

## January Meeting – Meet Prolific Author Sherry Ficklin



Sherry D. Ficklin, a full-time writer from Grand Junction, lives with her husband, four kids, two dogs, and a fluctuating number of chickens and house guests. A former military brat, she loves to travel and meet new people. Her Facebook Intro indicates that besides being an author, she is a book lover, history nerd, and probably a witch who is originally from Front Royal, Virginia and has studied at Starfleet Academy.

Sherry has authored more than a dozen novels and screenplays for teens and young adults, including the best-selling "Stolen Empire" series. She also writes New Adult fiction under the pen name Ranae Glass and Romantic Fiction under the pen name S.J. Noble. Sherry also appears as a guest speaker at several conventions annually including New York Comic Con.

She can often be found browsing her local bookstore with a large hot white-chocolate in one hand and a towering stack of books in the other. That is, unless she's on deadline at which time she, like the Loch Ness monster, is only seen in blurry photographs.

Sherry plans to talk about what it takes to get a book published, as well as any difficulties being a self-employed writer since 2007.

### *Note to all AAUW Book Lovers:*

*Please consider bringing your many friends who also love books to this meeting. Perhaps that could lead to them also attending our own Jane Quimby Book Group!*

**MEETING TIME – Saturday, January 11.....11:30 am** (social at 11:15 am)

**LOCATION – Party Room at Fiesta Guadalajara Restaurant....7<sup>th</sup> Street & North Avenue, GJ**

**LUNCH OPTIONS – Delicious Mexican food, plus some American and Vegan dishes**

**RSVP Yes or No to – Virginia Brown at 201-0386 or [virginia.brown1313@gmail.com](mailto:virginia.brown1313@gmail.com) by noon on Thursday, January 9.**

**Branch President** Virginia Brown 201-0386

**VP Program** open

**Secretary** Becky Zlebnik 242-0918

**VP Membership** Kathy Singer 261-2112

**Treasurer** Jane Fitzgerald 241-9684

**Newsletter Editor** Jane Fitzgerald

## What You May Have Missed Last Month

On a perfect, sunny day we congregated at Virginia Brown's beautiful new home for our December Social. We enjoyed a wide variety of potluck items, everyone of which was supremely delicious. There were interesting conversations as we got to know each other better. But the real success was the lots of food items donated to go towards Kids Aid and the food pantry at CMU for food & housing insecure students.

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## Coming Next Month...Do Not Miss This

February 8...from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm

**A Visit to the Eureka! McConnell Science Museum  
With Jenn Moore, Executive Director**

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**Join us for AAUW of Colorado's  
Public Policy Day  
Saturday, February 1, 2020, Holiday Inn, Lakewood, CO**

## IMMIGRATION CONVERSATION



**The keynote speaker will be  
Senator Julie Gonzales, Colorado District 34.**

**Register by Wednesday, January 15, 2020  
Cost: \$45 (includes registration and lunch)**

Click on <https://aauw-co.aauw.net/> for program information and registration.

**Virginia Brown and Kathy Singer from the Grand Junction Branch will be attending and are able to provide transportation and additional information.**

## Thoughts from the Branch President

I wanted to update you on recent Colorado developments regarding the gender pay gap, which is included under AAUW's Public Policy Issue on Economic Security for Women.

From the soccer field to the U.S. House of Representatives, 2019 brought increased focus on the gender pay gap and ways to close it. AAUW members helped to achieve many of these successes, advocating throughout the legislative process to get these bills across the finish line. As a result, we saw a tremendous increase in activity in 2019. This is particularly true in statehouses across the nation, where eleven states enacted pay equity legislation. Colorado was one of those states.

Enacting one of the toughest enhanced state pay equity laws to date, **Colorado has become the tenth state in the country to pass an equal pay law that is more demanding than federal law.** The new law, the "Equal Pay for Equal Work Act" (SB 19-085), signed by Governor Jared Polis on May 22, 2019, goes into effect on January 1, 2021. This new law, which applies to all employers in the state, shares similarities with other enhanced state equal pay laws, including provisions on *pay equity*, *pay history*, and *pay transparency*.

But, under this law, **Colorado became the first state to require employers to include a compensation range in every job posting.** (California and Washington require this information to be made available upon request.) The bill also adds to the state's existing law by prohibiting the use of salary history in hiring; clarifying the reasons employers can use to justify a pay difference; specifying that employees be equally compensated for substantially similar work; and requiring employers to keep records of wages and job descriptions to determine if there is a pattern of wage discrepancy. Importantly, the Colorado Act provides an incentive to companies that conduct proactive self-audits of their compensation practices.

- "We are fighting for women to be treated with the dignity, fairness and respect they deserve," said Rep. Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez, a Denver Democrat, after the governor's bill signing. "This new law is a Colorado solution that strikes a balance between workers and employers."
- Several Republican women argued that a strong work ethic, not a government mandate, best ensures equal pay. Rep. Perry Buck, R-Windsor, said she doesn't believe women are victims.

So, if you are interested in working to close the gender pay gap in our state or city, check out AAUW's state-specific [policy guide roadmaps](#), explore AAUW's [advocacy tools](#), stay up to date on the latest happenings by signing up for the weekly newsletter [Washington Update](#). And if you are not already a member of [AAUW's Action Network](#), [sign up here](#) to reach your elected officials. Urge your friends and family to sign up, too! Together we can bring about change and close the gender pay gap once and for all. ....Virginia

The **LWV invites AAUW** to join them and the rest of Mesa County for the **Women's March on January 18th**. For those who plan to march, meet at 12:30pm at the old county courthouse—look for KWSI-LP's red Jeep. The March begins at 1pm and will take us back to the old county courthouse on 6th and Rood. The rally at the courthouse begins at 2pm—there will be speakers and music! If you do not wish to march, meet us for the rally in front of the courthouse at 2pm.

## Thank You Notes

### From Svitlana McGrady

My sincere thank you for the scholarship for this academic year. It is a great honor to receive this scholarship for the second year in the row. Your generous support made many women like me who are non-traditional students. Receiving this scholarship will help reduce my financial burden and provide assistance for me as I continue pursuing my education.

I am a Junior at CMU majoring in Criminal Justice because my passion has always been helping others and trying to improve their quality of life. I think that pursuing such a career will provide me the opportunity to help the community. When I graduate, I intend to apply for positions in the DA's Office and the Mesa County Sheriff's Office.

Once again, thank you for your support. I truly appreciate your continuous support and your generous donation. I am committed to working very hard in school toward my degree to serve our community better.

### From Jacqueline Styons

It is my desire to extend my deep gratitude for the scholarship for the 2019-2020 academic year. I am honored by this award, and I look forward to creating work that will make you proud. The generosity you have shown me will allow me to focus full time on creating works of art.

I am continuing my Fine Arts education next year in the Animation, Film, and Photography program. I will also be participating in clubs and organizations that will allow me to further explore filmmaking and storytelling. I am eager to explore interactive media and how it can provide learning opportunities to young students. When I graduate I intend to apply for positions with media and tech companies that will allow me to continue creating educational and fun content.

I again extend to you my thanks for your support. Your generosity has allowed me the freedom to create unhindered and I am so grateful. I will continue to focus and work hard on my studies while maintaining club and community involvement.