



YEAR END CELEBRATION

Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

Saturday, May 15

at The Ale House - on the Patio

12th Street and Patterson Road, Grand Junction



IN PERSON - please arrive at 11:30 am

The Ale House is FIVE-STAR Health & Safety Certified by Mesa County Public Health

The patio is open air with tables at a safe distance.

Most, if not all, attending will have been vaccinated against COVID.

See the delicious choices: <https://alehousegj.com/lunch-dinner-menu/>

Reservations - by May 14: Yes or No to Linda Heinrich at canowl@gmail.com
or 970-628-1170



- If you are unable to attend in person (we really hope you will), join by ZOOM to have your vote counted.

Link to the ZOOM meeting on May 15, starting at Noon:

<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/77343197556?pwd=UnNHVnoxUOdkLOFNc3hFWjJTQ1I2Zz09>

Meeting ID: **773 4319 7556** Passcode: **2UG9HB**

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

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: **773 4319 7556**

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Passcode: **298124**

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Branch President Virginia Brown 201-0386

VP Membership Kathy Singer 261-2112

VP Programs Open

Treasurer Jane Fitzgerald 241-9684

Secretary Becky Zlebnik 242-0918

Newsletter Editor Jane Fitzgerald

AAUW 2021-2022 Branch Officer Nominations

The Nominating Committee has announced the following slate of branch officers for service on our branch board, July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. Nominees for these positions will all serve for two years. All members in attendance at the Annual Meeting on May 15 will have the opportunity to volunteer for an Open position, to propose nominations from the floor and to vote.

- President: Kathy Singer
- Secretary: Samantha Singer
- Vice President, Membership: Open
- Vice President, Program: Open
- Treasurer: Virginia Brown

Submitted by the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee

AAUW National voting will close on Monday, May 17 at 5 pm ET

Did you know that the national AAUW Bylaws state, in a paraphrased manner, that the required number of votes on any ballot issue is only 5% of the membership for the vote to be counted? This is a very low threshold and means that your vote is important. You can have influence over the outcome of the election.

This year several issues critical to the organization's future direction are on the national ballot. Your vote is key to setting that direction. You have already received at least one email giving you the link to vote.

You will be voting on a Bylaws amendment to **eliminate the degree requirement for membership**. This issue was recommended by the national AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee. If it passes AAUW's national staff will be prepared to change membership language, the join function, and other related items as necessary immediately after the vote. If the degree requirement is eliminated, those who are currently Student Associates will be given the option of becoming Individual Members of AAUW or joining the Equity Network.

Every two years our membership votes on revisions to the **Public Policy Priorities**. These are recommended by the AAUW Public Policy Committee (after reviewing members' suggestions) and will be effective for the 2022-2023 fiscal years beginning July 1, 2021.

Because the **national Board of Directors** are now elected in alternating years, you are asked to vote every year for new board members. Information on each candidate for election to the AAUW Board of Directors will be part of the ballot you will receive.

You can go [online](#) to get more information about the issues and the candidates, and to register your VOTE. Don't wait, do it today!

THE JANE QUIMBY BOOK GROUP

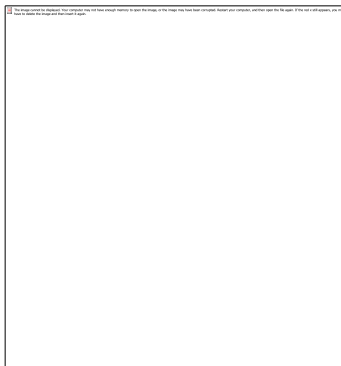
On Hiatus until September

The Group needs ideas for future books to enjoy. Whether you are a Jane Quimby Member or not, please send a list of recent books that you have read and would recommend to others. A brief description of the book would be appreciated. A list will be compiled and books chosen for future meetings.

Send these ASAP to Barb Boudreaux:

1504 Sprague Street, Mack, CO 81525 or at nannyo450@gmail.com.

In Memoriam Jan Scheevel April 30, 2021



Hi Book Lovers

This is Jay, Jan's son. I am sorry to let you know that my mother has passed away last Friday morning. I was here with her and holding her hand and she passed very peacefully. It has been an emotional time for us, but my older brother and his wife are here with us this week, so we are sharing the load. I wanted to let you know how much she enjoyed and prized being a member of the AAUW for so many years, and how much she enjoyed the interaction with you all in the local chapter. She would have wanted me to tell you all "thank you" for being so much a part of her life and providing so much friendship and conversation. Please pass this sad news to the other members who knew her. If you wish to communicate with me it would be more straightforward to use my email: jay@scheevel.com

We will let you know about plans for a service when those become available.



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.

Unfortunately this editor was unable to find any cultural activities to take place in May in the Grand Junction area. *So sad...*

Coffee & Chat Group



This informal (fun) group will meet on **June 5 at 9:30 am**....on the patio at Spoons Bistro & Bakery to try to solve world/local problems through discussion. There is no set agenda. Call Jane at 241-9684 with any questions.

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 May are:

Jean Greenfield on May 9th

From Author Louise Penny's May Newsletter

American Association of University Women fundraiser

Also this month, on May 15th I'll be doing a fundraiser for the American Association of University Women. It's called, 'Cover to Cover'. If you'd like to join us, [here's the link](#) for that.



Want to know what's going on with AAUW National and any connections with the new Administration? There is a Lot! Check out this site!

[AAUW Washington Update](#)

From the President's Desk - Virginia Brown, Branch President

This month, Samantha and Kathy Singer are guest writing the President's letter as Virginia is dealing with the loss of a close friend.

Something that I think many of us acknowledge but often place on the backburner of their minds is the disparity between the energy-rich and the energy-poor. By this, I refer to how successfully a family can afford to pay the monthly bills that allow for their continued usage of resources required for everyday life such as water, electricity, and natural gas. Even before COVID-19, this was a daunting task for many households, but the impact of the pandemic has made it harder and more severe.

Previously, Virginia had shared an article regarding the increase of women leaving the workforce due to the pandemic and their slower return compared to men. It said that back in September 2020, The Century Foundation and The Center for American Progress had found that roughly 865,000 women left the labor force compared to 216,000 men, making it a 4:1 ratio. Since that one recorded month, the pandemic has caused many more women to have the hours they work reduced or leave entirely. This decrease in or complete lack of income places great stress on households, especially those with single-working mothers.

This added stress can reach an all-time high when weather phenomenon occurs, and families find themselves unable to keep warm during winter nights. An example of this was Winter Storm Uri, whose impact was surveyed by The Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute. The results of the survey made clear that a larger percentage of the respondents worried about their ability to pay their electricity bills and thought that energy diversity was an essential component in helping people withstand extreme weather events like Uri. Out of the nine million residing in Texas, 41% are classified as low-income households. According to the Texas Women's Foundation, one in six women lack sufficient financial resources, resulting in 2.3 million Texan women earning less than the poverty threshold.

When Texas' electricity grid failed from poor winterization, the state's other grid using natural gas was relied upon more than it was designed to. In addition to seeing an increase in deaths due to carbon monoxide poisoning from natural gas-powered appliances to keep warm, the failing of the grid caused an extreme amount of energy to be drawn upon, resulting in women and their families in or below the poverty threshold to receive bills with balances that had skyrocketed compared to the prior month, making paying off bills impossible.

Though Texas uses its own power grid that is separate from the rest of the country's, the stress of paying bills for low-income, energy-poor families is a problem applicable to every state and can be seen throughout the nation. In accordance with AAUW's vision for supporting equality and education for women, we, as members of this organization and this society, must work together and do our part to ensure crises like this does not happen again or to at least be able to lessen the impact.

"How do we go about doing so?" you might be thinking. When dealing with systems we rely on, we obviously need to do our research and understand how they work, but when working with others, we need to reach out to our fellow women—under, un, and employed—as well as work with other organizations to promote and provide job training, whether they be STEM-related or not. As the nation starts opening back up, job opportunities are sure to appear, and women must be equipped with the knowledge to fill those new niches. When working with the communities around us, we must remember to look at all aspects of life if we are to reduce poverty and provide affordable energy for everyone.

The right of financial stability and security belongs to everyone, and all women regaining their place in the workforce is but one step in safeguarding that fact.

Your Membership Matters

AAUW GRAND JUNCTION MEMBERS - IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to members like you, AAUW is able to stand 170,000 strong, advance our mission to empower women and girls, and lead the way to gender equity. We are so proud of the programs, advocacy, and research that we are supporting to empower women. Your AAUW membership is invaluable to our branch – and we're asking you to continue standing with AAUW and renew your membership.

Annual dues of \$98.00 are due in one payment that needs to be received by June 30, 2021. (Note: New members who joined this year after March 15, 2021, your membership dues cover you through June 30, 2022.)

There are two ways to renew.

- 1. Renew and pay online with a credit card.** Membership renewal emails will be sent out to each member from EONSupport@aauw.org on May 4, 2021, so please be on the lookout for it. When you use your link from EONSupport@aauw.org to renew, **it is from AAUW and only for you**. The link in the email is attached to your AAUW membership number.

Note: Do not sign in to aauw.org to make a payment.

Online renewal is the fastest and preferred way to renew your membership.

This greatly *reduces everyone's paperwork!*

- 2. Renew by check.** Make your check payable to AAUW Grand Junction Branch, and mail it to Jane Fitzgerald, Branch Treasurer at 2327 Eagle Point Court, Grand Junction CO 81507. Indicate if you wish to make an additional donation to any of the AAUW Funds.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 7/1/2021 TO 6/30/2022

- > Dues Total = \$98 (National \$62, State \$10, Branch \$26) (\$85 is tax deductible)
- > Life Member Dues = \$36 (State \$10, Branch \$26) (\$26 is tax deductible)
 - > Honorary Life Member Dues = \$0
- > Student Non-Affiliate Dues = \$18.81 (\$16.81 is tax deductible)

Your AAUW Benefits

AAUW's [member benefits](#) can enhance your professional and personal life and will save you money along the way. Most important, every time you use one of your benefits, you are also supporting AAUW's vital work, which is what makes AAUW one of the nation's most powerful voices on women's issues. Some of the benefits are found with: GEICO, Nationwide Pet Insurance, Collette Tours, Cruises Only, Thrifty Car Rental, Shop AAUW, Office Depot and UPS.