



February Program – Women in Government Speaker – Rose Pugliese

What is the reality behind the scenes? Do women in government face discrimination? Former County Commissioner Pugliese will address these and other questions.

Rose Femia Pugliese served as the District 3 Mesa County Commissioner from 2013-2021. Rose graduated with honors from Villanova University with a bachelor's degree in sociology and a minor in Japanese. She attended St. John's University School of Law and is licensed to practice law in Colorado, New York and Florida. Rose was honored to be named as Colorado Counties, Inc. "2016 Colorado Commissioner of the Year" and one of the Denver Business Journal's "2019 Top Women in Energy." Recently, Rose was listed as a "Champion for the White House Initiative on Regulatory Innovation." Rose recently relocated to Colorado Springs with her two young children.



Saturday, February 13....10:00 to 11:30 am

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)

Meeting ID: **773 4319 7556**

Passcode: **298124**

Branch President Virginia Brown 201-0386

VP Programs 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

Diversity and Pluralism

Many folks spent a lot of time discussing diversity and pluralism 25-30 years ago. Yet, here we are. In 2021, as a nation, talking about diversity and pluralism again.

Variety. That's what diversity means in essence. But it also means that recognizing what makes us different and unique is important and, without taking diversity into consideration, we run the risk of excluding some individuals.

Pluralism is the position that there is not one consistent means of approaching truths about the world, but rather many. Cultural pluralism refers to a phenomenon where minority groups participate fully in the dominant society, but while maintaining their cultural differences, provided such are consistent with the laws and values of the wider society.

My least favorite learning experience was a training in which we all shared about a time in our life that we felt different from others. I am talking about the feeling of difference that makes a person want to go crawl into their beds and hide. For me, I struggled through many times of feeling different: a brother who was "special needs"; a different brother who molested me, a mother who escaped her demons by drinking, and the list goes on. I don't mention this for sympathy. I mention this because I encourage you to stop and think about your implicit biases.

All of us have preconceived notions about people, many of which we may not even be aware of. But those biases affect how we make decisions, interact with others and behave in certain situations — often in ways that can be harmful or discriminatory.

The AAUW website has many good discussions on Diversity, Pluralism, and Implicit Biases. If you would like to cultivate a more equitable and inclusive mindset, see the hints at:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/career/boost-your-career/how-to-develop-a-more-inclusive-perspective/>.

NOTE: If you are unable to attend the State Public Policy meeting online, I encourage you to go the state AAUW Website and follow the links to the recording of those meetings.

Annual Elections

We are nearing the time that we need to do Elections for Officers. I am term limited, and will not be returning as President in the next membership year. Kathy Singer is willing to run for President. Please consider running for a position on the Board. Jane Fitzgerald is also term limited as Treasurer. Other possible open positions are: VP Programs, VP Membership, the new VP of Diversity, Secretary. Help us.

Letter from an AAUW Grant Recipient**Scholarship THANK YOU**

SHERRI KIYONO BUXTON
Colorado Mesa University
Class of 2022
(970) 644-2613
Skbuxton@mavs.coloradomesa.edu

September 1, 2020

AAUW Members

1100 North Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear AAUW Members,

I am writing in appreciation of your generous scholarship of \$1600. I am truly privileged to be the recipient of the Mary Rait/Mary Jewell Willsea Endowed Grants Fund for the 2020-2021 academic year. Your generous support will help me to pursue my undergraduate degree at Colorado Mesa University.

I am excited to be enrolled in the Geoscience Program with a focus on Geology and GIS. I currently maintain a Grade Point Average of 3.67 and earnestly participate with The National Society of Leadership and Success as an executive board member. I plan on graduating in May of 2022, at which point I will pursue a master's degree through Texas A&M University. I will apply the knowledge and skills that I acquire during my time at Colorado Mesa University to gain more expertise and ultimately contribute to the Geoscience world. As a proud mother of three outstanding children, I am eager to see the opportunities that the future holds.

The Mary Rait/Mary Jewell Willsea Endowed Grants Fund will be a significant contribution to my school expenses; and, it will allow me to focus more on my projects and studies. Receiving this scholarship is an absolute honor and I am grateful to be a part of this program. Thank you again for your immense support.

Sincerely,



Sherri Kiyono Buxton

Letter from an AAUW Grant Recipient

Thank You



Dear AAUW,

I write to you with heartfelt gratitude in my acceptance of your generous scholarship offer. I am particularly honored to have the opportunity to accept this scholarship for the second year in a row as I enter into my final year as an Animation/Film/Photography and Motion Design student. The support that you have been so kind to offer has allowed me the freedom to truly experience all that Colorado Mesa University has to offer.

In the year since I was last honored with your scholarship, I have accomplished many of my goals, and it is because of the financial freedom you helped provide that I have been able to do so. In the last academic year, I have had the privilege to present artworks of various mediums in three exhibits, I have been inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success and I have maintained a GPA of 3.94. My proudest accomplishment this year has been cofounding and acting as Secretary to the newly established Film Production Club, a club in which students of all majors are welcome to gather and share in the magical experience of creating a film.

As I enter into my senior year I have many ambitions for my own success, but more importantly I am so excited to be able to enhance and grow the AFP&MD experience for incoming students. I am as enthusiastic as ever about pairing art, technology and education as a means to improve lives and society as a whole. I thank you again for your help as I continue to work towards achieving my degree.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Jacqueline F. Styons



40525

Special Interest Groups

THE JANE QUIMBY BOOK GROUP

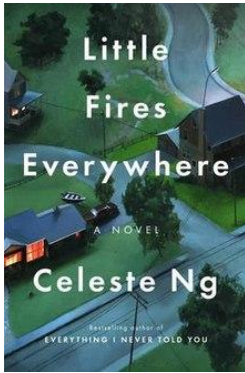
At present, we are unable to have in-person meetings and are not yet set-up for Zoom. The book for the month will be highlighted in the newsletter. Please read that book and when in-person meetings resume, all will be able to participate in the ensuing discussions. If nothing else, you will have read a good book.

The Book to read for February is:

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng

Little Fires Everywhere has been named a Best Book of the Year by myriad reviewers. It is a riveting novel that traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives.

In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned--from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules.



Enter Mia Warren--an enigmatic artist and single mother--who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair.

When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town--and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs.

Little Fires Everywhere explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood--and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.

January's Read was

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

Wasn't this a great way to learn about living under Apartheid in South Africa?

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 February are:

Lori Wood on February 4th

Coffee & Chat Group



This informal (fun) group normally meets on the 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30 am to try to solve world/local problems through discussion. There is no set agenda.

Call Jane at 241-9684 with any questions.

We plan to meet on **February 27th, 9:30 am**....on the patio at Spoons Bistro & Bakery.

Watch your email for more information and weather updates.

Culture Club



The AAUW Culture Club is a loosely organized effort to inform 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. Peggy Rawlins at 263-4741 is the contact person for the group.

Due to COVID 19 restrictions
at time of publication, there are no events scheduled in Grand Junction
and movie theaters are closed.

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

As we look ahead to 2021, AAUW celebrates the [rich diversity of the Biden-Harris Administration and 117th Congress](#), and we pledge to work with these new leaders to [make equity a top priority](#) this year. We're particularly pleased that the Administration has created a [White House Gender Policy Council](#) charged with implementing a government-wide focus on uplifting the rights of women and girls.

At the same time, it's worth remembering that—despite the difficulties of 2020—we made great strides last year. With your support, we boosted our online professional development offerings, launched a partnership with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), financed landmark court cases, and sent 62,400 letters to Congress urging action on equity priorities. Take a moment to peruse our [year in review](#) for some New Year's inspiration.

Paycheck Fairness Act

We just marked the 12th anniversary of the signing of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. What more fitting tribute than to continue that legacy by joining us to [demand equal pay now](#)?

Despite existing federal and state equal pay laws, the gender pay gap persists, impacting millions of women and their families. We need to update our laws to ensure all workers can take home a fair paycheck. Equal pay for equal work is a widely popular principle. Congress must act like it.

Urge your members of Congress to do their part by supporting the Paycheck Fairness Act today!