



You're Invited to Brunch !

*Each year the Grand Junction Branch of
AAUW (the American Association of University Women)
hosts a brunch to honor the scholarship recipients of
The Mary Rait/Mary Jewel Willsea Endowed Grant,
The AAUW WCCC Scholarship,
and The AAUW Women Veterans Scholarship*

Saturday, November 12, 2022

Please arrive between 9:45 and 10:00 A.M.

*The Golden Corral, Room 1
1100 Independent Avenue
Grand Junction, Colorado*

The Cost of a Buffet Meal is Less Than \$15

*Please RSVP (yes or no) by
November 10th, 2022*

to Jane Fitzgerald at 970-241-9684 or mjfitz2cats@gmail.com

Branch Administrator Jane Fitzgerald 970-241-9684
VP Programs Open
Secretary Loralee Kerr 970-523-5510

VP Membership Open
Treasurer Virginia Brown 970-201-0386
Newsletter Editor Jane Fitzgerald 970-241-9684

What You Missed Last Month

We all learned so much from speaker Shana Wade, Associate Library Director at Mesa County Libraries. So far, they have had only a few book censorship requests. When there is one, Shana walked us through the procedures the library employs. The first step is for the person wanting a book banned is for that person to submit a written request. Then they need to meet with Shana to determine if the person has actually read the whole book, or just a part, or just heard something on social media. If it is determined that the person might have justification, the issue is presented before the 7-member Library Board who makes a decision. Once the Board has decided, that specific book cannot be brought up again for a number of years. Board members serve for 5 years on a staggered schedule, and are originally appointed by the mesa County Board of Commissioners.

Shana did alert us to possible upcoming issues with banned books at Mesa County Valley School District 51, which apparently does not have the same rigorous evaluation procedures, and where some schools do not employ a school librarian full-time.

Next Month...December 10...Save the Date...Program Details to be Announced

Happy Birthday to You

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

Members celebrating a Birthday in November are:

Wanda Putnam on the 3rd, Peggy Rawlins on the 11th

Coffee & Chat Special Interest Group



This informal (fun) group will meet on **Saturday, November 26 at 9:30 am.... at Be Sweet Café & Bakeshop**, 150 West Main Street, Grand Junction. The group's only agenda is to chat, about whatever topics come up, from the frivolous to the serious. Come when you can; bring a friend. Call Jane at 970-241-9684 with any questions.

Shop AAUW: It's Where Our Brand Is Built

Check out the [ShopAAUW](#) site for all your AAUW-branded and patriarchy-smashing gift needs, even if the gift is to yourself! Our new arrivals to the shop— including mugs, journals, pens and wireless charging pads—will set you up for a cozy (but productive) autumn.

Thoughts from Jane

VOTE!

I am sure all of you have either done so, or are planning on doing so before the deadline of November 8. In the meantime, please consider encouraging others to do so...friends relatives, strangers. Write letters!

I just watched a portion of Barack Obama's speech in Detroit where he forcefully told the audience what was at stake if people sat back and did nothing thinking that their vote would not change anything in their lives. He is the kind of speaker that I wished I could be.

The National AAUW Action Fund website (<https://www.aauwaction.org>) provides a Voter Issue Guide for the 2022 midterm election on November 8th. This gives information about what's at stake in this election. "From our paychecks to paid leave, access to reproductive health care to access to education, there is so much at stake every time women head to the polls. Politicians and policy makers at all levels of government routinely make decisions about issues that directly affect us and our families. But more often than not, those conversations lack women's voices. As we enter this season of political punditry and campaign promises, we must identify those who would best represent our values and those who would roll back our rights.

To create real change, women must be part of the conversation, and the most powerful way for us to have a say is at the polls. As the 2022 Election Day approaches, we ask you to consider candidates through the lens of these seven key gender equity issues:

1. Voting Access.
2. Pay Equity.
3. Paid Leave and Care Infrastructure.
4. Workplace Harassment and Discrimination.
5. Health Care Access and Reproductive Rights.
6. College Affordability.
7. Campus Sexual Harassment and Violence.

Above all, make your voice heard on Election Day – and beyond."

KNOW MORE

Sign up as a [Two-Minute Activist](#) today and keep up to date on our policy work with our [letters, comments, testimony and legal briefs](#) to learn more about AAUW's positions and advocacy efforts.

Info from AAUW National

- **Pregnant Workers Can't Wait!**

Since 1978, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act has been the best defense for pregnant people who face discrimination on the job based on pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions. But many people who are pregnant still risk being forced out of the workplace simply for following doctors' orders. The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act would close the loopholes in the Pregnancy Discrimination Act and provide much-needed clarity to employers and workers to ensure workplace safety for pregnant workers.

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act passed the House of Representatives in May 2021. However, despite bipartisan support in both chambers, the bill has stalled in the U.S. Senate ever since. Pregnant workers should not have to wait any longer for protection. No one should face discrimination in the workplace because of a pregnancy. **Urge your senators to [pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act](#) before the midterm elections!**

- **ERA**

As a member of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) Coalition, AAUW continues to push for a Senate vote on S.J. Res. 1/H.J. Res. 17, which would remove the deadline to ratify the ERA. Join us in urging your senators and Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer to call for a vote to [pass the ERA and support equality for all!](#)

- **Respect for Marriage**

AAUW [joined](#) over 400 organizations in supporting the Respect for Marriage Act (H.R. 8404), which would protect marriages of same-sex and interracial couples and ensure that federal benefits are available to all married couples, no matter where they live. The bill passed the House of Representatives with broad bipartisan support on July 19, 2022 and now moves to the Senate.

- **STEMEd for Girls' Second Year of Success**

We're thrilled that the second year of our popular STEMEd for Girls virtual workshop series succeeded in reaching hundreds of teen girls! In a series of nine, 1.5-hour virtual sessions this summer, girls and caregivers learned about exciting opportunities in STEM fields, met some amazing women working in STEM, and explored career options that matched their skills and interests.

Read more in our [2022 STEMEd for Girls program summary!](#)