



**Monday, February 10, 2025**

**11:00 AM**

**A tour of the Community Food Bank**

**Led by Carly Luebber**

**476 28 1/2 Road**

**Grand Junction, CO 81501**

**followed by Lunch at the Village Inn**

**We will meet at Community Food Bank (CFB) pantry for tour and services talk at 11:00. [Note the earlier time.] The tour will be led by **Carly Luebber**, who is a client navigator.**

The Community Food Bank was established in 1978 and serves over 11,000 clients annually and delivers food boxes to 250 homebound clients every month. They recently purchased the 7th St Deli and will reopen it as the 7th St Community Cafe this Spring. This social enterprise endeavor will help support CFB activities, offer job training for CMU culinary students and provide healthy food for our community.

You may find more information about the Community Food Bank at <https://www.foodbankgj.org>

The mission of the Community Food Bank is to advance community health and economic stability in Mesa County by boosting nutritious food access and addressing root causes of food insecurity.

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**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** Shawndel Schadle 720-388-6977

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AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

The Grand Junction Branch is a 501(c)(3) organization.



### A Feel Good Event for February

United Way of Mesa County will hold its Unite the Night benefit concert on Feb. 7, 2025. The concert features live music from local musicians The Lost Junction Band and Peach Street Revival.

All proceeds from the event will go towards local nonprofit programs that benefit the unhoused community. The concert will take place at Warehouse 25sixty-five in Grand Junction. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show will begin at 7:15 p.m. Standing room tickets are **\$29.43**. Tables were sold out. Tickets can be purchased at [A night for UNITED WAY of MESA COUNTY with PEACH STREET REVIVAL and The Lost Junction Band — Warehouse 25Sixty-five Kitchen & Bar](#)

For more information, contact United Way of Mesa County at [impact@uwmesacounty.org](mailto:impact@uwmesacounty.org), 970-243-5364 or visit [their website, https://unitedwaymesacounty.org](https://unitedwaymesacounty.org)

### Coffee & Chat Special Interest Group



This fun and nonpartisan group will meet on **Saturday, February 28** starting at **9:30 am**

Location: Be Sweet Caffe and Bake Shop  
150 W Main St Ste C, Grand Junction, CO

This month's **Discussion Topic** will be the influences of African Americans in our history.

### The March meeting

will take place **March 10, starting at 11:30.**

We will tour the HopeWest PACE facility and learn more about the program.

Location: **2754 Compass Drive, Grand Junction, Co**

Spoons will provide lunch. 

HopeWest PACE provides a person-centered approach to care. Our philosophy is based on balancing the medical, emotional, physical and social needs of seniors in our program.

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## Notes from President Jane Fitzgerald

Thanks to those branch members who recently braved the cold to participate in the local People's March. (Women's March expanded this year to be more inclusive to other marginalized groups). I very much appreciate your commitment to the cause(s). I feel like a wuss not to have been there. Our latest Coffee & Chat proved to be very productive. The attendance was way up at Be Sweet...the conference room a little crowded, but OMG the breakfast bowls looked scrumptious. The discussion on Hidden Biases proved to be insightful, with much sharing of thoughts. The 2014 Interest Group brochure from the Medford Oregon AAUW Branch triggered interest in starting some new groups here. So we will be trying:

\*ACT (AAUW Community Team) The idea is for groups of women to work on a short-term community project. The tasks would be worthwhile and might put AAUW in the public eye and generate new members. There might be several different projects going at the same time. Lori and I are currently involved with the project to place a statue of Mary Rait, a founder of our branch and one of the 1st professors at what is now Colorado Mesa University, to coincide with the 100th Anniversary of the branch and of CMU.

Benita Phillips will be attempting to convert the former Grand Junction Regional Center into useful space by forging a private/public/academic partnership to save and enhance the planning and remodeling the land and buildings. She envisions learning venues to do so.....CMU engineering and architectural schools, as well as training in skilled jobs from CMU Tech; CMU nursing school for mental health practicums if a new mental health facility would open there; Local law enforcement as current detention centers are overcrowded with mental health prisoners; possible housing for the unhoused. If you would like to help with this task, contact Benita at 970-245-8335, so that she can set up a meeting.

\*The Supper Club Good friends, laughter and wine enhance the dining experience. Let's meet once a month at a different restaurant. Those in attendance could then choose the place for the following month. Let's try the last Friday of the month at 6 pm.....this month that would be February 28.....and meet at the Rockslide. Spouses welcome. Contact Jane at 970-241-9684 or [mjfitz2cats@gmail.com](mailto:mjfitz2cats@gmail.com) by the **February 27th** so that I can arrange seating.

There was also interest in a mystery book group and a wine tasting group. Just let us know the time and date, so we can announce it in the newsletter.

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Almost time to think about Income Tax. Just a reminder: \$72 of your National AAUW dues is tax deductible.

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Welcome New Branch Member

Add this information to the membership list in your Yearbook.

**Campbell, Nicole Inman**

1518 O Road, Loma, CO 81524 <> 970-985-822 <> [nicki@chipeta-archaeological.com](mailto:nicki@chipeta-archaeological.com)

BA, Mesa State College,

## 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.**

### WHAT YOU MISSED LAST MONTH



**Monday, January 13, 2025**

**11:30 am**

featuring

**Johanna Varner, Ph.D.**

Award-winning Associate Professor of Biology at Colorado Mesa University

We learned about the American Pika - what it eats, its habitat, what it sounds & looks like and that marmots are very mean to them! Had some yummy Mexican food & good conversation with some great ladies.

(Thank you Lori Wood for the pictures and words)