

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.

Special Interest Groups

THE JANE QUIMBY BOOK GROUP

At the December meeting, the smallish group in attendance enjoyed the very thorough presentation by Wanda Putnam of The Library Book by Susan Orlean. Everyone agreed that prior to reading the book they were not aware of the many functions provided by that library.

January's read is by Lynne Olson

Madame Fourcade's Secret War:

The Daring Young Woman Who Led France's Largest Spy Network Against Hitler

This is the little-known true story of Marie-Madeleine Fourcade. In 1941 a thirty-one-year-old Frenchwoman, a young mother born to privilege and known for her beauty and glamour, became the leader of a vast intelligence organization—the only woman to serve as a *chef de résistance* during the war. Strong-willed, independent, and a lifelong rebel against her country's conservative, patriarchal society, Marie-Madeleine Fourcade was temperamentally made for the job. Her group's name was Alliance, but the Gestapo dubbed it Noah's Ark because its agents used the names of animals as their aliases.

No other French spy network lasted as long or supplied as much crucial intelligence—including providing American and British military commanders with a 55-foot-long map of the beaches and roads on which the Allies would land on D-Day—as Alliance. The Gestapo pursued them relentlessly, capturing, torturing, and executing hundreds of its three thousand agents, including Fourcade's own lover and many of her key spies. Although Fourcade, the mother of two young children, moved her headquarters every few weeks, constantly changing her hair color, clothing, and identity, she was captured twice by the Nazis. Both times she managed to escape—and continued to hold her network together even as it repeatedly threatened to crumble around her.



Friday, January 17th, 9:30 am
American Lutheran Church, 631 26^{1/2} Road, GJ

Presenter: Katie Zollner

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. Call Jane at 241-9684 with any questions.

Join us on **January 25th** at **The Artful Cup**, 3090 North 12th, GJ.

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 4 @ 1:30 pm & 7:30 pm and January 5 @ 1:30 pm
High Desert Opera presents **The Wizard of Oz** – Robinson Theater in the Moss Performing Arts Center
- January 11 @ 10:55 am
January 15 @ 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm (encore performance)
Fathom Events presents **Live from the Met: Alban Berg's WOZZECK** (opera) – shown at the Regal Theater (2 hours)
- January 11 @ 7:30 pm
Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra presents **POPS: The Rat Pack** – Avalon Theater
- January 17 @ 7:30 pm
January 19 @ 7:30 pm
January 24 @ 2:00 pm
January 25 @ 7:30 pm
CMU Music presents **Catch the Wind** (an Original Musical) – Experimental Theater / Moss Performing Arts Center at CMU
- January 25 @ 7:30 pm
Stray Grass Concert – at the Art Center
- January 26 @ 10:55 am
Fathom Events presents **Bolshoi Ballet: Giselle (2020)** - shown at the Regal Theater (2½ hours)
- January 26 @ 3:00 pm
Community Concerts of the Grand Valley presents **The Association – The Original Group!** – Grand Junction High School Auditorium
- February 2 @ 10:55 am
February 5 @ 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm (encore performance)
Fathom Events presents **Live from the Met: The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess** (opera) – shown at the Regal Theater (3 hours, 40 minutes)

Happy Birthday to You

Your AAUW Branch wishes to acknowledge its members and let you know we appreciate you.

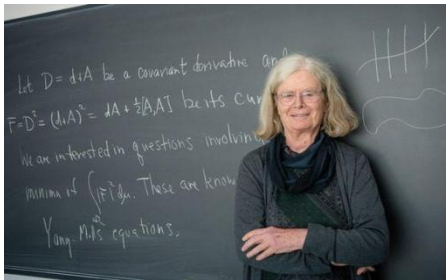
Therefore we wish a Happy Birthday to those with birthdays in January.

Becky Zlebnik on the 2nd, Kathy Singer on the 23rd, Anita Johnson on the 29th

The First Woman to Win Math's Top Prize

Karen Keskulla Uhlenbeck, a University of Texas at Austin emeritus professor renowned for her groundbreaking advancements in geometric analysis, mathematical physics and gauge theory, is **the first woman to win mathematics' prestigious Abel Prize**, which was awarded to her on March 20, 2019 by the King of Norway.

Modeled on the Nobel Prizes and given out by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, the Abel Prize is awarded annually to mathematicians whose contributions to the field are of "extraordinary depth and influence." The prize carries a cash award of six million Norwegian kroner, or roughly \$700,000. Since the prize's inception in 2003, 20 awards have been distributed, including six to mathematicians who were recognized jointly.



One of Uhlenbeck's most significant discoveries revolves around a seemingly mundane subject: soap bubbles. In higher-dimensional curved spaces, these glistening orbs act as key examples of "minimal surfaces," forcing themselves into shapes that minimize energy by taking up the least amount of area possible. Uhlenbeck's work on the mathematical manipulation of soap bubbles has had implications for scientists studying the behavior of physical phenomena such as electrical fields.

Growing up, Uhlenbeck never envisioned herself as a mathematician. Instead the young Karen Keskulla was more interested in reading hefty scientific tomes. After enrolling in a freshman honors math course at the University of Michigan, however, she changed her tune, and in 1968, earned a PhD in mathematics from Brandeis University.

As one of the few women in her program, Uhlenbeck experienced considerable pushback from male peers and professors. "**We were told that we couldn't do math because we were women**, [But] I liked doing what I wasn't supposed to do. It was a sort of legitimate rebellion."

Following several largely disheartening stints at universities across the country—where Uhlenbeck's then-husband, biophysicist Olke C. Uhlenbeck, was employed by the same institutions, often leaving her in the position of underestimated "faculty wife"—Uhlenbeck eventually ended up at the University of Texas at Austin, where she remained until her retirement in 2014.

Still, an Abel statement concludes, "The recognition of Uhlenbeck's achievements should have been far greater, for her work has led to some of the most important advances in mathematics in the last 40 years."

More Thank You Notes

From Shamira Bird

My sincere gratitude to you for the Mary Rait/ Mary Jewell Willsea Endowed scholarship. Your generosity has provided a huge relief for me and my family for the second year in a row. This scholarship gives me the opportunity to have my books and tuition completely paid and allows me to provide more efficiently for my children.

I am currently wrapping up level II in the nursing program and next year I will be level III focusing on Family Medicine as well as Critical Care. During this time, I will be also running the Student Nurse Association as President focusing my term on Missionary work. My passion in becoming a nurse is to obtain basic skills from working in a local medical setting to use in a missionary setting in rural America and eventually across the globe.

Again, thank you for your generosity and support. Please know that I take my education very seriously and this scholarship is being put to good use and I plan on giving back to our valley when I graduate.

From Randelyn Snow

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making this scholarship possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and I am deeply appreciative of your support.

I am a non-traditional student and single mother to two children. I am the first person in my family who will graduate from a university with a college degree. I am currently majoring in Business Administration and Sustainable Agriculture, with plans to graduate in May of 2021. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying.

I am extremely grateful for the faith you have placed in me and my academic ability in selecting me as a recipient of your scholarship. I cannot thank you enough for your generosity and support. I promise you I will work very hard in not just completing my degree but achieving high grades as well.