



The March Program

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,**

Meet at the West entrance,

We will meet at Applebee's for lunch- 711 Horizon Drive, GJ

Please contact Bonnie if you plan to attend the tour and if you are going to Lunch.

Bonnie Kosanke 970-589-1320, Email bkosanke44@gmail.com

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.

PACE stands for the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly. PACE is a comprehensive health care program created over 30 years ago. The program is designed to enhance the quality of people's lives. As one ages, it sometimes becomes difficult to remain in our own home and live independently. PACE is designed to make that easier by providing medical and support services so one can be safe living at home for as long as possible.

With PACE, a team of health care professionals works with each individual to make sure needed services are coordinated. PACE programs get to know their participants and design services to meet each person's unique needs.

Branch President Jane Fitzgerald 970-241-9684

VP Membership Lori Wood 970-234-5674

VP Programs Bonnie Kosanke 970-589-1320

Treasurer Karen Pieper Hildebrand 432-312-4747

Secretary Susan Swift 970-361-6517

Newsletter Shawndel Schadle 720-388-6977

The April Program

The speaker is Holly Oberle from CMU. She will be talking about her studying and teaching abroad.

The date is April 14 at 11:30 at Fiesta Guadalajara at the corner of North and 7th Street.

Special Interest Groups

Coffee & Chat Special Interest Group



This fun and informative group will meet on **Saturday, March 22** 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 -Self care during turbulent times.



The Supper Club

This group plans to sample a different local restaurant on the last Friday night of every month. Time with good friends, laughter and wine will enhance the experience. Spouses & friends welcome.

Join us at **Moody's Lounge, 546 Main Street** (mezzanine level), GJ

March 28, 6 pm

To ensure seating, contact Jane at 970-241-9684 or mjfitz2cats@gmail.com by March 27



Walking around Town

This group will walk on easy trails or around town each month to get some fresh air exercise, while learning more about the Grand Valley.

Join us **Saturday, March 8** at **10 am**

By the covered picnic tables....same parking lot as Western Colorado Botanical Gardens

(drive south on 7th street to where it ends at Riverside Parkway. Continue thru stoplight and turn left onto Struthers Avenue. The parking lot will be immediately on your right.)

 **New Fun Idea:** During the last Coffee & Chat, we discussed showcasing photos of interesting benches around the Grand Valley to incorporate into a picture book. While walking around, we can take pictures. If you have any interesting pictures of benches or know here to go for a great photo, please email me Shawndels@msn.com or Jane mjfitz2cats@gmail.com.

Local Current events




International Women's Day Painting Party

Saturday, March 8th | 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM \$10 Cover + Price of Pottery | Adults Only

Join us for an evening of creativity, community, and empowerment as we celebrate International Women's Day with a special painting event. This night is about more than just art—it's about honoring strength, resilience, and the power of women supporting women. Your \$10 cover fee will be donated to Hilltop's Latimer House, supporting their mission to promote equity, end intimate partner violence, and provide compassionate advocacy for those in need.

<https://www.hilltoplatimerhouse.org/>

 What to Expect:

- Paint Your Own Pottery – Choose any piece you'd like to create your own meaningful work of art.
- Themed Silk Screens – Inspired by empowerment and unity, available to add a special touch to your pottery.
- Snacks & Connection – Enjoy a welcoming space to gather, share, and create together. This is a sign-up-required event with limited space. Let's come together to create, reflect, and support an incredible cause. ❤️ Reserve your spot today and be part of something truly meaningful.

AAUW Two-Minute Activist

Support AAUW's mission by joining the Two-Minute Activist program. Send emails and texts to legislators about equal pay, family leave, sexual harassment prevention, education equality, and more. Sign up for alerts and take action promptly with this link: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

NOTES FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

HAPPY WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH !!!

Western Colorado Alliance of Mesa County and their **Just Housing** committee invites us to engage with candidates running for a seat on the Grand Junction City Council on **Saturday, March 8, 1 to 2pm** in the **Mesa Community Room at the Mesa County Library Central Branch, 443 N 6th Street, GJ.** "We are hosting this forum for City Council candidates because we believe our democratically elected representatives should be deeply involved with their constituency."

Public Policy Day 2025 was a moving and informative Program. If you missed it, or want a refresh, go to AAUW of Colorado website at <https://aauw-co.aauw.net/> to review the video recordings of each of the speakers.

I hope you all are receiving and reading the **Membership Matters** emails from Katrina Sun Breese at AAUW, or others from State. If not, get back on our distribution list by clicking on this resubscribe link. Here are some of the March Highlights:

AAUW in Action: AAUW acts on a range of issues that align with our Public Policy Priorities through engaging our action network, advocating through social media, and signing coalition letters. In the first few weeks of the 119th Congress, we have endorsed letters on protecting Title IX and education equity (opposing Linda McMahon's nomination as U.S. Secretary of Education), civil rights (opposing H.R.28 and EO 14166), economic security (supporting the Job Protection Act), and reproductive rights.

All letters endorsed can be found here.

AAUW Art Contest Winners! We are thrilled to announce the winners of the 2025 AAUW Annual Art Contest! This year's contest showcased stunning artwork from our members. The winning pieces will be featured in our exclusive notecard collection, arriving in mailboxes this spring.

New Members Needed: The branch really needs to grow our membership in order to remain sustainable. So please share your enthusiasm for supporting women and girls by reaching out to friends and acquaintances with information about AAUW's mission and our branch's activities. You might engage with prospects by inviting them to a program and/or interest group meeting, or even by giving them links to AAUW national, state and branch websites.

On March 8, 2025, please remember to celebrate **International Women's Day** under the theme, "For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."

The first International Women's Day (IWD) was held in March 1911. This year's theme calls for action that can unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all. Central to this vision is empowering the next generation—youth, particularly young women and adolescent girls—as catalysts for lasting change.

As Ruth Bader Ginsburg said: "As women achieve power, the barriers will fall. As society sees what women can do, as women see what women can do, there will be more women out there doing things, and we'll all be better off for it."

IWD isn't country, group or organization specific. It's a day of collective global activism and celebration that belongs to all those committed to forging gender equality.

While International Women's Day is marked worldwide, some countries have declared IWD as an official holiday, including: Angola, Armenia, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Laos, Madagascar, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, Russia, Uganda, Ukraine, and Zambia. Surprisingly, the United States is not yet on this list.

Notably, the year 2025 is a pivotal moment as it marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This document is the most progressive and widely endorsed blueprint for women's and girls' rights worldwide that transformed the women's rights agenda in terms of legal protection, access to services, youth engagement, and change in social norms, stereotypes and ideas stuck in the past.

- The declaration was also the first global policy document on women that included a specific focus on girls' rights.
- Before 1995, only 12 countries had legal sanctions against domestic violence. Today, there are 1,583 legislative measures in place across 193 countries, including 354 targeting domestic violence specifically.
- Today, there are 112 countries with National Action Plans on women, peace and security—a significant increase from only 19 in 2010.

It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political.

A sub-theme for IWD is "Accelerate Action", which is a worldwide call to acknowledge strategies, resources, and activity that positively impact women's advancement, and to support and elevate their implementation.

As individuals, we can all take steps in our daily lives to positively impact women's advancement. We can call out stereotypes, challenge discrimination, question bias, celebrate women's success, and so much more. Additionally, sharing our knowledge and encouragement with others is key.