

**The Grand Junction Branch of
American Association of
University Women**
presents their 4th annual

**Women Who Make History Award
Luncheon**

Please join us as we honor our 2023 recipient

Heidi Ragsdale

STEM Educator and GeoMaker Institute Founder

April 15, 2023, 11:30 a.m.
DoubleTree Hotel
743 Horizon Dr.

Ticket cost—\$35.00
(Meal choice of Tri-tip beef or Vegetarian)
RSVP to Lalee at 970-523-5510 by April 10th
or
register online at <http://grandjunction-co.aauw.net>

(a portion of proceeds benefit our Women Veterans
Scholarship fund)



All Grand Junction Branch Members are urged to attend....and bring a Guest.

Branch Administrator Jane Fitzgerald 970-241-9684
VP Programs Open

VP Membership Open
Treasurer Virginia Brown 970-201-0386

Secretary Loralee Kerr 970-523-5510

Newsletter Editor Jane Fitzgerald 970-241-9684

Who is Heidi Ragsdale?



Heidi Ragsdale is a STEM educator's educator! After nearly 20 years teaching 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 Education resources, and Maker Ed. Currently, Heidi provides virtual training via Grand Junction MakerSpace, 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 and Mentor Educator; a Solar System Ambassador; a recipient of funding from the National Geographic Society and Delta Kappa Gamma International Educator's Foundation; a 2022 Girl Scouts of Colorado, Women of Distinction honoree, an Esri teacher trainer for GIS; a teacher forum member of 100Kin10; a Climate Literacy and Energy Awareness Network (CLEAN) ambassador; an art jurist for DKG International Art Gallery, the webmaster for Colorado Delta Kappa Gamma; and on the board of the Latin Anglo Alliance Foundation. She is the founder of STEM is My Future, [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 with her group, Colorado Space Crafts, and a difference on Earth.

Important Information

RSVP's are required for the luncheon....the Planning Committee would appreciate them soonest. The hotel is requesting a preliminary count on April 1.

Payment for luncheon needs to be made by April 10.



Slate of Candidates Announced for May Election

As many of you know, for the last few years several of our main positions on the Branch Board have gone unfilled, with other Board members covering necessary duties.

Now, we are pleased to announce that the following branch members have indicated a willingness to run for election to the Board:

Jane FitzgeraldPresident

Lori WoodVice-President Membership

Karen Pieper Hildebrand...Vice-President Programs

Carol Airoidi.....Treasurer

Loralee (Lalee) Kerr will continue on the Board as Secretary.

The election will be held at our May 13 Annual Meeting: their term of office starts officially on July 1. During the election process, other nominations may be made at that time.

What You Missed Last Month

Ramona O'Neill was the fascinating speaker at our branch meeting on March 11. She is currently the Acting Women Veteran Program Manager at the Grand Junction VA's Medical Center. She said in recent years there has been much progress in expanding services to the approximately 2 million female veterans in the US. By 2043 one estimate is that 43% of the veterans will be women.

For example, if a female veteran becomes pregnant, the VA has a Maternity Care Package which includes: a reference to a local provider; a phone call to the woman once a month to follow progress; paying for the first 7 days of the newborn...after private insurance or Medicaid; a phone call once a month after post-partum to check with veteran.

The VA will even pay for IVF if the female is married and infertility is service connected for either spouse...up to 6 attempts. Some studies indicate vets may have a higher incidence of infertility. The VA will also pay for an abortion in certain criteria of rape, incest, or health of the mother. And VA may provide some services to a transgender individual.

The VA now also covers mental health issues for women veterans. Besides battlefield trauma, 1 of 3 report incidents of sexual harassment, although women do not usually advertise that. Local VA employee Amy Hill Fife has developed a program for females who have experienced sexual trauma. The program has proven so successful that it is expanding to VA facilities throughout the US.

...Thank you, Lori Wood for bringing the delicious box-lunch chicken salad from Spoons.

Two Can't-Miss Inclusion & Equity Webinars

AAUW's national Inclusion & Equity Committee is pleased to offer two engaging and informative webinars this spring.

On **Monday, April 24**, from 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET, we'll share information with local branches and states as they prepare for [Celebrate Diversity Month](#) in April and the World Day for Cultural Diversity on May 21.

On **Wednesday, May 10**, from 7:30 pm–9:00 pm ET, we'll provide a [hands-on learning opportunity](#) for AAUW members to explore aspects of diversity and intersectionality.

Please join us by [registering](#) today.

Coffee & Chat Special Interest Group



This informal (fun) group will meet on **Saturday, April 22 at 9:30 am**.... on the patio at **Spoons Bistro & Bakery**, 3090 North 12th 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.

Meet AAUW's History-Makers

Since 1881, AAUW members, fellows and awardees have made pioneering advances in virtually every field. Check out our "[Faces of AAUW](#)" online gallery of trailblazing women, which includes Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize in 1903; Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to Congress in 1969; current Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor; and so many more. It's the perfect way to reflect and remember AAUW's world-changing impact this Women's History Month!

Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act

Last week, on March 14—Equal Pay Day—U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) reintroduced the Paycheck Fairness Act, legislation that would update and strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to help close the gender pay gap. Tell Congress to support pay equity and [pass the Paycheck Fairness Act](#).

If any Branch Member would like to attend to represent the Branch, some costs may be reimbursed....contact Jane Fitzgerald

AAUW of COLORADO 2023 STATE CONVENTION

Empowering Women: Keeping Up the Good Fight

Keynote Speaker:
Attorney General Phil Weiser

[Register Here](#)



Friday, April 21

- 12:00 – 3:00: Check-In at DoubleTree Hotel
 4:00 – 6:00: Tour and presentation - Aurora History Museum
 15101 E Alameda Pkwy, Aurora. Carpools arranged at hotel.
 Topic: **“Colorado’s Square Mile of Life Sciences”**
 – Fitzsimons Innovation Community
 Refreshments: Hors d’oeuvres and mocktails

Saturday, April 22

- 8:00 – 9:00: Check-In at DoubleTree Hotel, 13696 E Iliff Pl, Aurora, CO 80014
 9:00 – 9:15: Welcome
 9:15 – 10:30: **Fighting for Our Reproductive Rights**
 Panel of activists from Cobalt Advocates and COLOR Latina
 10:45 – 11:15: **Women Mean Business** – African Chamber
 11:15 – 11:45: **International Women’s Day** – Aurora Sister Cities
 12:00 – 1:15: Lunch
 1:15 – 2:15: **What Are We Doing About the Erosion of Women’s Rights?**
Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser
 2:30 – 3:30: Annual Business Meeting
 4:00: Adjourn and Socialize

Friday Evening's Activity at State Convention "Colorado's Square Mile of Life Sciences"

Where: Tour and presentation at the **Aurora History Museum**

15101 E Alameda Pkwy, Aurora. Carpools to be arranged at the DoubleTree hotel.

The Fitzsimons Innovation Community is undergoing a transformation into one of the nation's largest and most ambitious biotechnology communities of its kind. Learn more about how the Innovation Community is building on the strong roots that the industry is already seeing in Colorado.

Speakers:

April Giles - VP of Business Development for the Fitzsimons Innovation Community since 2018; former President and CEO of the Colorado Bioscience Association.



Neil Krauss - Assistant Vice Chancellor for Initiatives and Community Engagement at CU Anschutz.

12:00 – 3:00: Check-In at the DoubleTree Hotel, 13696 E Iliff Pl, Aurora, CO 80014

4:00 – 6:00: Tour and presentation at the Aurora History Museum
15101 E Alameda Pkwy, Aurora. **Carpools to be arranged at hotel.**
Topic: "Colorado's Square Mile of Life Sciences"
Refreshments: Hors d'oeuvres and mocktails

Registration Link for State Convention

https://aauw-co.aauw.net/aauw-colorado-state-convention/?mc_cid=17360c02c4&mc_eid=26bc179244.

News about Your Dues

News from National:

There will be an upcoming dues increase of \$5 for a total of \$72 (for National dues), effective on April 1st. Total annual dues will be \$108 which includes National, State and Local dues. **Please do not pay your renewal dues before the April 1st effective date.**

Renewal Information:

AAUW has changed renewal dates. For long time members who renewed with the July 1 date every year, your renewal date will not change. For new members, your renewal date will be the same as the calendar date you joined AAUW.

Your reminder email notifications will be sent by National from Membersinfo@AAUW.org 60 days before it is time to renew. The best way to renew is to click on the link in this notice and pay by credit card. You may also renew by submitting a check to the branch treasurer.

Important! If you choose to renew directly online after you receive your email renewal date notification, members will need to re-select their Branch and State, but not Education data! AND...you will need to apply under the same email address as is on National's record.

To Donate to AAUW National:

There are several ways to make donations to AAUW National's Greatest Needs Fund, NCCWSL Scholarship Fund, and others found on the AAUW National website.

1. If you have established your online personal portal account on the Community Hub at aauw.org, you can click on the Blue Tab for Renewals and Donations, OR the Orange Donate button found on the main page of website.
2. If you do not have an online profile account set up, you can mail a check with the designated donation in the memo line directly to the branch Treasurer.

To Donate to the Grand Junction Branch:

You can donate to our local branch by using the donate button found on the AAUW Grand Junction Branch website <http://grandjunction-co.aauw.net>, or by mailing a check made out to AAUW Grand Junction to the branch Treasurer. Indicate in the memo line if the donation is to the General Fund or to the AAUW Women Veterans Scholarship Fund.