



February Program – Diversity & Inclusion Ta’Lor Jackson, Speaker

Ta’Lor Jackson is the Coordinator of Inclusivity and Mentor Specialist at Colorado Mesa University.



Ta’lor is originally from Utah and has lived in Colorado for nine+ years. In the early stages of her life she was an army brat living on different military bases from South Korea to Germany, which played a part in developing her passion and understanding for diverse groups and cultures.

Ta’lor is a recent double major graduate of CMU earning a Bachelor’s in Political Science and Sociology. She formerly served as a Supreme Court Justice for three administrations of Student Government, earning a scholarship to Washington DC to participate behind the scenes of National politics. In addition she served on CMU’s "*Turning the Corner on Racism*" committee. Prior to coming to CMU in 2020 she worked in various leadership roles at one of the Western Slope’s largest non-profits for community services, supporting adults with traumatic brain injuries for six years.

Outside of work Ta’lor enjoys cooking, painting, live music and sporting events.

Date: **Saturday, February 12**

Time: **11:30 am** (social visiting and menu ordering begins at 11:00 am)

Location: **The Ale House Restaurant** (inside), 2531 North 12th Street, GJ

Reservations: to Jane Fitzgerald at 970-241-9684
or mjfitz2cats@gmail.com by February 11

Branch President Kathy Singer 261-2112
VP Programs Open
Secretary Samantha Singer 261-2216

VP Membership Open
Treasurer Virginia Brown 201-0386
Newsletter Editor Jane Fitzgerald 241-9684

Greetings from Branch President, Kathy Singer

Happy February Everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we not quite leap into another month! Spring will soon be upon us, bringing another season of new beginnings with it. As the snow finishes melting and our breaths become less noticeable when we're outside, I am having an easier time envisioning the pandemic settling down and us fully returning to our normal way of life. Hopefully, we will soon be able to treat it like the common cold or flu and businesses and their employees will be able to thrive once again.

However, as we get closer and closer to the day we're get back to how things used to be, I hope it isn't exactly like how it was because despite the physical distances, we've made ourselves more compassionate in our refusal to emotionally isolate from others. It would have been all too easy to ignore the plight of those around us, but we didn't, and that has made us all the stronger for it. I don't want to see the connections we've built with one another break if our differences seem to outweigh what we could have in common again.

Last month, I had said that it's important to look to the future while living in the present. While this remains true, it's just as important to remember how we got here. We ban together for common causes and better the world around us with one another, but we haven't always been a people united. We're still not if we're being honest. Yes, people come together as a society, but the communities within aren't always equal. Standing against this, AAUW is an organization that proudly promotes the equity of all women, and so, I believe it is our duty to learn more of how our fellow women are impacted in our society—financially, racially, religiously, and eventually equally. After all, you can't help solve a problem if you don't understand what's causing it in the first place.

In honor of this, AAUW Grand Junction will be celebrating February with Black History Month, March with Women's History Month, and other important topics in April and May that continue promoting the values and visions of AAUW. We are even planning a social for the summer to allow all of our branch's members to learn more about each other. More details on these programs are outlined in this newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Kathy

Last Month's Meeting



We were all so impressed with the energy and accomplishments of guest speaker, Heidi Ragsdale.

She worked at West Middle School before becoming ill. She is now a National Geographic affiliate and is a founding member of Geo Maker Institute, a National Geographic Society-supported training institute that promotes the understanding of GIS, the power of geography, and the building of sustainable ideas by training educators in techo-engineering systems like Tinkercad, which can be taught to students in the classroom. The Geo Maker Institute offers a four-week course where trainees make a story map of projects and how they are important. Training like enables teachers to take this knowledge and spread it to rural areas. School funding is often limited, and GMI pays to have the educators come learn. The institute is also supported by MakerSpace, which is located in Orchard Mesa. Membership is \$50, but people have the option of just taking classes there.

Other projects with which she is involved are "Where is Web?" which are updates about the newest space telescope, and "No Zipcode Left Behind," which is what allows GMI's training to be offered to those in rural communities. All projects are great for a school's budget as costs don't come from the school or teachers' pockets.

Latin-Anglo Association is an after-school program that also helps students from low-income housing gain access to training in STEM as it provides scholarships as well. The association hosts Grand Junction's Cinco de Mayo event and their funds are increased through a golf tournament. This will be their 50th year anniversary and hope to have 50 teams participating in honor of that.

Heidi is also involved with Delta Kappa Gamma, presiding as president. There are two chapters in town, and she affectionately called her chapter the "fun chapter".

Save the Date

The Women Who Make History Award Luncheon

March 19, 2022 at 11:30 am

At The Venue at Fisher's

Special Interest Groups

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.

- February 5 @ 1:00pm & 6:30pm)
Fathom Events presents **Live from the Met: Verdi's Rigoletto** (Encore)
at the Regal Theater 3 hours, 30 minutes
- February 11 @ 6:30pm
Country music artist **Josh Turner** – Avalon Theater
- February 11 @ 7:30pm
CMU Music presents **Bill Aikens, oboe & Brian Krinke, piano** - Moss Performing Arts Center – Love Theater
- February 12 @ 12:55pm
Fathom Events presents **Live from the Met: Fire Shut Up in My Bones** – Terrence Blanchard with libretto by Kasi Lemmons - at the Regal Theater 3^{1/4} hours
- February 14 @ 7:30pm
CMU Music presents **Valentine Faculty Gala**- Moss Performing Arts Center – Love Theater
- February 18 @ 3:00pm
CMU Music presents **Miguel Gutierrez – trumpet senior recital** - Moss Performing Arts Center – Love Theater
- February 27 @ 6:45pm
Let's Rock Broadway (keeping classic Diamond's sounds) - at the Avalon Theater

Coffee & Chat Group



This informal (fun) group will meet on **Saturday, February 26 at 9:30 am....at Traders Coffee & Tea**, 2648 Patterson Road, 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.

Members celebrating a Birthday in February are:

Lori Wood on the 4th

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER

AAUW of Colorado Public Policy Day

This coming Saturday, February 5 at 9 am

The theme of the day is ***Women in the Workplace. So How Are We Doing?***

This is a question many of us ask ourselves.

Tune into the program and hear some answers.

Legislative positions will also be addressed during the session.

The meeting is virtual. To register click [here](#).

Click [here](#) for details about the PPD program and speakers, or look at last month's newsletter.

You'll Want to Hear This Woman Speak!

Faith Winter, Colorado Senator, should be an AAUW member.

Senator Winter is the keynote speaker at Public Policy Day, February 5.

Her stellar list of sponsored and supported bills mirrors AAUW's Public Policy Priorities perfectly.

Equal Pay for Equal Work - YES

Paid Family and Medical Leave - YES

Improving education and teacher pay - YES

Equity in the workplace through the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act - YES

She's worked on **affordable housing**. She served on a national project to increase female representation in business, politics, and institutions.

This year, she's sponsoring a bill on **harassment in the workplace, and one to remove the discriminatory tax on diapers and menstrual products**.

TAKE ACTION: Don't miss your opportunity to hear Faith Winter speak at Public Policy Day.