



Monday, April 8, 2024

PROGRAM: The Grand Valley Resettlement Program with Bob Hedlund

Bob Hedlund is the Founder and President of Joint Development Associates International, Inc. He earned a B.S. in Mining Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines in 1975 and founded JDA in 1992. Bob and the JDA staff strive to act as catalysts for transformation, facilitating families in providing for themselves.



Bob has been involved in rebuilding communities in Uzbekistan since 1992, northern Afghanistan since 2001 and Northern Iraq since 2017. He has enabled rural communities to rebuild their infrastructure, construct new schools and homes, and promote efficient and appropriate farming techniques. Over 200,000 farmers have been trained in new crops and mechanized farming methods.

In light of the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, JDA and Help the Persecuted collaborated to evacuate 101 families, comprising 568 individuals, to Abu Dhabi in October 2021. In response to the crisis, JDA established the **Grand Valley Resettlement Program (GVRP)** to assist families in relocating to the Grand Valley. This initiative has brought together over 300 volunteers and 18 churches, as well as various civic groups, resulting in the successful resettlement of 15 families.

Bob and his wife have two children, Jonathan and Jaala, who are both pursuing their passions in Denver and overseas. Bob and Cathy now reside in Grand Junction, Colorado.

LOCATION: Skyline Building – Conference Room at 751 Horizon Court, GJ

(from Horizon Drive turn right between WW Peppers and America's Best Value Inn onto Horizon Court)

MEETING TIME: 11:30 AM

REFRESHMENTS: Bring your own brown bag lunch and a friend or two

Branch President Jane Fitzgerald 970-241-9684
VP Programs Karen Pieper Hildebrand 432-312-4747
Secretary Lorelee Kerr 970-523-5510

VP Membership Lori Wood 970-234-5674
Treasurer Carol Airoidi 530-949-4448
Newsletter Jane Fitzgerald 970-241-9684

WHAT YOU MISSED LAST MONTH

AAUW's visit to the La Plaza headquarters on March 11 was very eye-opening. It all started in 1954 when some fruit growers' wives joined forces to improve the living conditions of the migrant workers. In 1969 those efforts coalesced into what eventually became Child and Migrant Services. As conditions and laws changed, the idea of establishing a welcoming community where newcomers could find a sense of belonging resulted in the non-profit organization...La Plaza, a name which refers to the open plaza in every South American hometown.

La Plaza facilitates members' access to resources such as health clinics, tax prep, hunger & economic relief programs, navigation of legal systems, interpretation and translations. They provide transportation to La Plaza for resource nights and social activities. They try to remove obstacles and provide support so that the member may enjoy the best quality of life.

In order to connect with migrant and immigrant families, La Plaza has an extensive outreach program, visiting worksites to find people to help. They have a small fleet of vans which can be used for transporting members to various appointments, as needed. La Plaza interacts with various other non-profits, churches and agencies, such as Marillac Clinic.

La Plaza's budget last year was about \$400,00. Major funding comes from various other non-profits such as Community Foundation and Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition.

La Plaza operates out of a small building in Palisade, which houses a commercial kitchen and a smallish meeting room as well as offices, and food and clothing distribution areas. They also routinely make large batches of tamales which are available for sale to the public.

Coffee & Chat Special Interest Group



This fun and informative group will meet on **Saturday, April 27** starting at **9:30 am**. We are going back to **Spoons Bistro & Bakery**, 3090 North 12th Street, Grand Junction.

We will meet on **The Patio**.

Come when you can; bring a friend(s).

This month's **Discussion Topic** will be "Legislators: age vs. experience vs. fresh ideas".

DID YOU KNOW?

With special consultative status with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, AAUW attends briefings, organizes events, submits statements, and participates in coalitions to take action on issues that impact women and girls around the world.

From Branch President Jane Fitzgerald

GOOD NEWS: On March 5, I (as representative of the Branch) received a letter from Tremayne A. Parquet, AAUW's Deputy Director of Advancement stating that "We are thrilled to inform you that, based on your survey responses, the **AAUW Grand Junction (CO) Branch** has achieved **two stars** in the FY23 AAUW Five Star Recognition Program. This achievement is a testament to your dedication and commitment to advancing our mission, and we applaud your leadership and members for your outstanding contributions in the following categories: Communications and External relations & Programs."

We have had some really informative program meetings this year, focusing on local non-profits. **I will be sending a separate notification about our May program meeting.** This will be your chance to participate in the program selection. The Board wants to know what program-type that would interest you the most. The May meeting is our Annual meeting, with election and induction of officers.

At a prior program meeting, members present had a chance to review the points urging a "yes" vote on welcoming those without a degree and why it should allow us to better achieve our goals as we can help educate and advocate for all members. **Voting opens on April 3, 2024** and online voting ends at 12:00 pm ET on May 15, 2024. Each AAUW member has the chance to vote and will receive an email with their unique Elector ID and Password to vote. **Those with no email address** will be sent a paper ballot by mail on April 3. I urge you to submit your vote.



The **AAUW Colorado State Convention will be May 3-4** this year. I will be unable to attend. There are **funds available** if any branch member would like to attend to represent our Grand Junction Branch.

AAUW Colorado State President Joan Brown has written: "Now that you see the lovely place for the convention and the inspiring speakers, you might ask yourself this question: **"Why should I take the time, effort, and money to go to this AAUW annual convention?"** Let me give you a few reasons why conventions are worthwhile.

1. First of all, don't you enjoy associating with like-minded people? In this wide range of people coming from all sorts of backgrounds, you build your own network of ideas to bring home for yourself and your Branch.
2. *The speakers expand your knowledge, give you advice for your Branch, and give you a fresh perspective.*
3. You have an opportunity to give feedback on your successful ideas. In fact there will be a get-together for any interested people on **May 3 at 8:00ish in the main conference area at the Antlers** specifically for socialization and exchange of ideas.

*Conventions give you an opportunity to learn, exchange ideas for solutions, and dig deeper for an understanding of your powerful AAUW. **I do hope that you will seriously consider attending the convention this year and why not bring some of your friends with you for a great time of learning and socializing.***

AAUW of Colorado 2024 State Convention



Women in Leadership: Barriers and Bias

The Antlers Hotel
Colorado Springs, Colorado
May 3-4, 2024

Join us **Saturday, May 4 from 9:00 AM-3:30 PM at the Antlers Hotel, in downtown Colorado Springs** as we explore **Women in Leadership: Barriers and Bias**. You won't want to miss this full day of dynamic speakers, robust discussion and opportunities to interact with fellow AAUW members!

- How has the rise of women's leadership in business, the military, academia, government, and nonprofits changed these institutions for good?
- Why/where are there still leaks in the leadership pipeline?
- How can we navigate/eliminate barriers and bias?

And there's more!

Choose to arrive on **Friday, May 3 to join us for the evening Pre-Conference at the historic Peel House**, just a short and easy drive from **The Antlers**. And don't forget to make hotel accommodations if staying overnight. See the Pre-Conference and hotel accommodation boxes below for additional information.

[Click here for registration details for the Conference and Pre-Conference](#)



Rebecca Love Kourlis
CO Supreme Court Justice
1995 - 2006



Brigadier Gen. Linell Letendre
AFA Dean of Faculty



Julia Brown
AAUW Board Chair



Dr. Pam Shockley-Zalabak
UCCS Chancellor & Professor
Emerita

Friday Evening Pre-Conference

Friday, May 3, 2024, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM



The Peel House

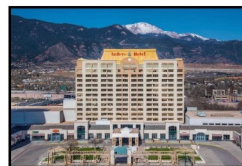
1515 N. Cascade, Colorado Springs
Short driving distance from The Antlers

Enjoy delectable small bites and libations and great conversation as we open our exploration of Women in Leadership, with a look at the forgotten women of STEM. You'll find their stories thrilling, tragic, frustrating, and inspiring, but always fascinating!

Our guide for this casual evening will be Jessy Randall, published poet and author of *Mathematics for Ladies*.

Hotel Accommodations

The Antlers, a Wyndham Hotel
4 S. Cascade, Colorado Springs



- Members are responsible for making reservations for overnight accommodations.
- Overnight Accommodations: \$139 plus taxes
- Overnight Parking: \$10, in and out privileges
- Day Parking: Free for those attending Saturday only
- Breakfast available at hotel, not included in price
- Check-in after 3:00 pm Friday, May 3
- Click [here](#) to make overnight room accommodations.

Deadline for Hotel Accommodations: April 26, 2024

Note: Those needing an accessible room, or those who would like to extend their stay, pre or post-conference, should call the Antlers Reservation line at 719-955-5600 and reference the AAUW Conference to receive the conference room rate. Also, contact the hotel if you require an earlier check in.