



January Program – About Science/Geography Speaker Heidi Ragsdale

Heidi Ragsdale is a STEM educator’s educator! After nearly 20 years in eighth grade science, Heidi now runs STEM is My Future, LLC, where she provides professional development



for teachers with geographic information systems (GIS) technologies, problem-based learning, National Geographic’s Geo-Inquiry Process, and Maker Ed. Currently, Heidi works at Grand Junction MakerSpace and the Business Incubator, a community makerspace in western Colorado. She serves as a Space Exploration Educator Crew Orion member with Space Center Houston; a Space Foundation Teacher Liaison; a Solar

System Ambassador; a 2020 and 2021 National Geographic Society grantee; an Esri teacher trainer for GIS; a teacher forum member of 100Kin10; a Climate Literacy and Energy Awareness Network (CLEAN) ambassador; the webmaster for Colorado Delta Kappa Gamma; and on the board of the Latin Anglo Alliance Foundation. She is the founder of the Geo Maker Institute and #GJSpaceLadies, a group of like-minded space-loving educators who get it done! Heidi’s favorite things to make are beautiful digital maps, geo-jewelry, and a difference on Earth.

More about Heidi can be found in this article from National Geographic:

<https://blog.education.nationalgeographic.org/2021/12/07/engage-and-inspire-with-these-4-resources-on-the-webb-space-telescope/>

Date: Saturday, January 8

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 January 6

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 New Year (and I truly mean it)!

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we usher in a new, and hopefully kinder, year!

Though no one, for obvious reasons, will ever be happy or grateful that COVID-19 reared and evolved its ugly head, I have noticed that we have become stronger and more resilient after weathering the storm that has been these last two years. I say this as an observation of many of our personal plans having to be pushed aside or cancelled altogether. For better or for worse, this has resulted in no small number of people's focuses adjusting from personal matters to those on communal, national, and even world-wide scales.

This sudden allotment of "free time" could have easily been spent in the daily grind of sleep, eat, work, repeat, but we regularly hear in the news or social media of people coming together and making this an opportunity to take care of the world around us and to help keep our fellows afloat. We've heard this through activists tackling climate change in rallies and cleanup programs, seen this through shelters hosting more food drives for those effected by financial instability, and experienced this through the numerous volunteers who've helped make vaccines and new anti-viral medications more accessible, and so much more.

For the AAUW Grand Junction Branch's part, one way we've proudly helped make a difference in another's life is through the funding for one year of the *Women Veterans Scholarship* that we award to a female veteran studying at WCCC. Raising enough funds to provide this scholarship is extremely important to our Branch as it gives us the opportunity to help alleviate stress created from the common but costly household and childcare expenses, which the federal Veterans Benefits program does not cover.

We, the communities and individuals spanning across multiple generations, have the capability of leaving the lives and world around us better off than how we first found them, and we have shown that time and time again and will continue to do so even after we're able to put this pandemic behind us. It's easy to forget this sometimes, however, which is why we could all use the occasional reminder to look to the future while still being aware of the here and now.

Our upcoming meeting on January 8th, 2022, will show this through our speaker, Heidi Ragsdale, who is a long-time educator that has worked with our younger generations in STEM and Science and Geography. I am excited to learn what wonderful things are to come in both the present and the future! For more details on this informative first general meeting of the year, please see the rest of this newsletter.

With a positive outlook towards the future, I wish you all a wonderful start to the new year, and I hope to see you all on January 8th. 2022 BRING IT ON!!

Last Month's Meeting

Those attending the Holiday Social on December 11 enjoyed tasting fine wines, a delicious German-style mulled wine, and a charcuterie board of scrumptious fruit, meat and cheeses. All in the company of some very interesting women.



Pictured from the left: Jean Yale, Jane Fitzgerald, Kathy Singer, Samantha Singer, Dusty Dunbar, Lori Wood, Linda Heinrich, Virginia Brown

Happy Birthday to You

Your AAUW Branch wishes to acknowledge its members and let you know we appreciate you.

Members celebrating a Birthday in January are:

Kathy Singer on the 23rd and **Jeannie Dunn** 28th

For 14 decades, AAUW members and donors have transformed women and transformed the world ... from advocating for the creation of the United Nations in 1945 ... to creating the Coretta Scott King Fund for African-American women scholars in the 1960s ... to galvanizing the fight for the passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009.

In fact, I can't think of one milestone for gender equity over the past century and a half that AAUW hasn't had a hand in. **We've accomplished so much together.**

And with all the threats we face—to reproductive freedom, racial justice, voting rights and more—there is so much more history left to make. See next page to consider a 2021 donation.

Thanks for Including AAUW in Your Year End Giving

If you haven't yet contributed, it couldn't be easier! All donations made by Dec 31, 2021 (entered on website by midnight, or by check dated Dec 31 or earlier) are tax-deductible in 2021.

Giving Opportunities for 2021

2021 Above-the-Line Charitable Contributions

This year, thanks to the CARES Act, donors may take an above the line deduction for cash donations of up to \$300 (individual) or \$600 (joint returns), even if they do not otherwise itemize deductions.

Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from Retirement Account

The IRS mandates that older individuals take RMDs from their IRA each year after a certain age. These required withdrawals are subject to ordinary income tax. By making a charitable contribution from your IRA, you can satisfy the RMD requirement without reporting additional income.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)

Donors who do itemize deductions may make a direct transfer of funds from an IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity and deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income. (Previously limited to 60 %.) QCDs can be counted toward satisfying required minimum distributions for the year when certain rules are met.

To donate to National, which matches your donation through December 31, click below:

<https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/?treatment=140YEGMATCH&AppealCode=F22LELXTXX7A&emci=deeca27b-e65d-ec11-94f6-0050f2e65e9b&emdi=ff37ab5c-c068-ec11-94f6-0003ffc5857e&ceid=994682>

To donate to the Grand Junction Branch:

- Go to our branch website <http://grandjunction-co.aauw.net> and click on the Donate button in the upper right-hand corner. Then follow the instructions
- Write a check payable to AAUW Grand Junction and mail to:
 - Virginia Brown, 31845 willow Bend Road, Whitewater, CO 81527Indicate Branch General Fund or which Scholarship Fund in the memo line

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.

- January 1 @ 1:00pm & 7:00pm and January 2 @ 2:00pm
High Desert Opera presents **Mamma Mia** - Moss Performing Arts Center – Robinson Theater
- January 1 @ 10:55pm (Encore January 5 @ 1:00pm & 6:30pm)
 Fathom Events presents **Live from the Met: Massenet's Cinderella** –
 at the Regal Theater 110 minutes
- January 17 @ 1:00pm, 4:00pm & 7:00pm
 Fathom Events presents **Betty White: 100 Years Young – A Birthday Celebration**
 at the Regal Theater 1 hour, 40 minutes
- January 23 @ 10:55am
 Fathom Events presents *Live from Moscow* **Bolshoi Ballet: Jewels** featuring
 Choreography by George Balanchine with Music by Gabriel Fauré, Igor Stravinsky, & Piotr
 Ilyich Tchaikovsky - at the Regal Theater 2 hours, 20 minutes
- January 28 & 29 @ 7:30pm
CMU Music presents **Boat Songs: A Cabaret by Bonnie Montgomery**
 Moss Performing Arts Center – Mesa Experimental Theater
- January 29 @ 10:55am (Encore February 5 @ 1:00pm & 6:30pm)
 Fathom Events presents **Live from the Met: Verdi's Rigoletto**– at the Regal Theater
 3 hours, 30 minutes

Coffee & Chat Group



This informal (fun) group will meet on **Saturday, January 22 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.**

AAUW of Colorado PUBLIC POLICY DAY
Women in the Workplace: So how are we doing?
 Saturday, February 5, 2022 9:00 am – 12 Noon



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Faith Winter
 Colorado State Senator
 District 24

REGISTER for this
Zoom Webinar
TODAY

PANEL

Focusing on mental health and economic impact of women in the workplace

			
Dani Newsum Attorney & Reporter Panel Moderator	Dr. Erica Adkins, PsyD Faculty Director DU Military & Veterans Mental Health Clinic	Kaitlin Altone Organizer 9to5 Colorado	Elizabeth Johansen Engineer Human-Centered Design for Better Health Outcomes

In addition, you'll hear from

- AAUW member Betty Boyd and Public Policy Co-chair Su Ryden who will share an update on Colorado legislative issues as well as the 2022 call to action.
- Robin Lucas, National AAUW's Grassroots Advocacy Manager

* The link to the state website is <https://aauw-co.aauw.net/> - the promo is on the home page where there are also links to a more detailed program and the speaker's bios

* The Zoom registration link for the conference is <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEKce6pqzMqGd3S8gYc9qtfmuwm5sWsFWi2>