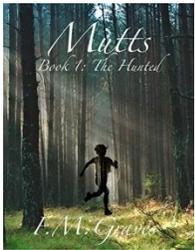




Meet Local Teenage Published Author

Saturday, January 16.....10:00 to 11:30 am

Faith Graves's book *Mutts: Book 1: The Hunted* was just published in December by Amazon Kindle e-books. This is her first published work, a teen & young adult/science fiction & fantasy story. Amazon lists the story line as: "All Oliver wanted was to gain his parent's approval and live his life



peacefully. Supernatural changes turn his world upside down and now he has to fight for not only his life but for creatures he never knew existed. Will he be able to save himself and those close to him?"

Faith will share with us: how she developed the story; what it took to get published; how the cover artwork was determined; when will we see Book 2 and other juicy tidbits.

Faith is a student at Fruita Monument High School. In addition to writing, she enjoys biology, chemistry and playing her viola.

Link to the ZOOM meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/77343197556?pwd=UnNHVnoxU0dkLOFNc3hFWjJTQ1I2Zz09>

Meeting ID: **773 4319 7556**

Passcode: **2UG9HB**

One tap mobile

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

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

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

+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**

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

Do you know that there is literally a book titled *How to Lie with Statistics*? First published in 1954 by Darrell Huff, the book remains relevant as a wake-up call for people unaccustomed to examining the endless flow of numbers pouring from Wall Street, Madison Avenue, and everywhere else someone has an axe to grind, a point to prove, or a product to sell. "The secret language of statistics, so appealing in a fact-minded culture, is employed to sensationalize, inflate, confuse, and oversimplify," warns Huff. Statistics are rife with opportunities for misuse, from "gee-whiz graphs" that add nonexistent drama to trends, to "results" detached from their method and meaning, to statistics' ultimate bugaboo--faulty cause-and-effect reasoning. Huff writes "Even if you can't find a source of demonstrable bias, allow yourself some degree of skepticism about the results as long as there is a possibility of bias somewhere. There always is."

When I was attending college, my professors kept saying "Wikipedia is not a valid source of information". I would now further say that all social media is not a valid source of factual information. And, I would garner to say that a majority of internet sources are probably not valid sources. Be very skeptical of what you read and hear.

The last 9 plus months have been a struggle. We have had constant information coming at us to stay home, self isolate, don't risk exposure to COVID. Then, we read differing opinions on how dangerous the virus actually is. At this point, I honestly don't know what to believe as the experts seem to disagree. What I do know is there has to be massive amounts of false information out there. I am not an expert on this pandemic. I do care deeply for my friends who either are at risk or have a family member who is at risk. I don't casually visit as a result. I also know is that this isolation and lack of socialization is harmful. I struggle to spread positive thoughts and joy to others as I don't always feel positive and joyful.

I honestly look forward to our Zoom program meetings because I get to interact with you.

I hope you will join us on January 16th.

.....Virginia

COVID Vaccine Availability for Mesa County

Colorado has expanded eligibility criteria for Phase 1B of COVID-19 Vaccine distribution. This phase now includes Coloradans age 70+, moderate-risk health care workers, first responders, frontline essential workers, and continuity of state government. To be contacted to make an appointment when Mesa County enters Phase 1B, go to <https://health.mesacounty.us/covid19/vaccine/>. Then press the "[here](#)" line to get to the interest form.

Special Interest Groups

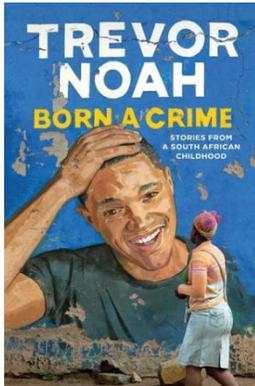
THE JANE QUIMBY BOOK GROUP

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.

January's Read is:

Born a Crime: Stories From a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah

Born a Crime is the memoir of one man's coming-of-age, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed.



Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

December's read was

A Miracle on Hope Street.....by Emma Heatherington

Did you enjoy this book? Did you like that Ruth resolved her depression by giving hope to others?

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 plan to meet on **January 23rd, 9:30 am** on the patio at Spoons Bistro & Bakery
Watch your email 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", enjoy:

Virtual Tours while staying "Safer at Home"

Access at:

<https://www.gardensillustrated.com/gardens/gardens-to-visit/virtual-garden-tours-best/>

<https://www.africam.com/>

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 January are:

Becky Zlebnik on January 2nd Kathy Singer on January 23rd Jeannie Dunn on January 28th

AAUW of Colorado PUBLIC POLICY DAY
The Education Equity Conversation
 Saturday, February 6, 2021 9:00 am – 12 Noon



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Dr. Angie Paccione
 Executive Director, Colorado
 Dept. of Higher Education

REGISTER for this
Zoom Webinar
TODAY

PANEL
 Focusing on equity, technology, and the impact of COVID-19 on education



Rico Munn
 Superintendent
 Aurora Public Schools



Dr. Michele Haney
 President
 Red Rocks Community College



Dr. Stephany Rose Spalding
 Panel Moderator

In addition, AAUW members Betty Boyd, Su Ryden and Nancy Todd will provide an update on Colorado legislative issues and the 2021 call to action.

Letter from AAUW Grant Recipient

Thank You



Dear AAUW,

I would like to thank you for the scholarship for the 2020 academic year. It is such a great honor to be chosen to receive the Doyle E. Burns scholarship. This scholarship will enable me to take out fewer loans to finance my education. I will also be able to better focus on my studies because thanks to your help I will not have to work as many hours to cover college expenses.

I am excited to be in the final year of my BSN. I have signed up for my senior rotation and I have my fingers crossed I will be able to my capstone in wound care in Montrose hospital. I currently am working in the community as a home health nurse, and I love every minute of it. Throughout my academic journey to get my BSN I have explored many avenues of nursing. After graduation, I hope to continue learning while working several years on the med/surg floor either in Montrose or Delta hospital. I feel like med/surg gives nurses a solid foundation in nursing. I love so many aspects of nursing and I am excited to see where this career takes me.

Once again, I thank you for your generosity and support in helping me complete my goals. I look forward to continuing to serve my community, more so now than ever. This scholarship will not only help me in reaching my education and career goal of becoming an RN, but it will help serve the community in these unprecedented times. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,

Clover S. Markert



40525

Letter from AAUW Grant Recipient

Thank You



Dear AAUW,

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.

My name is Randelyn Snow, and I am a non-traditional student and single mother to two children, aged 14 and 22. I decided to return to school three years ago after my oldest child joined the military and finish the pursuit of my college degree. I am the first person in my family who will graduate from a university with a college degree. With your generosity, achieving this dream I have held since I was young is a reality.

I am currently majoring in Creative Writing in English, with plans to graduate in December 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.

Sincerely,

Randelyn Snow



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