



## Program Meeting

**Monday, September 11, at 11:30 am**

***Learn about the Food Bank of the Rockies***



Olivia Van Gundy, the Food Bank's Community Engagement Coordinator, will conduct a tour of their new facility and a discussion of their programs. Olivia is a graduate of CMU in Mass Communications and has worked for the Food Bank since last September.

The region west of the Continental Divide in Colorado is served by the Food Bank of the Rockies ....Western Slope Etkin Family Distribution Center. This allows the team based in Grand Junction, CO, to meet the specific needs of this large area efficiently and effectively. They partner with more than 140 Hunger Relief Partners in the region to distribute food and necessities to our neighbors struggling with hunger in 13 Western Colorado counties.

### **Meeting to be Held at Food Bank of the Rockies – Community Room 698 Long Acre Drive, GJ 81505**

Directions: Take I-70 Business Loop West to 23 Road. Turn Right onto 23 Road and continue to G Road.  
Turn Left onto G Road and continue 0.1 mile, then turn Left onto Long Acre Drive.



**\*Bring Your Own Brown Bag Lunch\***

**Branch President** Jane Fitzgerald 970-241-9684

**VP Programs** Karen Pieper Hildebrand 432-312-4747

**Secretary** Loralee Kerr 970-523-5510

**VP Membership** Lori Wood 970-234-5674

**Treasurer** Carol Airoidi 530-949-4448

**Newsletter** Jane Fitzgerald 970-241-9684

## President's Message

### WELCOME BACK !

I am so looking forward to our coming year and to seeing you all again at our monthly program meetings. Your AAUW Branch Board has been busy during the summer months. We held a retreat to go over what worked or did not work in the past, using that information to plan for the future. New branch officers were eased into their roles. We developed wonderful ideas for future programs. Our finances are in good shape....especially if you all renew your membership. We are working on some type of a member yearbook which should be available soon.

After having tried this for several years, the Board decided that the "Women Who Make History" award and luncheon will be discontinued. We were not getting the media exposure we had hoped for, nor attracting new Branch members. Also, the event did not produce enough income to cover all the expenses.

The AAUW Women Veterans Scholarship has been put on hold for the foreseeable future. We were unable to generate enough donations to cover the yearly \$1000 scholarship amount. Also, we have noticed that the local VA has stepped up with many new programs for female veterans. Instead, we will try to collect funds for our AAUW WCCC Scholarship. While this scholarship is endowed (originally at \$10,000), the principal does not generate enough interest each year to allow for a significant award.

What I would like to happen this coming year is for our Branch to develop new Special Interest Groups. These groups seem to be the source for most of our new members. So, if **you** have a hobby, an interest, something you would like to explore...please plan a meeting with some friends to get this started and let me know so that the info can be included in the newsletter for others to attend. Some of the other Colorado branches have a Book group (with or without wine), Monthly Lunch group, Movie group, Colorado History group, Culture & Cuisine group, Great Decisions group, Memoir Writing group, Meeting of the Minds group, Racism Study, Community Explorations group, Walking, or Hiking group.....ideas to get you started.

y..... Jane Fitzgerald

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## Coffee & Chat Special Interest Group



This informal (fun) group will meet on **Saturday, September 23 at 9:30 am**.... on the patio at **Spoons Bistro & Bakery**, 3090 North 12<sup>th</sup> Street Grand Junction. Come when you can; bring a friend. Call Jane at 970-241-9684 with any questions. This month's Discussion Topic will be: Women's Health Care.

## AAUW National in the News

On July 13, Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO-1) and Sen. Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY) introduced the ERA Now resolution (H.J. Res. 82), which would remove the ratification deadline and ask the Archivist to publish the ERA as the 28th Amendment. You can watch the [press conference for the ERA Now resolution here](#). AAUW strongly supports both H.J. Res. 25 and H.J. Res. 82.

On July 27, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted to increase funding for the Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid by \$150 million. (This includes increasing the maximum Pell grant award by \$250.) While the amount falls short of President Biden's budget request to increase funding by \$620 million, the increase in funding stands in stark contrast to the education cuts proposed in the House. Congress will continue to debate the appropriations bill in September.

In July, the White House took steps to provide debt relief to student loan borrowers by announcing plans to [enact a new debt relief program](#) under the Higher Education Act and discharge [\\$39 billion in student loans](#) for 804,000 Americans through fixes to income-driven repayment plans. AAUW joined more than 175 organizations in calling on President Biden to enact his new plan as swiftly as possible and deliver urgently needed relief to borrowers.

In observance of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30, AAUW CEO Gloria L. Blackwell hosted a virtual event with Dr. Laura Dean, Director of the Human Trafficking Lab at Millikin University and an AAUW American Fellowship alumna, on combatting global human trafficking. [Watch the recording here!](#)

The National Governors Association has launched a new effort called "[Disagree Better](#)." The initiative's goal is to diffuse political polarization through public debates, service projects, and public service announcements. It aims to model a more positive and optimistic way of working through our political disagreement. [Check out this video](#) with Govs. Spencer Cox (R-UT) and Jared Polis (D-CO) on the importance of civility.

### The 2023 Colorado Legislative Session Review .... Su Ryden, Public Policy Co-Director

**AAUW Actively Supported** -- 44 Bills.... 37 passed and were signed by the Governor

**AAUW Supported** -- 40 Bills..... 33 passed and were signed by the Governor

**AAUW Active Opposition** 15 Bills ..... all were killed

**AAUW Opposition** -- 2 Bills ..... both were killed

### 2023 Colorado Public Policy Action Priorities

- 1) To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls.
- 2) To achieve economic security for all women.
- 3) To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society.

**Our AAUW Member Anita Pisciotte invites You to Attend:**



## **Local Air, Climate & Land Initiatives**

**7 PM**

**Monday, Sept. 11**

**Unitarian Universalist Church**

**536 Ouray Avenue**

Moderator: Tanya Travis: Past President LWVMC  
Environmental Activist, Artist and Filmmaker

### **Program Panelists**

#### **TOM PHILLIPS**

Retired Chemical Engineer with expertise in air monitoring working with the Grand Valley for Citizens Clean Air (CCA).

#### **LAURA BLOOM**

Scientist and Regional Organizer on energy and climate issues for the Western Colorado Alliance for Community Action (WCA).

#### **KATHRYN BEDELL**

Rancher and Veterinarian on the Board of Directors of the American Grassfed Association.

#### **JANET WYATT**

Chair of the Western Slope Sierra Club.

### **LWVMC PROGRAM COMMITTEE PRESENTATION**