



Monday, September 16, 2024

Fall Kickoff!



PROGRAM: Meet our Colorado Mesa University Scholarship Recipients

Each year our Grand Junction Branch of AAUW (the American Association of University Women) holds a luncheon to honor the scholarship recipients who this year are:

The **Mary Rait/Mary Jewell Willsea Endowed Grant**:

Cristal Ferguson, Hailee Starks, Ashley Machado,
Sierra Shaw-Navarro, and Victoria Owen

and **The AAUW CMU Tech Scholarship**:

Leilani Domingo.

Note: while the recipients are invited, some may be unable to join us in person because of other commitments.

And...Branch Update and Business Meeting

LOCATION: The Ale House – Patio at 2531 North 12th Street, GJ

MEETING TIME: 11:30 AM

RESERVATIONS: Please contact Jane Fitzgerald at 970-241-9684 or mjfitz2cats@gmail.com **no later than Friday, September 13**. This is a courtesy so that the restaurant will have the proper number of seats available.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ?

Special interest groups are one of the best ways to grow our membership. If you have an interest that you think others might also share, how about starting a group? It could be Great Discussions, Wine, Books, Food, or..... Bring a sign-up sheet to this meeting and tell us about your special interest.

Let's get a few new groups going!

Branch President Jane Fitzgerald 970-241-9684

VP Programs Bonnie Kosanke 970-589-1320

Secretary Susan Swift 970-361-6517

VP Membership Lori Wood 970-234-5674

Treasurer Karen Pieper Hildebrand 432-312-4747

Newsletter Jane Fitzgerald 970-241-9684

from Branch President Jane Fitzgerald

While you all were enjoying your summer, your AAUW Branch Board was not as idle. We met for a day-long retreat in July where we reviewed our finances and membership status, coming up with some group-think ideas on how to improve. We made some possible decisions for monthly programs for the coming year.

Then using those ideas, Jane and Lori met with **Cher Hendricks, Ph.D.**, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Colorado Mesa University, to review information from AAUW's College/University Member Toolkit and encourage her to pursue CMU's collaborative membership with AAUW. She was exceedingly friendly and interested, but indicated she needed to get a committee approval. Unfortunately we recently learned that the proposal was turned down.

Jane and Lori also met with **Rick Adelman**, Associate Director of Development at CMU...and our main contact at CMU Foundation, to discuss the possibility of having a statue made of Mary Rait to be placed on the CMU Campus. The placement would coincide with the commemoration of CMU's and our AAUW's 100th Anniversaries. Rick was very enthused about our proposal and sent it on to the CMU Anniversary Committee which included Tim Foster and CMU current President John Marshall. It looks like this may be a GO as Tim Foster is in the process of getting bids from local sculptors. Mary Rait was instrumental in organizing our branch as well as being one of the 6 original professors at what is now CMU.

Jane and Mary Beth Buescher have been working on the required update of the branch Bylaws, as well as the Branch Policies and Procedures. This should be ready soon for State and Branch approvals.

Jane was also working on planning her 80th Birthday Tea Party which was held at the Botanical Gardens on September 8. I hope those of you who were able to attend enjoyed the event...I know I certainly did! Thank You.

Coffee & Chat Special Interest Group



This fun and informative group will meet on **Saturday, September 28** starting at **9:30 am**. We meet at **Spoons Bistro & Bakery** on **The Patio**, 3090 North 12th Street, Grand Junction.

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

This month's **Discussion Topic** will be

"Mesa County Payments to Religious Institutions....Right or Wrong?"

VOTING INFORMATION

There isn't much time ...

Ballots will be mailed out on October 11.

Help to **Get Out The Vote (GOTV)** no matter what your party is.

Yes, we Coloradans have automatic registration via driver licenses, but some folks may still need encouragement. Consider these: recently-moved apartment dwellers; young, mobile, (less-motivated?) voters; the incarcerated population who are not actively serving sentences; recently naturalized citizens - many of these could use that extra push from you to vote.

Here's where to start.

[Vote411](#) (League of Women Voters) has personalized registration and ballot information.

[AAUW Voter Issues Guide](#) has national issues we care about. Also on that page - the Congressional voting record - how did our electeds do? And coming October 4, the Head-To-Head guide, comparing national candidate views on AAUW issues.

AAUW's voter engagement campaign, It's My Vote!, exists to empower you to lead voter education and registration efforts on the ground, in your community. Explore our [Voter Issue Guide](#). Tune into AAUW's social media channels for election-related content every Tuesday and share with your networks. Plan a watch party for the presidential debate (September 10). Your engagement this election season is vital in shaping a future of equality.

The good news? When women vote, we change the conversation. Check your registration status [here](#).

As we navigate these pivotal (and exciting!) times, let us stand united in our pursuit of lasting impact and change. Your voice, your vote, and your support are the cornerstones of our shared vision for equity.

News from National AAUW

It's also Back-to-School time, and our Fellowship & Grants team is hard at work, welcoming more than 260 new fellows and grantees for the 2024-25 academic year. We've also launched a mentoring program to further support our F&G alumnae's careers and strengthen connections within our community. None of this would be possible without your dedication and support.