



October Program – A Zoom Webinar

Mindfulness-based Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion

By the keynote speaker from the AAUW Colorado Fall Leadership Conference

Dena Samuels, PhD, is an author, speaker, and leadership trainer who taught at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, for 20 years while consulting nationally and internationally. Her latest book, “The Mindfulness Effect: an unexpected path to healing, connection, and social justice” offers 25 mindfulness practices for health/wellness, self-empowerment, culturally inclusive leadership development, social justice and environmental justice. In all of her publications and speaking engagements, she passionately invites people to raise their personal and social awareness to live more fulfilling, connected, and meaningful lives; and assists organizations, campuses, and corporations in building more diverse, equitable, and inclusive cultures. Her community activism in Denver focuses on facilitating cross-racial dialogue.



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

Link to the ZOOM meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77343197556?pwd=UnNHVnoxU0dkL0FNc3hFWjJlJTQ1I2Zz09>

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.

PRACTICE ZOOM EVENT: 10/3/2020 at 10 AM

Join Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74419726593?pwd=QTNPakpjTnBvNUtaRik0dW54YXVhZz09>

Meeting ID: 744 1972 6593 Passcode: 4w1pds

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

I have not yet had time to gather my best thoughts for this month, but instead will share this quote from the AAUW Durango newsletter:

Words of advice from Abigail Adams to her husband John Adams:

Abigail Adams wrote to her husband, John, at the Continental Congress in March 1776 “... in the new code of laws ... remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants of they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.” John Adams replied, “We know better than to repeal our Masculine system.” He treated her request as a joke, in spite of the fact that if Abigail had not superbly managed the farm and their finances, Adams would not have had time for politics—and might well have been a pauper to boot.”

*** If you wish, you may link to the AAUW Durango Newsletter here:

https://mailchi.mp/d71aaa8d21d0/special-suffrage-edition-100th-anniversary-celebrations-and?fbclid=IwAR11jmlxGrIklgO5fxZd5E0CoB_f3P-CHPXRHLFNnt8sQyTucaF9NoplMX0

There are only 3 t-shirts remaining: one LG, one XL, and one 2XL. Only \$20 each. They are a beautiful commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of Woman's Suffrage.

Contact Virginia Brown to receive yours.

Zoom Etiquette Tips for Meeting Attendees

1. Mute your microphone. To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
2. Be mindful of background noise. ... (i.e. no eating)
3. Position your camera properly. ...
4. Limit distractions. ...
5. Avoid multi-tasking. ...
6. Prepare materials in advance.

Show Your AAUW Pride

Check out [ShopAAUW](#) for all your AAUW-branded smashing gift needs – even if the gift is to yourself! We're pleased to offer several new products, including face masks and hand sanitizer, to help you navigate 2020 with style.

Special Interest Groups

THE JANE QUIMBY BOOK GROUP

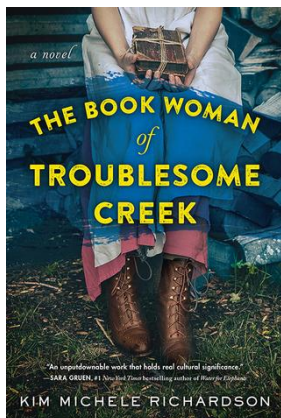
At present we are unable to have in-person meetings and are not yet set-up for Zoom. It has been suggested that the book for the month will be highlighted in this newsletter. Everyone should then read that book and when in-person meetings resume, all will be able to participate in the ensuing discussion.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

October's read is

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek...by Kim Michele Richardson

In 1936, tucked deep into the woods of Troublesome Creek, KY, lives blue-skinned 19-year-old Cussy Carter, the last living female of the rare Blue People ancestry.

The lonely young Appalachian woman joins the historical Pack Horse Library Project of Kentucky and becomes a librarian, riding across slippery creek beds and up treacherous mountains on her faithful mule to deliver books and other reading material to the impoverished hill people of Eastern Kentucky.



Along her dangerous route, Cussy, known to the mountain folk as Bluet, confronts those suspicious of her damselfly-blue skin and the government's new book program, as not everyone is keen on Cussy's family or the Library Project, and a Blue is often blamed for any whiff of trouble. If Cussy wants to bring the joy of books to the hill folks, she's going to have to confront prejudice as old as the Appalachias and suspicion as deep as the holler. She befriends hardscrabble and complex fellow Kentuckians, and is fiercely determined to

bring comfort and joy, instill literacy, and give to those who have nothing, a bookly respite, a fleeting retreat to faraway lands.

Inspired by the true and historical blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave and dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* showcases a bold and unique tale of the Packhorse Librarians in literary novels—a story of fierce strength and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere—even back home.

Read For November: **Beneath a Scarlet Sky....by Mark Sullivan**

524 pages, Lake Union Publishers

Happy Birthday to You

Your AAUW Branch wishes to acknowledge its members and let you know we appreciate you, but currently, no members have a birthday in October.

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.

- October 2-4
DOWNTOWN ARTS FESTIVAL – Main Street, Grand Junction
- October 3 @ 5:00 pm
CMU Music presents **Kristen Yun Faculty Recital** – on the Quad – Between MPAC & Library
Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy a faculty concert by cellist Kristen Yeon-Ji Yun.
- October 4 @ 3:00 pm
CMU Music presents **Chamber Ensembles Concert** – on the Quad – Between MPAC & Library
Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy an afternoon of music by our student chamber ensembles.
- October 6 @ 6:00 pm
CMU Music presents **Wind Symphony** – on the Quad – Between MPAC & Library
Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy an evening of wind symphony music.
- October 24 @ 3:00 pm **Free**
CMU Music presents **Western Colorado Percussion Festival Final Concert** – Love Recital Hall in the Moss Performing Arts Center
- October 30 @ 3:00 pm
CMU Music presents **Choir Concert** – on the Quad – Between MPAC & Library
Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an afternoon of music performed by CMU student choirs.

COVID-19 alert

Event information may be out of date due to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Confirm details with event organizers.

Note: Even though the local movie theaters are currently open, the New York Met and Theaters are closed due to COVID, so there will be no live-streaming of performances to local theaters for the foreseeable future.

Coffee & Chat Group



Join us again on **October 24th** on the patio at **Spoons**, 3090 North 12th, GJ.

We are meeting with Social Distancing in the Open Air (until cold weather comes).

(Note: the group normally meets on the 4th Saturday of the month. This month of October has 5 Saturdays.
Please don't come a week late.)

AAUW Voter Education Policies

AAUW does not endorse candidates for partisan office, nor any political party.

On 2020 Ballot Issues: When AAUW has a stated position, a member is always free to vote how they wish, but they may not take an opposing position identifying as an AAUW member. Branches may not publicly take opposing positions.

Proposed Amendments to Colorado Constitution

Amendment 76 - Citizenship Qualification of Electors

Should the state constitution be amended to explicitly require that Colorado voters must be U.S. citizens? The state already bans non-citizens from voting so opponents say this would accomplish little in practice. Supporters argue the language needs to be strengthened and point to a handful of cities in other states that allow non-citizens to vote in some local elections. The constitution currently says that "every citizen" may vote. Amendment language says "only citizens" may vote.

Amendment 77 - Local Voter Approval of Gaming Limits

When Colorado voters approved gambling in the three historic mountain mining towns, there were limits: casinos can only offer slots, blackjack, poker, craps, and roulette and as of 2008, bets are limited to \$100. The measure would allow voters in the 3 cities to approve additional games and higher bets. It also allows revenues to go to community colleges.

Amendment B - Repeal Property Tax Assessment Rates (Gallagher Amendment)

Should Colorado repeal part of Gallagher Amendment, which limits residential property taxes to 45% of the statewide base? It would prevent automatic cuts to residential property tax rates in the future. Homeowners' tax bills won't go down, but funding for schools, rural fire districts and other entities that rely on property tax will. Gallagher was originally added to the state constitution in 1982 to keep residential property tax revenue "balanced" with commercial property revenue. *Referred to the ballot by state lawmakers.*

Amendment C - Bingo Raffles Allow Paid Help and Repeal 5-Year Minimum

This measure would change how charitable gaming activities are managed. It would shorten the time a non-profit must operate in Colorado before it can apply for a charitable gaming license from 5 years to 3. It would allow licensees to hire paid staff to operate their bingo games or raffles. *Referred to the ballot by state lawmakers.*

Propositions to Change Colorado Revised Statutes (State Laws)

Proposition 113 - Adopt Agreement To Elect U.S. Presidents by National Popular Vote

Voters can affirm or reject the 2019 legislative decision to join the National Popular Vote Compact that could eventually bind Colorado and other states to commit their presidential election (electoral) votes to the candidate who wins the most votes nationally, rather than to the candidate who wins the state. The Compact would need to be affirmed by state votes totaling a majority of the Electoral College.

Proposition 114 - Restoration of Gray Wolves

Should Colorado reintroduce gray wolves on certain lands west of the Continental Divide? If approved, it could help an endangered species recover its place in Colorado's ecology. The measure faces criticism from ranchers who fear they'll lose livestock to the predators.

Proposition 115 - Ban on "Late-Term" Abortions

Would ban abortions after 22 weeks gestation, except to save life of mother. These abortions are only about 1.3 percent of all procedures and often are the result of parents receiving lethal fetal diagnoses.

Colorado AAUW opposes this Proposition because every pregnancy is unique for every woman and family. We can never know the circumstances of someone's life. That's why we believe health decisions should be between doctors and patients and families. Circumstances can include risk to the mother's health, women learning of a lethal fatal diagnosis, or a pregnancy that is a result of incest or rape. Abortion should be accessible to all - no matter who they are, what they look like, or how much money they make. We must allow women and their families, in consultation with their doctors, to determine what health care is right for them. We must keep abortion bans out of Colorado.

Proposition 116 - State Income Tax Rate Reductions

This initiative would cut the state's flat income tax rate from 4.63 percent to 4.55 percent. A person making \$50,000 would see their tax burden fall by about \$40 (\$3.30 a month). Meanwhile, it would reduce state revenue by an estimated \$170 million in the next fiscal year. Supporters argue it would boost businesses and consumer spending, while opponents say it would weaken government services and social supports already severely cut by the downturn. This measure was originally intended to counter a progressive tax measure that failed to make the ballot.

Proposition 117 - Voter Approval Requirement for Creation of Certain Fee-Based Enterprises

This would add a new TABOR-like provision to state law, requiring the state government to get voter permission before it creates major new "enterprises" which are partially funded by fees. Colorado voters already have authority over tax increases and rarely approve them. The Colorado Supreme Court has held that a fee is different from a tax because it is reasonably connected to a specific purpose. And in the years that TABOR has been in effect, lawmakers have used them in a way to raise money without raising taxes. Critics see fees as an end-run around TABOR's spending limits.

Proposition 118 - Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program

This initiative would mandate that employers provide 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave for many Colorado workers, plus an additional 4 weeks in case of complications. This leave could be used for childbirth or other family medical situations. The law would offer paid leave benefits to workers who have earned at least \$2,500 at their job. It also guarantees people won't be fired if they have been on the job at least 180 days. When they are on leave, workers' wages would be partially covered through a state-administered fund. The money in that fund would be supplied by premiums paid by employers and workers, amounting to 0.9 percent of each worker's wages. Businesses with fewer than 10 people would be exempt from the employer premium, and companies could instead opt to go with their own leave program if it meets set criteria.

Colorado AAUW supports this Proposition because of its mission to advance gender equity for women and girls. AAUW promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons. Essential to that well-being are an economy that provides equitable employment opportunities; reduction of poverty; a living wage; quality, affordable dependent care; *paid family and medical leave*; safe, livable, and affordable housing; affordable and accessible health care for all.... A paid family and medical leave program will ensure that as we build Colorado's economy, it will be ready to keep Colorado's people, communities, and workplaces healthy and safe. Coloradans should not have to choose between paying their bills and taking care of their seriously ill family members or having a baby.

Proposition EE - Increase Taxes on Nicotine Products

This measure would raise an estimated \$168 million next fiscal year by creating a new tax on nicotine vaping products and raise existing taxes on tobacco products. Vaping product taxes would start at 30 percent of the manufacturer's price and eventually rise to 62 percent. The tax on cigarettes would ramp up from \$0.84 a pack today to \$2.64 a pack by 2027. Taxes on other tobacco products would grow from 40 percent today to 62 percent by 2027. The minimum price for cigarettes would be set at \$7 per pack beginning in 2024. Over 10 years it is expected to raise \$2 billion for universal preschool for all 4 year olds, \$110 million for tobacco-vape cessation and public health programs, and \$375 million for public schools. *Referred to the ballot by state lawmakers.*

AAUW Scholarship/Grant News

As many of you are aware, the Colorado Mesa University Foundation manages funds on behalf of the Branch which are used to fund scholarships for deserving female students attending CMU. Each spring a committee of Branch members selects the students who will receive a scholarship towards the coming year. In some cases this year an alternate choice received the funding when the original choice did not return to the CMU campus for the fall semester.

Mary Rait/Mary Jewell Willsea Endowed Grant

As of June 30, 2020 the balance in the account for this grant was \$231,449.00. From the interest generated, the Branch was able to award six \$1,600 grants for the 2020/2021 academic year. We are pleased to announce the recipients.

Kersea Calhoun has been commuting from Delta. A senior majoring in Secondary Education with an emphasis on English, she is taking 18 hours and has a 3.7 GPA. At the time she applied for the scholarship she was afraid she would have to move because her ex-husband was not paying the mortgage or child support.

Anna Rencoret is from Montrose and is a senior, majoring in Accounting, with a 3.279 GPA. She has taken many of her classes on the Montrose campuses but the upper level classes are taught here and she finds commuting very expensive.

Clover Markert is a single parent and has been taking her classes in Montrose. She is now commuting to Grand Junction for her senior year of nursing as she is turning her LPN into a BSN.

Randelyn Snow and **Jacqueline Styons** are recipients from last year. Both are seniors. Randelyn is a senior majoring in English with a 3.9 GPA. Jacqueline has a 4.0 GPA and her major is Animation and Film.

Sherri Buxton is a senior majoring in Geology, with a 3.67 GPA. She has also been working as a waitress at Il Bistro Italiano.

AAUW – WCCC Scholarship

As of June 30, 2020 the balance in the account for this scholarship was \$14,991.04. From this amount, the Branch was able to award one \$500 scholarship.

Nicole Wynter is a sophomore with a 3.79 GPA majoring in Information and Computer Technology. She is a former homeless shelter resident and a member of the LGBTQ community.

Congratulations to all of these deserving women.

Their lovely written Thank-You letters will appear in future newsletters.