



December Event – a Zoom Holiday Party

Saturday, December 12.....10:00 to 11:30 am

Stay comfy without leaving your house PJ's OK.

Munch your favorite cookies while connecting with friends.

Be ready to share a story about your favorite gift or holiday memory
(limit to about 3 minutes, please....so everyone gets a turn)



Link to the ZOOM meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/77343197556?pwd=UnNHVnoxU0dkL0FNc3hFWjJTQ1I2Zz09>

Meeting ID: **773 4319 7556**

Passcode: **2UG9HB**

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,77343197556#,,,,,0#,,298124# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,77343197556#,,,,,0#,,298124# US (Houston)

If you are just phoning in for sound, choose one of the numbers below, then enter ID and Passcode.

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: **773 4319 7556**

Passcode: **298124**



NOTE: Due to current state and county COVID restrictions, the planned potluck social at Virginia's home had to be cancelled.

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

Thoughts from Virginia Brown, Branch President

First and foremost: Stay safe! It feels like life has thrown us some serious curve balls lately. I now have to wonder, is my runny nose allergies? A sinus infection? Am I coming down with an influenza virus or Covid-19? I now take my temperature daily. I now weigh the risks of running to the store. I wash my masks on a regular basis, all while washing my hands more frequently. Regardless of how you feel about Covid-19, please keep in mind that many of our members or their immediate family members are immuno-compromised. As much as I want to gather with my friends but also all of our members, I have to be aware of not only my health status, but the status of others also.

Secondly: I miss all of you. We are doing our best to offer Zoom meeting options for meetings. If you have a desire to host a meeting via zoom for our members, please let me know. I will set up the meeting on Zoom and share the link with you.

Third: Hang in there! As my Dad used to say: "This too shall pass."

Fourth: No matter what your religious or personal belief system is, I hope that you have a wonderful December and a Joyous Holiday Season. I am thinking of you and sending you my positive thoughts.

Happy Holiday's! Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah!

Happy Kwanzaa! Happy Ōmisoka! (Japanese New Year)

Now, for something fun to think about... one of my many tasks that I am trying to complete involves shredding all the paperwork from my father's safe deposit box. Yes, it has been almost 6 years since he passed away. I might have procrastinated... One of the things I have found is his marriage license to his second wife. Stapled to the marriage license is a certificate for the blood test for my step mother, indicating her Rh status. The certificate says: "This is to certify that the person named hereon is a female under the age of 45 capable of child bearing." My thoughts on reading this? Why did women have to submit to a blood test to get married? Did men ever have to take a blood test for marriage?

It was a few years after this test was done for my step mother that I had my first child. I vaguely recall the doctor mentioning my Rh status. I honestly don't recall having to have a blood test at the time of my first marriage. By that time, we had already had two children together, and my tubes were tied. Yes, I am the wild one that took advantage of all who went before me to allow me the right to reproductive freedom and not having to get married before the baby came. Thank You to all of you who fought for me to have those rights. I appreciate you.Virginia



This has been a long year with crisis after crisis, but 2020 is not over yet and the country is desperate for help. ***Congress must do their jobs and act to protect the American people from the hunger and poverty plaguing our nation before going home to enjoy the holidays with their families.***

Congress has not worked on a comprehensive relief bill in over three months, while another 100,000 people died from COVID-19. With 13.5 million cases and nearly 270,000 dead, our nation needs help now.

Key unemployment benefits, emergency paid leave and sick days, and eviction protection programs are all set to expire on December 31. As crisis relief negotiations begin again, we must make sure that our elected officials hear from us loud and clear.

Congress is scheduled to leave for the winter holidays on December 11—**they must not leave without acting to help Americans weather the crisis.** Contact your elected officials in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives today:

1. Send them a letter.
2. Call your Senators through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-31211. Be sure to include important information in your message:
Hello, I am a constituent from [your city/state] and I am calling to urge the Senator to do their job and pass a comprehensive crisis relief bill before they leave to enjoy the holidays. Americans like me cannot enjoy our own holidays safely without continued unemployment benefits, emergency paid leave and sick days, and eviction protections.
3. Speak out on social media.

Any response must tackle vital AAUW priorities, including:

- Expanding paid sick days, family and medical leave, child care and nutrition and food assistance programs.
- Extending unemployment compensation and eviction protection programs.
- Providing funding to support education, with an eye to reducing educational disparities, ensuring students have equitable access to distance learning and school meals, and providing sufficient resources for schools to reopen as soon as it is safe and healthy to do so.
- Extending suspension of payments on student loans and providing student loan debt relief for economically distressed borrowers.
- Incorporating protections that ensure funds are administered in non-discriminatory ways.

AAUW is committed to advocating for the rights and protections of women and families during this time of extreme hardship. Congress must be too.

Special Interest Groups

THE JANE QUIMBY BOOK GROUP

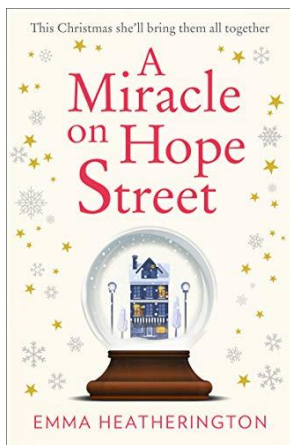
At present we are unable to have in-person meetings and are not yet set-up for Zoom. It has been suggested that the book for the month will be highlighted in this newsletter. Everyone should then read that book and when in-person meetings resume, all will be able to participate in the ensuing discussion. If nothing else, you will have read a good book.

December's Read is:

A Miracle on Hope Street by Emma Heatherington

Remember the true meaning of Christmas with this heartfelt and beautiful novel.

Can a single act of kindness change a life forever?



To many people Ruth Ryans has everything: the perfect job, a home to die for and a loving family. But it's all lies. As Christmas approaches, Ruth feels lonelier than ever.

Then Ruth meets Michael. A man who, on the night of her father's death the year before, she showed kindness to during his darkest moment. That one single act, his miracle, helped change his life forever.

Can one act of kindness really change a person's life? Ruth decides to find out and plans to make this Christmas the most perfect one ever, opening up her home to those who need her help – the lonely, the lost and the ignored.

November's read was

Beneath a Scarlet Sky....by Mark Sullivan

Did you enjoy this book? Or, was it one you found hard to finish?

Coffee & Chat Group

This informal (fun) group normally meets the 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30 am to try to solve world/local problems through discussion. Call Jane at 241-9684 with any questions.

We hope to meet again on **January 23rd**.... skipping December 26, the day after Christmas. Watch your email and AAUW Newsletter for more information.

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.

Due to COVID restrictions

At time of publication, there are no events scheduled in Grand Junction and movie theaters are closed

However, if you are missing the movie experience and are feeling the winter "blahs", here are some suggestions for movies featuring gardens:

Green Fingers - Seriously the most delightful garden movie, this British 90s classic is based on a true story of a prison inmate with a green thumb who goes on to compete in a national gardening competition.

Dare to be Wild - This is a movie about a true story of a garden designer and her designs for the Chelsea Flower Show.

The Secret Garden - Classic. The 1993 version is a favorite of many. The 2020 version with Colin Firth was shot in many famous English gardens.

This Beautiful Fantastic - This quirky film about a reclusive young woman threatened with eviction unless she gives her garden a makeover is perfect for a quiet Sunday afternoon with a cup of tea.

Saving Grace – A 2000 British comedy set in Cornwall, the film tells the story of a middle aged widow whose irresponsible husband left her in an enormous debt, forcing her to grow cannabis in her greenhouse along with her gardener Matthew to avoid losing her house.

Annual AAUW Branch Yearbooks

We have not forgotten these.
We are working on updating and refreshing our yearbooks. Stay tuned.

Happy Birthday to You

Your AAUW Branch wishes to acknowledge its members and let you know we appreciate you.
Those members celebrating a birthday in December are:

Katie Zollner on December 7th Anita Pisciotte on December 12th

Letter from AAUW WCCC Scholarship Awardee

Thank You



Dear AAUW,

I would like to thank you for the scholarship offer for the 2020-2021 school year. This scholarship will help me with keeping my student aid debt as low as possible, and ease some of my stress due to the bills for my educational expenses.

It was not easy to get into CMU. I have not been privileged with a lot of luck or financial support in my life. However, despite living on the streets at 18, I was determined to better myself and pursue a degree in IT that I might contribute to society in a way I enjoyed and perhaps even make the world a better place in doing so. It is my second year at CMU, with two semesters on the Dean's List under my belt, and generosity like yours continues to make it possible for me to stay on track to get my degree and do as well as possible despite a lack of a family to support me. And so, today, I continue to work hard on my classes so that after my graduation I can be successful in a way I never was before and give back to the community who supported me on my journey.

Once again, I genuinely appreciate your generosity and the opportunity it affords to allow me to focus on my schooling and worry less about bills. I intend to keep performing as well as possible to make sure that your contribution was not wasted.

Sincerely,

Nicole Julia Wynter



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Letter from the Women Veteran Scholarship Awardee

Thank You

COLORADO MESA
UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION

Dear AAUW,

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the AAUW Women's Veterans Scholarship. Thank you for your generosity, which has allowed me to pursue my passion in Human Resource Management. Education is very important to me and am very appreciative for your assistance to pursuing my dreams.

As I complete my education at Colorado Mesa University, I am very thankful for receiving your thoughtful gift. Because of your scholarship I can continue my education and follow my passion in the HR industry.

Thank you again for your thoughtful and generous gift.

Sincerely,

Linda Wilson

