



Monday, January 13, 2025

PROGRAM: Participatory Science with Pikas, and Other Interesting Work

Speaker **Johanna Varner, PhD** will expand our knowledge about pikas, as well as talk about her other work for which she has won National recognition.

Johanna Varner received a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in biological engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She then changed gears to study ecology and evolutionary biology at University of Utah for her doctoral degree. She is an Associate Professor of Biology at Colorado Mesa University. In addition to teaching and conducting research on the ecology and behavior of American pikas (*Ochotona princeps*), she is committed to science communication and to inspiring the next generation of scientists.

Also, **Dr. Varner** was part of the team that recently won the Grand Prize in the #XPRIZERainforest, a 5-year and \$10M competition to develop novel technologies that autonomously and rapidly survey rainforest biodiversity.



Note: If you are unfamiliar, the American pika is found in the mountains of western North America, usually in boulder fields at or above the tree line. They resemble their close relative, the rabbit, but with short, rounded ears.

LOCATION: Fiesta Guadalajara Restaurant, 710 North Avenue, Grand Junction

We will meet in the private room on the left near the front door. Lunch selection will be off the menu and paid individually. Fiesta does offer some vegetarian and possibly gluten-free items.

Here is a link to the menu: <https://www.fiestaguadalajaraco.com/menu/>

MEETING TIME: 11:30 AM

RESERVATIONS: Please contact Bonnie Kosanke at 970-589-1320 or email her at bkosanke44@gmail.com. This is needed for restaurant seating.

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



What you missed Last Month



at

The Annual Branch Holiday Luncheon

at the home of Carol Airoidi

December 9, 2024



Looks like we are ready for a nap after eating so many goodies.
Even though it does not show here, we shared lots of laughs that day.

Our Program Meeting Next Month

(Mark your Calendars)

Monday, February 10, 2025

11:00 am

A Tour of the Community Food Bank

followed by

Lunch at the Village Inn

Coffee & Chat Special Interest Group



This fun and informative group will meet on **Saturday, January 25** 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
"Recognizing our Hidden Biases....Stereotypes, Prejudices, Etc"

WHAT DOES AAUW NATIONAL DO?

Salary Negotiation and Financial Literacy Training: Offers training and resources for women to develop skills to be financially empowered.

- In particular our Work Smart, Start Smart and Money Smart trainings provide valuable resources and tools for women to become economically empowered. Nationally we work with organizations such as the HBCU Career Center, Tri Delta, Coca Cola Foundation, Finra Foundation, SAGE and others to bring these trainings to thousands of women across the country. These trainings were developed and are updated and managed by the National office. They have been independently evaluated by two separate entities and continually receive very high ratings from participants.

Membership Services: Provides support and resources for local branches and members, including access to national networks and events.


- We host all aauw.net websites, process dues, support 990 filings, and maintain our history and globally recognized brand. Without AAUW National - AAUW branches would instead be independently organized entities who would not be networked with one another or have the ability to utilize the AAUW name.

In essence, while AAUW National sets the strategic direction and focuses on broader issues, local branches implement programs and initiatives that directly benefit their local communities. Together, our aim is to work towards the common goal of advancing gender equity.

A message from Tremayne A. Parquet, AAUW's Deputy Director of Advancement

It is with great pleasure that I share **some exciting news**—AAUW Grand Junction (CO) Branch has achieved a star in AAUW's **FY24 Five Star Program**! Your branch attained the **Communications & External Relations** star. This recognition is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and commitment of your branch members to advancing AAUW's mission of gender equity for women and girls.

The Five Star Program is designed to honor branches that align their work with AAUW's strategic priorities in areas such as Advancement, Public Policy & Advocacy, Governance & Sustainability, Programming, and Communications & External Relations. Earning a star is an incredible accomplishment, and we are thrilled to celebrate this success with you.




AAUW
of Colorado

PUBLIC POLICY DAY
Saturday, February 1, 2025
9am—Noon on Zoom

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:
30 Years of *Shining the Light***


The Violence Against Women Act turns 30 this year. What does the Act do? It provides funding and programs to help the recovery of female victims of violence. The renewed act expanded federal protections to LGBTQ+ individuals, Native Americans and immigrants. Public Policy Day 2025 will explore Colorado's efforts to counter Violence Against Women.

Featuring:



State Rep. Monica Duran
House Majority Leader
Representative for
House District 23

State Rep. Meg Froelich




Representative for
House District 3
Proposition KK Sponsor

Elizabeth Newman
Public Policy Director, Colorado
Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Roshan Kalantar
Executive Director,
Violence Free Colorado


Llen Pomeroy
Associate Vice Chancellor and
Title IX Coordinator for the CU
Boulder campus

Debi Hunter Holen
Victim's Rights Advocate,
Colorado Victims for Justice



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY WOMEN
OF COLORADO

Or Scan
Here to
Register



To Register use this link, not the button in the ad:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CLQryjFJSxadBsmhYTMNnA?ics=1733344832384&irclickid=~c42ROVQW1SWYZURILMU0QHIMJBEFizosjqosujka810UNGAsleb4&gl=1*1trxi5e* gcl_au*MTA4OTk4MzMzMyNi4xNzMzMzQzNDYz* ga*MTM1MDQyMTE4OC4xNzI0MjU2MzA0* ga_L8TBF28DDX*MTczMzM#/registration

Notes from President Jane Fitzgerald

Okay....so after November, we are all seem to be somewhat concerned about the coming legislative sessions and the future of women's rights. However, as National AAUW suggests....don't panic.

- Reserve judgment on national issues until the path is clearer.
- Remember. Democracy works on ALL levels of government. Concentrate on state/county/city needs now.
- Join with allied women's groups on issues you care about.

As AOC once said, "*Hope is not something that you have. Hope is something that you create, with your actions.*" Here is what you can do to TAKE ACTION this month:

- ✓ Register for **Public Policy Day 2025** to be held on Saturday, February 1. Learn how Colorado is Shining the Light on Violence Against Women. Meet the women who are working to enforce protections at home, at school, and at work. Hear what AAUW's advocacy achieved this year and how you can help in the future. The sign up link is with the flyer in this newsletter.
- ✓ An easy way is to sign up for AAUW's **Two-Minute Activist** at <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>. Then when a nudge is needed to influence your federal lawmakers, your inbox will receive a suggested note addressed to your legislator(s). An issue summary makes it easy for you to personalize the message if you wish. Push the button and your opinion will be known. The link will show you a list of other actions that may be needed.
- ✓ Consult the calendar (which all residents of Grand Junction receive) to find city council or other meetings to attend to make your opinions known.
- ✓ Here is the link for Mesa County Commissioners and other county meetings: <https://www.mesacounty.us/departments-and-services/commissioners/business-commissioners/public-hearing-information>.
- ✓ And here is the link to find information about school board meetings: <https://www.d51schools.org/board-of-education/meetings>.

- ◆ **Branch membership booklets** are now available, thanks to Lori and Jane. Pick one up at the next meeting, or we will deliver/mail one to you.
- ◆ We wish a speedy recovery to Linda Heinrich after a stubbed toe resulted in a broken shoulder.

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Save the Date

AAUW OF COLORADO ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 26, 2025

We are looking at a hybrid Zoom program allowing both in-person and virtual participants. Watch for exciting details about the program coming soon.