



November Program – A Zoom Meeting

A day in the life of a Colorado State Legislator

By State Representative Matt Soper

Matt Soper is a state representative from Delta, Colorado. A native Coloradoan and a Republican, Soper represents Colorado House of Representatives District 54, which encompasses parts of Mesa and Delta counties.



Soper holds degrees from Colorado Mesa University, the University of Edinburgh School of Law, and the University of New Hampshire School of Law.

He runs a research and writing business called Oxford Strategies, LLC. Some of their current research/ghostwriting areas include: Brexit law, maritime piracy law, American and British legal history, and American and British comparative constitutional law. Other ongoing research includes Western Colorado history.

For sport Matt enjoys tennis, swimming, shooting, golf, walking and skiing. And, in any spare time enjoys gardening, reading and volunteering at the local museum and homeless shelter

Matt Soper will also chat about what State Representatives expect to see this coming January.

WHEN – Saturday, November 14.....10:00 am (meeting lasts about one hour)

Link to the ZOOM meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77343197556?pwd=UnNHVnoxU0dkLOFNc3hFWjJTQ112Zz09>

Meeting ID: 773 4319 7556 Passcode: 2UG9HB

If you use the link, you should not need the meeting id and passcode. If anyone wishes to be able to just phone in to the meeting, contact Virginia Brown at (970) 201-0386 or virginia.brown1313@gmail.com to get the phone number to call in on.

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

The Civil Rights Act was passed into law in 1964. The Act states:

"It shall be an unlawful employment practice for an employer –

(1) to fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any individual, or otherwise to discriminate against any individual with respect to his compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin; or

(2) to limit, segregate, or classify his employees or applicants for employment in any way which would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect his status as an employee, because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

I literally grew up believing because of this Act that all people were automatically treated with equal respect and without bias. Obviously, as a woman, I realized along the way that women are NOT treated equally, regardless of color, religion or national origin.


The Fair Housing Act protects people from discrimination when they are renting or buying a home, getting a mortgage, seeking housing assistance, or engaging in other housing-related activities. The following are protected classes federally: Race, Color, National Origin, Religion, Sex, Familial Status, and Disability.

The **State of Colorado has additional Fair Housing classes:** race, color, disability, sex, sexual orientation (including transgender status), national origin/ ancestry, religion, creed, marital status, familial status (families with children under the age of 18 or a pregnant woman).

Having stated that, imagine my chagrin when sitting in on a meeting recently to discover that there is a new class for anti-discrimination. **Colorado House Bill 20-1048** enacted the "Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act of 2020", also known as the "**CROWN Act of 2020**", which specifies that, for purposes of anti-discrimination laws in the context of public education, employment practices, housing, public accommodations, and advertising, protections against discrimination on the basis of one's race include hair texture, hair type, or a protective hairstyle commonly or historically associated with race, such as braids, locks, twists, tight coils or curls, cornrows, Bantu knots, Afros, and headwraps.

My chagrin comes from the fact that our society is in such a place that this act had to be passed. I challenge everyone to stop, take a moment to think about your implicit biases. If you find yourself making an instant assumption about a person based on a visual trait; please take that moment to challenge your own thinking.

Invitation From the Lakewood Branch



**Overcoming
Unconscious
Bias**

Join us
**Monday, November 9, 2020
7:00 – 8:30 PM on ZOOM**

Debbie Pope, CEO of the YWCA
Boulder County will present
highlights of the Y's *Being an
Antiracist* training program.

You'll need to [REGISTER](#) to get the
Zoom link for this program.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtcuusrTwoHdQgu3MR6F_akvhn25YbnkM1

You will then receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

Coming In December

Potluck Social

December 12 from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm

At the Home of Virginia Brown

For those who are comfortable meeting in person,
we should have enough room to socially distance.
Anyone who wishes to wear a mask is more than welcome to do so.

Bring a dish of your choice to share. Drinks, plates, silverware will be provided.

Dear AAUW Member,

At its October 16, 2020, meeting, the National AAUW Board of Directors voted to **increase Individual Member dues** for the next three years. The dues will rise by \$3 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, \$5 for FY 2023 and \$5 for FY 2024, making the total dues amount for those years \$62, \$67 and \$72, respectively. All but \$3 of your annual dues remains tax deductible.

This decision wasn't made lightly. The board members couldn't be more grateful for our members — or prouder of the work you've done this year. We also recognize that all of us are navigating numerous challenges in these uncertain times. However, in order to preserve the viability of this organization we all love, the board needed to take action. Simply put, this measure is essential for AAUW to continue our mission to achieve gender equity.

Most nonprofits adjust their dues annually or every other year to keep pace with inflation and rising expenses. However, due to prudent budgetary management, AAUW has been able to keep its dues flat since July 2018. That means that, by the time the first scheduled increase takes effect, we will have maintained three years of dues stability.

Moreover, in recognition of the difficult economy we're in, the board planned for the initial adjustment to be the most modest. Over the course of the year, it works out to be only an additional 25 cents per month — what we hope is a small price to pay for maintaining our important work and community.

Current life members will not be affected by this change. New life memberships acquired after July 1, 2021, will reflect the higher dues' amounts. College and university membership fees will remain unchanged.

Please [reach out to us](#) with any feedback or concerns.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to AAUW and our mission. On behalf of the AAUW Board, we are grateful for your understanding and look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely, Board Chair Julia T. Brown, Esq.



Special Interest Groups

THE JANE QUIMBY BOOK GROUP

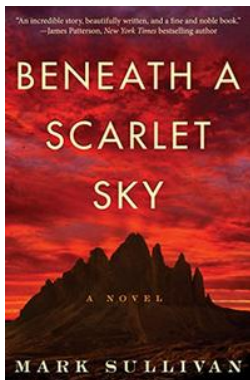
At present we are unable to have in-person meetings and are not yet set-up for Zoom. It has been suggested that the book for the month will be highlighted in this newsletter. Everyone should then read that book and when in-person meetings resume, all will be able to participate in the ensuing discussion.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

November's read is

Beneath a Scarlet Sky....by Mark Sullivan

Based on the true story of a forgotten hero, *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* is the triumphant, epic tale of one young man's incredible courage and resilience during one of history's darkest hours.

Pino Lella wants nothing to do with the war or the Nazis. He's a normal Italian teenager—obsessed with music, food, and girls—but his days of innocence are numbered. When his family home in Milan is destroyed by Allied bombs, Pino joins an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps, and falls for Anna, a beautiful widow six years his senior.



In an attempt to protect him, Pino's parents force him to enlist as a German soldier—a move they think will keep him out of combat. But after Pino is injured, he is recruited at the tender age of eighteen to become the personal driver for Adolf Hitler's left hand in Italy, General Hans Leyers, one of the Third Reich's most mysterious and powerful commanders.

Now, with the opportunity to spy for the Allies inside the German High Command, Pino endures the horrors of the war and the Nazi occupation by fighting in secret, his courage bolstered by his love for Anna and for the life he dreams they will one day share.

Fans of *All the Light We Cannot See*, *The Nightingale*, and *Unbroken* will enjoy this riveting saga of history, suspense, and love.

Read For December: **[A Miracle on Hope Street](#) by Emma Heatherington**

401 pages Published by HarperImpulse

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.

Join us again on **November 28th** on the patio at **Spoons**, 3090 North 12th, GJ.
We are meeting with Social Distancing in the Open Air (heaters to keep us warm).

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.

- November 13 @ 7:30 pm
CMU Dance presents **Embracing the Shadow: the Fall Dance Concert** – Robinson Theater in the Moss Performing Arts Center
- November 14 @ 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
CMU Dance presents **Embracing the Shadow: the Fall Dance Concert** – Robinson Theater in the Moss Performing Arts Center
- November 18 @ 7:30 pm
CMU Music presents **Orchestra Concert** – Robinson Theater in the Moss Performing Arts Center

Welcome New Branch Member

Jean Greenfield

I graduated from University of Colorado Denver with a bachelor's and master's in elementary education. I am also a member of the Lakewood Branch of AAUW.

I spent my teaching career with the Jefferson County School District teaching K-6. I lived in Lakewood for close to 50 years. My husband passed away unexpectedly in 2014 and I spent an additional 4 years after his death in Lakewood. After his death, my adult children encouraged me to move closer to them. So I sold the home in Lakewood and moved to Grand Junction. I think Grand Junction is a great place to settle. It has a university here as well as other cultural things I enjoy. It is also close to my daughter and her family as well as close to my son and his family. I appreciate how welcoming everyone is in Grand Junction and look forward to being part of the community and the Grand Junction branch of AAUW.

Info for member book: Jean Greenfield, 633 24-3/4 Road, GJ 81505 303-916-6138 jeangreenfield65@gmail.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 November are:

Wanda Putnam on November 3rd Peggy Rawlins on November 11th Ingrid Ketcham on November 16th

Letters from AAUW Grant Awardees

Thank You



Dear AAUW,

I am incredibly grateful to have been chosen as a recipient for the Mary Rait/ Mary Jewell Willsea Endowed Grants Fund for the 2019-2020 academic school year. The funds from this scholarship will help me tremendously as I enter my final semester at CMU and will ease the financial burden of being a single mother and fulltime student. Because of your generous donation, I will be able to cover the cost of daycare expenses for my youngest child while I attend classes.

This Fall will mark my final semester at CMU as I am set to graduate in December 2020 with my B.A. in English Writing. This past spring, I completed my senior seminar in writing and was able to successfully write a seventy-five-page memoir, which earned me a 98% on my portfolio. My goal is to work on editing this piece even more over the summer; and, by working in conjunction with my advisor, I hope to be able to submit that piece for publication. This past semester was also a milestone for me regarding publication as my poem titled, "What it's Like to be a Single Mom" was not only published in the *CMU Literary Review* but was named best poem as well.

I want to extend another heartfelt thank you for your contribution to my education. I assure you this money will not be squandered. I have every intention of remaining steadfast in my studies and completing my bachelor's degree this coming Fall.

Sincerely,

Kersea Calhoun



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Thank You

Dear AAUW,

Thank you so much for selecting me to receive your scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year. Receiving such a large scholarship helps me significantly reduce the debt I am accumulating from attending university. On top of being a full-time student, I am also a full-time single parent and I work part time to make ends meet. Receiving this scholarship helps me out in so many ways.

I am entering my senior year and then I will be in the homestretch for earning my degree in public accounting. College has been very challenging for me being a nontraditional student. At the same time, it has been one of the most rewarding challenges I have faced. I truly enjoy learning about accounting and cannot wait to graduate. Once I graduate, I would like to specialize in working with nonprofits. My first accounting job where I learned to love accounting was at CASA of the 7th Judicial District, so nonprofits will always have a special place in my heart.

Again, thank you so much for selecting me to receive your generous scholarship. I hope when I graduate, I will be able to help others out the way you have helped me. Hope you all are staying safe and healthy during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Anna Rencoret



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