



## Program Meeting

**Saturday, January 14, at 9:30 am**

### *A visit to the Tiger Boutique and Haberdashery*

**Jodee Cronk** teaches French at Grand Junction High School. In 2017, the principal, Ari Goldberg, talked to Jodee about designing and implementing a service-learning advisory program, later dubbed the Agents of Change, made up of students who want to make the world a better place. The program accepted its first applicants in 2018. That fall, the group of ten freshmen held a toiletries drive for the House, the local teen homeless shelter. Their drive was so successful that the House couldn't store all the donations. The students had the idea to store the excess in Jodee's classroom closet for fellow students that might need them. Word quickly spread about the resource, and Jodee's closet became known as the Comfort Closet. They added donated clothing items, shoes, and school supplies and then Homecoming and Prom dresses. Over the years, the Comfort Closet has expanded and become the Tiger Boutique and Haberdashery, where Jodee and the Agents of Change work to offer basic necessities to students in need while removing the stigma of asking for help. During the first semester of this school year, the Tiger Boutique saw 374 documented visits by students.



### **Meeting to be held at Grand Junction High School**

*Directions: Park on Tiger Avenue. That is the street that runs along the south side of the GJHS campus between 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets. You will come in through the door that has a big SE over it. It is the door on the south-east end of the main U-shaped building. Jodee's classroom is room 116, the first classroom on the left in that hall. The Tiger Boutique has a connecting door to the classroom. Jodee plans to provide coffee and a French treat.*

### ***The Tiger Boutique will appreciate your donation***

of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant, body wash, perfume, cologne, body spray, feminine hygiene products, toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, mouthwash, dry shampoo, facewash, lip balm, make-up remover, hairbrushes, combs, shaving cream, razors, tweezers, new underwear, new or gently used bras, or anything else a teenager might need.

**Mark Your Calendar: Next Meeting on February 11....Details coming Soon.**

**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

## More About Jodee Cronk

Jodee Cronk (née Quarles) was born and raised in Grand Junction, Colorado and graduated from Grand Junction High School in 1994. Shortly after graduating, she moved to Laramie, Wyoming, but not believing the valley tales at the time, failed to take dirt from the surrounding mountain ranges.

At the University of Wyoming, she studied French and International Relations and was the baton twirler for the Western Thunder Marching Band. She married Brad Cronk in 1996 and changed her major to education after discovering her love of naughty kids while volunteering at a privately funded group home village in Laramie.

After graduating from UW, Brad and Jodee moved to Cottonwood, Arizona and welcomed their son, Jason. Jodee taught night school at an alternative charter school, but because they didn't take the dirt, they eventually returned to Grand Junction in 2000. Their daughter, Anela was born during their first year at GJHS, and they have both been teaching there ever since. Jodee earned a master's degree in education with an emphasis in curriculum and assessment in 2009.

Along with teaching French and overseeing the Tiger Boutique and Haberdashery, Jodee enjoys spending time with her family and dogs, gardening, traveling, reading, and learning languages.

## What You Missed Last Month

Unfortunately speaker Debra Kalish was unable to join the group in person due to exposure to COVID, but was able to talk to us about the non-profit Colorado Humanities via ZOOM. Most of us were totally unfamiliar with Colorado Humanities, but most were familiar with one of their programs:

- Authors and Chautauqua Speakers Bureaus
- Change in Rural Colorado, a series of community conversations
- Changing the Legacy of Race & Ethnicity, a panel and community conversation series
- Colorado Book Awards, a program that encourages & applauds Colorado's literary arts
- Colorado Encyclopedia, an online resource housed at History Colorado
- Colorado Poet Laureate, an advocate for poetry, literacy and literature in Colorado
- Various partnerships with local community events
- Young Chautauqua for elementary through high school students

Through members of our branch in attendance, Debra was introduced to the Foster Grandparent and Spellbinders programs in the local schools, which would correlate with programs she was considering establishing through Colorado Humanities.

Thanks to all of those who brought the delicious treats we were all munching through the presentation.

## Happy Birthday to You

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

New members please contact Jane with the date of your birthday.

Members celebrating a Birthday in January are: **Kathy Singer on the 23rd**

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### Coffee & Chat Special Interest Group



This informal (fun) group will meet on **Saturday, January 28 at 9:30 am....** at **Betty's Gourmet Coffee in the Hotel Maverick**, 840 Kennedy Avenue, Grand Junction (turn east on Kennedy from 7<sup>th</sup> Street at Eureka Science Museum). Betty's serves up locally-sourced pastries, coffee, breakfast, and lunch. 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.

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## Welcome New Members



**Nella Barker** writes "I was brought up in a small town in Massachusetts and spent my school years there except for 2 years in California, one year when I was 8 and the second time when I was 13. Those 2 years were significant years later when I made a major decision to move to CA. However, I did spend 2 years in Boston attending Katharine Gibbs.

In 1968 I moved to CA where my children grew up, and where I spent many years working for IBM and going to school nights to get a degree. I did receive a BA in Business Management from the University of Redlands and moved up to first-line management at IBM in field service.

Upon retirement from IBM, I moved to Colorado where I went into real estate. The move was to follow a couple of my children. Well, true to form, one moved back to CA, but the other is still in CO along with three of my grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Having recently retired from real estate, I moved from Rifle to Grand Junction where I am enjoying the many amenities of the city.

Moving here was a goal to be near restaurants and entertainment and the airport. I have traveled extensively, and like many others have spent the last few years frustrated at being limited in my travelling. I love to read and belong to the celebrated Reviewers, and I also love to garden which is relatively new to me. "

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**You will be Enlightened and Empowered!** You will want to attend this event because of all the information coming forth that is very important in our current times. The event is **Public Policy Day on February 4**, so mark your calendars today and register by clicking on the blue icon or on the picture of Dr. Medlock.... Who is Dr. Morgan Medlock, the keynote speaker? In January, 2022, Dr. Medlock was appointed the Behavioral Health Commissioner for the State of Colorado and a member of the Governor's Cabinet. She is an emergency psychiatrist and addiction medicine specialist by training. Dr. Medlock previously served as the Chief Medical Officer and Director of Crisis and Emergency Services for the Washington, DC, Department of Behavioral Health. She also served on the faculty of the Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Law, Brain, and Behavior at Howard University College of Medicine and has held a previous appointment as a Clinical Fellow in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Medlock's education includes an MD from the Mayo Clinic School of Medicine, her MPH from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and her MDiv from Andrews University.

# National AAUW Achievements in 2022

- ✓ In February, we partnered with the Eos Foundation to publish [\*The Women's Power Gap at Elite Universities: Scaling the Ivory Tower\*](#), which found that only 22% of presidents at elite U.S. research universities are women, and a mere 5% are women of color.
- ✓ This fall, we the update of [\*The Simple Truth\*](#) shows that, using the new calculation, women were paid just 77 cents for every dollar paid to men in 2021.
- ✓ We supported and celebrated the confirmation of [Ketanji Brown Jackson](#), the first Black justice to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.
- ✓ Following the [Title IX 50th anniversary](#) in June, we celebrated in style with AAUW alumna and U.S. Attorney Rachael Rollins. And we worked in partnership with members and other organizations to ensure the new proposed rules issued by the Biden Administration strengthen this landmark legislation.
- ✓ Last November, we kicked off our yearlong celebration of [AAUW's 140th Anniversary](#) with a festive event to present the 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Award to Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Ileawa, the first woman and first African to serve as director-general of the World Trade Organization.
- ✓ This summer, the Coca-Cola Foundation renewed its support of our [Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative](#) for another year. This allowed us to expand our partnership with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), and others to reach even more women with our award-winning Work Smart salary-negotiation program and financial literacy training.
- ✓ In May, we held our second successful all-virtual [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#)
- ✓ We Shared AAUW's Voice on Key Issues. From [podcasts](#) to [social media](#) to leading media outlets, we got the word out to everyone about the importance of our cause. This year's media mentions included the [Washington Post](#), [ABC News](#), [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#), [The Miami Herald](#) and [Diverse Issues in HigherEd](#).
- ✓ Because we kept up the pressure on Congress to pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, in December the Senate passed the legislation as an amendment to the Omnibus Bill. This bill will:
  - Give pregnant workers access to basic accommodations like carrying a water bottle and taking bathroom breaks.
  - Clarify that it is unlawful to discriminate against pregnant workers by forcing them out of their jobs unnecessarily or denying them reasonable accommodations.
  - Prohibit employers from retaliating against pregnant workers who request accommodations

