
Fathom Events presents an encore performance of *Direct from Moscow*: The **Bolshoi Ballet's Giselle** – shown at the Regal Theater (2 ^{1/2} hours)
- April 14 @ 10:30 am
Fathom Events presentation of **Live from the Met**: Verdi's **Luisa Miller** (opera) shown at the Regal Theater (4 hours)
- April 14 @ 7:30 pm and April 15 @ 3:00 pm
Shostakovich No.5 (GJ Symphony Classic Series) at the Avalon Theater
- April 18 @ 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm
Fathom Events encore presentation of **Live from the Met**: Verdi's **Luisa Miller** (opera) shown at the Regal Theater (4 hours)
- April 20 @ 7:30 pm & April 21 @ 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
Colorado Mesa University's **Spring Dance Concert** at the Robinson Theater
- April 25 @ 6:30 pm
Imagined Wests: Sources and Influences in the Paintings of Paul Pletka (Artist Lecture) at the Western Colorado Center for the Arts. Book Signing from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- April 28 @ 10:55 am
Fathom Events presentation of **Live from the Met**: Massenet's **Cendrillon** (opera) shown at the Regal Theater (3 ^{1/4} hours)

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 **April 28th** we will meet at **The Artful Cup**, 3090 North 12th, GJ. Call Jane at 241-9684 with any questions.

How Will you “Celebrate” Equal Pay Day

April 10 is the day when women’s pay “catches up” to what men were paid by December 31. The gender pay gap is a primary issue for AAUW and one that we have been working on for years. As early as 1922, AAUW’s legislative program called for a reclassification of the U.S. Civil Service and repeal of salary restrictions in the Women’s Bureau. In 1955, AAUW supported a bill introduced by Reps. Edith Green (D-OR) and Edith Rogers (R-MA) requiring “equal pay for work of comparable value requiring comparable skills.” Congress finally enacted the Equal Pay Act, a version of the 1955 bill, in 1963.

Despite the Equal Pay Act, the gender pay gap persists; women are typically paid just 80 cents for every dollar paid to men — and that number has barely budged in a decade. Although enforcement of the Equal Pay Act and other civil rights laws has helped to narrow the gender pay gap, these actions only cover segments of the American working population, and many important protections are not yet codified in law. Moreover, there are numerous other reasons for discrimination and pay disparity that must be addressed.

AAUW continues to advocate for strong pay equity legislation, regulation, and enforcement to protect employees and assist employers.

Equal Pay Day is an opportunity to draw attention to the gender pay gap and to call for legislative action and other solutions, including AAUW’s [salary negotiation workshops](#), to curb this pervasive problem.

What You Can Do: Closing the gender pay gap requires strong, effective legislation and AAUW is working to advance equal pay bills in Congress and in statehouses around the country. Urge your state legislators to take action to [fill in the gaps](#) in your state law, ask your members of Congress to support [federal efforts](#), or pitch your local government on issuing an ordinance or proclamation to observe Equal Pay Day. If a public official in your community agrees to issue an Equal Pay Day proclamation, consider partnering with her or him on gaining media coverage for the proclamation and AAUW’s role in issuing it!

Interesting Tidbit: Grand Junction Branch member Jean Yale claims that the Littleton, Colorado, Branch started many years ago in Jean’s kitchen when she was a resident there. Jean is a “paid life” member of AAUW, meaning that at one time she paid a set amount, and since then has owed no National dues. Smart, since there have been several dues increases since then. If you would like to follow Jean’s example, the current amount to become a “paid life” member is \$1,180.



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The Universal Declaration of Human Rights Turns 70: Why We Should All #StandUp4HumanRights

The year 2018 marks 70 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the United Nations, and today the global rights of women and girls are being proclaimed in marches, social media campaigns, and legislatures. While the world will never be free from conflict or violations of human rights, the UDHR set forth a foundation for a more just world — a world in which people are inherently born with dignity and fundamental rights; never had that idea been internationally recognized. Never had a single document been so effective at laying the groundwork for national and international protections against human rights abuses.

The document has stood the test of time and remains relevant in our world today. On December 10, 2017, International Human Rights Day, the United Nations launched a yearlong campaign, #StandUp4HumanRights, to celebrate the declaration's anniversary and pledge to continue upholding human rights in our everyday lives.

AAUW was involved in the crafting of the UDHR and the creation of the United Nations itself from the beginning. Less than two months after the end of World War II in September 1945, 50 nations and 40 organizations, including AAUW under the intrepid leadership of Virginia Gildersleeve, Ph.D., came together to establish the United Nations. This new organization would succeed the League of Nations, an earlier, ineffective version of the UN that failed to prevent the onset of World War II.

The drafting committee of the declaration, chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt, worked with the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and AAUW CSW representatives like Dorothy Kenyon, J.D., to ensure that the rights of women and girls were represented in the document. AAUW is still present at the UN today working to advance the rights of women and girls.

The declaration's 26th article proclaims that everyone has the right to education, regardless of sex. The document states that fundamental education for women and girls is not a privilege. It is a right that must be distributed equally and upon merit. This clause has been a guiding principle at AAUW through our legislative advocacy, campus initiatives, and fellowships and grants, in which \$3.7 million is awarded annually to advance educational opportunities for women and girls worldwide.

Under the UDHR, women also have the right to work in an environment free from harassment. Article 23 states that everyone has the right to work in "just and favorable conditions." In the age of #MeToo, this right is in the forefront of current discourse and advocacy as sexual harassment and gender-based violence in the workplace is in the spotlight. Equal pay for equal work is also a core component of the article, which we know is still an unrealized right for women in the workplace, especially for many women of color.

While the declaration is not legally binding, it paved the way for enforceable treaties to expand on the articles, including the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**, which was created with AAUW involvement. Ratification of CEDAW is a component of AAUW's public policy principles and priorities. The treaty addresses discrimination in education, health care, politics, finance and law, employment, and marriage and family relations, all of which are essential to ensuring global gender equity.

This year, AAUW reaffirms our commitment to upholding human rights by taking the pledge:

- AAUW will respect your rights regardless of who you are. AAUW will uphold your rights even when we disagree with you.
- When anyone's human rights are denied, everyone's rights are undermined, so AAUW will STAND UP.
- AAUW will raise our voice. AAUW will take action. AAUW will use our rights to stand up for your rights.

Pledge your commitment to the declaration today, and share it with @AAUW using #StandUp4HumanRights.

Summarized from an article by Payal Sindha | February 22, 2018