



HOLIDAY GET-TOGETHER BRUNCH

Monday, December 9, 2024

At the Home of Carole Airoidi

2528 Woody Creek Drive, Grand Junction 81505

From G Road, turn north onto Lime Creek Road (between 25 and 25-1/2 Road), continue to Woody Creek Drive



Arrive at 11:30 am with your Potluck Item of Choice

RSVP's (Yes or No) Are Requested by December 6

(Carol may need to provide additional chairs. Let her know if you have ones available.)

Contact Carol at 530-949-4448 or email calemondrop@gmail.com



Your Holiday Feel-Good Activity

This year please bring donations for **The Clothes Closet**

at Central High School which provides free items for students in need.

See page 2 for a list that teacher Katie Rutan has indicated are their current needs.

Katie says "Thank you for reaching out to support our students.

Even just crossing off one or two of these items would be huge!"

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

Items needed for The Clothes Closet

New Socks Men's/Women's

New Men's Boxers - sizes S to 3XL

Men's 3XL Shirts

Men's M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL Sweatpants, Athletic Shorts, Jeans

Men's XL, 2XL, 3XL Hoodies

Men's Bodywash

Men's Shaving Cream

Men's Shampoo and Conditioner

Men's and Women's Body Spray

Men's and Women's Deodorant Combs + Brushes Face Wash (Acne)

Face and Body Moisturizer

New Ladies Bras - All sizes

New Ladies Underwear S- 2XL

Women's Shampoo and Conditioner

Ladies XL and 3XL Shirts

Ladies XL, 2XL, 3XL Sweatpants, Leggings, Jeans

We also always are accepting of any hoodies and winter jackets for women and men.

SAVE THE DATE

NEXT GENERAL PROGRAM MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025

11:30 AM

featuring

JOHANNA VARNER, PH.D.

Award-winning Associate Professor of Biology at Colorado Mesa University

PLACE TBD

Coffee & Chat Special Interest Group



This fun and nonpartisan group will meet on **Saturday, December 28** starting at **9:30 am** at **Be Sweet Cafe & Bakeshop** in **The Conference Room**, 150 West Main Street, GJ.

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

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

"Defund the IRS?"

WHAT YOU MISSED LAST MONTH

Marian Coleman spoke at our General Program Meeting on November 12. She is employed as a Patient Services Assistant for the Women Veteran Program at the Grand Junction VA Medical Center (which has a 5-star rating). The meeting was held at the Western Region One Source Building, which is operated by the Colorado National Guard. She indicated that the two entities (Federal and State) try to work closely together for the benefit of women veterans.

The Women Veteran Program provides oversight for the care and services that are provided at the VA Medical Center and by their community partners to ensure that the women are treated with dignity, respect and in a safe environment.

From Marian's talking points:

The services we offer at the VA for Women Veterans are:

Comprehensive Primary Care: We recently hired a designated Women's health female MD this gives the female veteran the choice of a male or female provider.

- Preventive Services: Immunizations, mammograms (off-site), pap-smears, diabetic education and more
- Mental Health: Mental illness, substance abuse treatment, depression, sexual trauma
- **Maternity Care Services:** partners with community partners, pays for delivery, seven days of newborns life, and post-partum.
- **birth control options**
- **Infertility services**
- **Pelvic Floor Physical Therapy**
- **Outreach:**
 - Women Veteran Coffee Hour: First Thursday of the month: One Source from 0900-1100
 - Two Baby Showers a year
 - Women Veteran Town Hall
- We are getting ready for Women Tea retreat.
- Currently have 1250 Women Veterans enrolled for services at VA Western Colorado Health Care System
- We have over 3500 Women Veterans in our catchment area. We want to spread the word that we are here to serve and encourage every Women Veteran to enroll for services. They can also stop by the VA eligibility and enrollment office located on the 4th floor of the main hospital or go online to register@va.gov

She said that various non-profit groups such as VFW, Moose, etc. donate funds to help with the Outreach Services. One group in Aspen donates bathrobes. Her office is not allowed to place advertising in media.

Marian invited us to view a statue of 4 women veterans which is located in Collbran.

Bylaws Updates

The revised bylaws for Grand Junction AAUW, Inc (our local branch) were presented to members by email in advance of the meeting on November 12, 2024. Members present were Jane Fitzgerald, Benita Phillips, Erna Ingram, Claudette Konola, Jean Yale, Lori Wood, Carol Airoldi, Linda Heinrich, and Bonnie Kosanke. Members indicated that they had received and read the revised bylaws. Carol voted to accept the revised bylaws as written. All agreed. A quorum was reached.

Later, at lunch at Tequila's Restaurant, the Branch Board met. Board member Karen Hildebrand was not present. The Board voted to accept the revised Branch Policies and Procedures as written and distributed in a prior email. The Board also voted to pay the yearly Insurance.

The revised Bylaws and Policies were submitted to the Colorado AAUW State Representative Sue Bodis, who later emailed that they were accepted. The revisions will be posted on the branch's website.

What does AAUW National Do

Subject Matter Expertise: We have historically produced in-depth studies on topics like the gender pay gap and women in leadership roles.

While we haven't produced reports recently due to limited funding - we have done high level analysis of pay gap data recently released. We are frequently asked to comment on topics related to pay equity, student loan debt and other issues related to gender equity. You can see our recently updated page on Latinas and the pay gap for example here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/latinas-and-the-pay-gap/>

We have tens of thousands of social media followers across all platforms and have well over 1million website viewers - ensuring that our brand remains prominent and relevant. Gloria has been invited to White House events on at least three occasions recently.

- On a Global level – CEO Gloria Blackwell is AAUW's representative to the UN - and our work in this capacity provides great reputational value related to global gender equity work.

Fellowships & Grants: We award and administer over \$6M in fellowships and grants each year to hundreds of women in the US and Internationally.

- We also connect our members and branches to these awardees and alumnae and have an Alumnae Relations team charged with growing and maintaining relationships with our thousands of distinguished Alumnae.

I know this is a Blank page....Computer refused to delete it.