



In Celebration of America's Free Elections

Monday, October 14, 2024

SPECIAL EVENT: A Tour of the Mesa County Elections Office

Mesa County Clerk and Recorder, **Bobbie Gross**, will guide us through the elections office and the new security upgrades. She will also talk about the newest grant monies to increase security. This will be an hour-long tour. Wearing walking shoes is advised.

Bobbie was elected to the position in November of 2022. In addition to elections, the County Clerk is responsible for the functions of Motor Vehicle, Recording, Liquor and Marijuana licensing and Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners.



LOCATION: Mesa County Central Services Building, 200 South Spruce Street, GJ



This location is just south of West Main Street, in the same building as the DMV. Use the door towards the west. It is marked "Elections Office". Parking is available in front of the building.

MEETING TIME: 11:00 AM Tour leaves promptly at this time

Note: We have extended an invitation to the League of Women Voters to join us at this event.

LUNCH: The Goat and Clover Tavern, 336 Main Street - on the North side of Main.

Gather for lunch directly after the tour. We have the private dining room reserved - ask for AAUW when you arrive. We need to be seated at the Goat & Clover by 12:15 – 12:30 pm. Lunch selection will be off the menu and paid individually. There is no program or speaker planned at the lunch.

RESERVATIONS: for lunch can be made with Bonnie Kosanke at 970-589-1320 or email at bkosanke44@gmail.com. We do not need reservations if you are just attending the tour.

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

On September 16, we enjoyed a wonderful luncheon on the patio at the Ale House. This meeting was our annual "Meet our Scholarship Recipients" event. Our major scholarship is given to non-traditional students, so they usually have much to share about their path in getting back to college. Those AAUW Branch members present also shared their stories....very few of our members had a straight path from high school to an eventual life career. Unfortunately because of employment and other commitments, only two of our 6 recipients were able to be present today.....Cristal Ferguson and Victoria Owen.

The recipients of \$2,166 each for the **Mary Rait/Mary Jewell Willsea Endowed Grant** to be used for the 2024-2025 academic year are: **Cristal Ferguson** – majoring in Early Childhood/ Special Education (also 2003 recipient); **Hailee Starks** – majoring in Nursing; **Ashley Machado** - majoring in Pre-Nursing: RN to BSN; **Sierra Shaw-Navarro** – majoring in Nursing: LPN to BSN; **Victoria Owen** – majoring in Psychology.

In addition, one \$1000 **AAUW CMU Tech Scholarship** was awarded to a full-time student enrolled in a non-traditional major. The award went to: **Leilani Domingo** – majoring in Pre-EMT/Paramedic (also 2003 recipient).

Cristal Ferguson
Jane Fitzgerald
Susan Swift
Linda Heinrich



Linda Heinrich
Carol Airoidi
Shawndel Schadle
Karen Pieper Hildebrand



Bonnie Kosanke
Benita Phillips
Claudette Konola

Notes from AAUW of Colorado

Election related information has been added to the state website (<https://aauw-co.aauw.net/>) that you may find useful for the upcoming election. Please note that there are various links provided that include both AAUW National and LWV information. Also, as previously requested, we are providing a list of branch and other useful meetings addressing the election.

AAUW of Colorado Positions on 2024 Ballot Measures

BALLOT#	TITLE
ACTIVE SUPPORT	
Amendment J	Repealing the Constitutional Definition of Marriage
Amendment 79	Constitutional Right to Abortion
Proposition KK	Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax
ACTIVE OPPOSITION	
Amendment 80	Constitutional Right to School Choice
NO POSITION	
Proposition 131	Establishing All-Candidate Primary and Ranked Choice Voting General Elections

NOTE: For a complete list of statewide ballot measures, click here: [Statewide Ballot Measures](#)

Coffee & Chat Special Interest Group



This fun and informative group will meet on **Saturday, October 26** 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 "Colorado Amendment 80, the Constitutional Right to School Choice Initiative".

Possible New Special Interest Groups

- * **Friday Night Social**...Proposed to meet monthly (probably the 3rd week) at about 6 PM. Purpose will be to try out a new local restaurant, or an old favorite. Spouses too? Further details next month.
- * **Discussion Group**....Linda Heinrich to have further details in January
- * **Anyone else?**....Send info to Jane for next newsletter....or have a trial run 1st

Introducing two new Members of the Grand Junction Branch

Shawndel J. Schadle - I was born in Denver, Colorado. I graduated high school in 1984 and began college at the University of Colorado. After 3 Semesters, I joined the Army in 1986 as a Military Analysis Specialist. Since I had over a year of college, I entered as an E2, private second class. I was stationed in Korea for 13 months and spent the rest of the time in Ft Hood Texas, now called Fort Cavazos. I was honorably discharged in 1990 with the rank of E5 Sargent. I attended University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Temple, Texas, graduating with a BA in 1993, majoring in psychology with a minor in political science. My first job working with troubled youth was in a residential treatment center in Belton, Texas for 2 years while I was completing the BA.



In 1993, I was ready to return home to Denver to be back with my family. There I gained experience working with mildly developmentally disabled adults in a group home setting and as a Social Worker with the elderly in a nursing home, including those with Alzheimer's. Eventually I found a job with the State of Colorado working with youth in juvenile jail. I went back to college at the University of Phoenix, completing my Master's of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy in 2008. I met the man I wanted to grow old with that year on a scuba diving trip. While attending classes for my master's degree, I was able to take classes with the State to become a substance abuse counselor. I conducted alcohol classes in Division of Youth Services, and later with an another agency to achieve the hours needed to obtain a License Addiction Counselor, LAC in 2021.

I moved to Grand Junction in October 2019 with my partner and continued to work for the State at Grand Mesa Youth Service Center. I facilitated drug and alcohol groups with the youth there as well. I retired from the State after 25 years to work with adults in Mesa County Community Corrections as a full time Substance Abuse Counselor in April 2022, to this present day. On a side note, my partner and I have continued to take scuba diving trips and have spent the last 16 years growing older together and sharing 2 dogs and a cat.

Contact Info: 1219 La Mesa Lane, Fruita, CO 81521, shawndels@msn.com

Jan S. Ryan - I hail from Columbia, Missouri, where my education spanned kindergarten through grad school. In 1970 I graduated from Stephens College with a BA in fine art and a strong minor in biology and geology. I attended the University of Missouri in the MFA program but science kept calling me so I switched to another BA in geology from M.U. While still completing yet another degree in secondary education, in 1975 I was hired at Colorado National Monument as a seasonal park ranger. That began my 24-year career with the National Park Service, which had been my dream since childhood. I was assigned to park areas in Missouri, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, retiring in 1999 as the Chief Ranger at Tonto National Monument in AZ.

My husband, Bruce Anderson, was also with the NPS as an archaeologist. Through the years, we spent more time separated than together, as our career paths took us various places. When we retired, we bought a home in Crawford, CO to be near close friends and areas we both loved. Bruce did contract archaeology work while I took jobs as a seasonal park ranger for Colorado State Parks, working at Crawford, Sweitzer, and Paonia State Parks and doing lots of school nature programs. That continued for five years until the funding for my position ran out. Meanwhile, I was also employed part time at Crawford Public Library, where I worked as an assistant librarian for 18 years. Sadly, Bruce passed away in 2008.

I enjoy reading, hiking, kayaking, pastel painting, scrapbooking, traveling, and watching British TV shows. I have a rather large family right now: dogs Charlie and Daisy, cats Olive and Archie, plus a new addition since my beloved sister passed away--kitty Cola. I love where I live on the hill above Crawford with a wonderful view and lots of privacy. And trails right out my back door!

Contact Info: P.O. Box 366, Crawford, CO 81415, 970-921-3921, janryan@tds.net