



The April Meeting

Monday, April 14 at 11:30 at Old Chicago

120 North Ave, Grand Junction, Colorado

Private Meeting Room

Speaker - Shenna Hayden

Executive Director- Museums of Western Colorado

"Museums as Gateways to Lifelong Learning and Equity"

Shenna Hayden's presentation will explore how museums serve as vital institutions for lifelong learning and equitable access to knowledge. Focusing on the Museums of Western Colorado, the discussion will highlight how museums empower individuals and communities by preserving cultural heritage, amplifying diverse voices, and providing inclusive educational experiences. Join us to discover how museums inspire growth, foster equity, and connect people across generations through the power of learning.

Shenna Hayden has over 14 years of experience in museums and passionately believes in their role as cornerstones of community learning. She often says, "Museums are safe spaces where everyone is welcome to learn side by side."

Shenna began her career at the Witte Museum in San Antonio, Texas, contributing to the \$100M "New Witte" project and developing K-12 programming. In 2019, she joined the Hands On Children's Museum in Olympia, Washington, where, as Assistant Director, she navigated the challenges of COVID while fostering engaging experiences for visitors of all ages.



She holds a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Baylor University, has pursued post-graduate work in Museum Studies at the University of Oklahoma, and is currently earning her MBA at Colorado Mesa University.

Fun Facts: Shenna, her husband Rodney, and their 11-year-old son spent 18 months exploring the western U.S. and Canada in an RV during Rodney's acoustic concert tour. A former rodeo competitor, Shenna loves the outdoors, hiking, fishing, and cooking in her free time.

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 Shawndel Schadle 720-388-697

NOTES FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

AAUW of Colorado Annual Meeting & Conference on April 26: Be sure to register for the Zoom meeting via the link at the bottom of the ad in this newsletter. In addition to good speakers, there will be voting on Officers as well as on the Proposed Bylaws (a copy of which I previously emailed you).

Grand Junction Branch Election of Officers: The Nominating Committee determined that for the following open positions the current officer was willing to continue in that position: President - Jane Fitzgerald, VP Programs – Bonnie Kosanke, Treasurer – Karen Hildebrand. Elections will be held at the May Meeting. If anyone else would like to run for these positions, please let us know so that you might be included in the election.

AAUW National Elections 2025: Voting opens on April 14 noon, ET. Members will receive an electronic ballot with their unique voting credentials from vote@simplyvoting.com, our third-party voting service. Add this email address to your safe sender list to ensure your ballot reaches you. Members without an email address on file will receive a paper ballot. Eligible voters are those who were members as of March 14, 2025. Voting closes on May 13, 5pm ET.

AAUW National Dues Increase: Starting April 1, 2025 individual member dues will be \$74 (National), \$18.81 (Students), \$1,480 (Lifetime). Fully tax-deductible. Link to the website with more information: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/membership-dues-change-talking-points/>
Branch dues remain at \$26, and State at \$10. National will send a reminder email to you when yours are due, i.e. the anniversary of your joining, or July 1 for long-time members.

AAUW Scholarship Update : Our Branch Scholarship Committee met last week and selected the proposed 2025/2026 recipients from the many applicants. As soon as CMU Foundation confirms these, we will announce the winners. CMU Foundation has notified me that February marked the 19th Anniversary of our Mary Rait/Mary Jewell Willsea Endowed Grant, and April marks the 27th Anniversary of the AAUW-CMU Tech Scholarship, which was endowed by the sale of our chocolate cookbooks.

....Jane Fitzgerald

Save the Date
Monday, May 12

This will be our branch's Annual Meeting & Election of Officers
We are still planning the where and what the entertainment will be....
But, it should be really Special

National Equal Pay Day

April 8, 2025

The National Equal Pay Day is set on the day in the year when a woman would have finally caught up with her male contemporaries' wages from the previous year. The difference in Equal Pay Day dates (March 25th and April 8th) reflects the varied gender pay gaps across different racial and ethnic groups, with March 25th representing the general "All Women's Equal Pay Day" and other dates highlighting the specific disparities for women of color. We regret not informing you in time to mark March 25.

Women have, ever since history and work began, been paid lower wages for doing the exact same job. Over half a century after pay discrimination became illegal in the United States, the persistent pay gap between men and women continues to hurt our nation's workers and our national economy. All over the world, the unequal treatment of men to women is a serious problem. Strides have been made in recent years but there is still very far to go.

Learn About Pay Equity

Part of the solution to this issue is to get more people informed. To do this, it is important to have some facts and figures at hand so that people can understand exactly what is going on in the salary arena of workplaces. While statistics can vary from country to country, here are some interesting bits of information that may help to encourage education and conversation around the topic:

- Overall, **a woman earns only 82 cents** for every dollar that a man earns. And the gap widens with women of color. In fact, it is estimated that a Latina woman will earn only 55 cents for every dollar that a white man earns, putting her equal pay day far back into the year, on October 21.
- In 1973, the gender pay gap was much worse, when women only made 57 cents for every dollar that a man made. That means that progress has certainly been made in the last 50 years, but still more is needed!
- National Equal Pay Day falls later in the year for mothers as well, as they would have to work until June 4 in order to make what fathers would make in the workplace.
- **Even highly educated women are affected** by these wage differences. For instance, a black woman with an advanced degree earns only 70% of what a white man with advanced degrees earns. In fact, on average most women with advanced degrees (no matter their color) earn less than a white man with only a bachelor's degree.

Pay equity will remain an AAUW priority until the gap is fully eliminated. We hope *The Simple Truth* motivates and empowers you to join us in this cause.

Download The Not So Simple Truth 2025 Update

A red purse has become a symbol of Equal Pay Day as it symbolizes women's earnings "in the red" due to the wage gap. Carry yours on April 8!



**ANNUAL MEETING AND
CONFERENCE**
SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025
9 AM ON ZOOM
(Registration Link Below)

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

ELECTION OF OFFICERS and APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO BYLAWS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

AAUW Supports Teen Girls' New Challenges

Featuring: ABIGAIL HASSEN



Abigail Hassen, MA, LPC, LAC received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY and holds a Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling from Regis University. Abbie is a dedicated and compassionate licensed professional counselor and licensed addiction counselor with over a decade of experience in mental health and crisis intervention.



AAUW NATIONAL UPDATE

with CHERYL SOROKIN

Cheryl Sorokin has held leadership positions at the AAUW branch and national level, including serving on the national board since 2017, and is currently Board Chairman.



The registration link for the meeting is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/1GDRkn35Ra-hbcFEtjWwPA>

You will need to register in order to get a join link.

Special Interest Groups

Coffee & Chat Group



This fun and nonpartisan group will meet on

Saturday, April 26 starting at **9:30 am**

Location: **Spoons** - Outside Patio
3090 N 12th St, Grand Junction, CO 81506.

This month's **Discussion Topic** will be decided at the meeting.



THE SUPPER CLUB

Dine in a different local restaurant on the **4th Wednesday** of the month.
Time with good friends, laughter and wine will enhance the experience.
Spouses & friends welcome.

April 23, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Join us at **Ocotillo Restaurant and Bar** at **Redlands Mesa Golf Course**

2325 West Ridges Boulevard, Grand Junction

Directions: From Hwy 340 (Broadway) turn on Ridges Boulevard.

Where there is a divide, take the right lane onto West Ridges Boulevard and continue to the golf course.

Park in the golf course's lot and enter the building.



Picture This ... Walk & Talk Group

Enjoy a leisurely walk around a neighborhood lake this month.

Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Meet at Jean Yale's House
1035 Lakeside Drive, Grand Junction

We will have the opportunity to take pictures of the lake and interesting benches.

Last Month's Meeting at PACE at HopeWest:

Our small group had a very informative tour of the facility. PACE stands for the "Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly". It was launched in September 2021. PACE is designed to make living independently easier by providing an interdisciplinary team, which includes nurses, doctors, therapists, social workers, transportation to the PACE facility, etc. Those qualified are over 55 years, live in Mesa County, and can live safely with PACE services. PACE accepts Medicaid, Medicare and private payments. We observed exercise rooms, several craft areas, game rooms, TV rooms. There are even shower rooms for those unable to manage at home, and also a barber and hair salon. Many of the 220 current clients were enjoying a soup & yummy individual pizza in the large dining area. Spoons prepares all the meals which are transported to the site....which does have a small kitchen. Volunteers are available to help with games, projects and lunch. Small bouquets of dried flowers in a teacup are available for clients to take home. Our guide indicated that the program has expanded so quickly that they will need to convert some existing HopeWest conference rooms to be used by PACE. Further information and photos may be found at: <https://hopewestpace.org/>

Pictures from the March, walk and talk.



Walking around the Los Colinas trail behind the Botanical Gardens.



Las Colonias Arboretum DAR Benches. (Daughters of the American Revolution)

April Community Events

The Twenty-Second Annual Holocaust Awareness Series will be held at Colorado Mesa University (CMU) April 7-11, 2025. The Holocaust Awareness Series is an interdisciplinary forum of events and seminars that focuses on the origin, experiences, and implications of genocide in the modern era. It considers not only the Nazi regime but also those victims of government-sponsored atrocities in other countries. All events are free and open to the public. For information about the specific events go to:

<https://www.coloradomesa.edu/civic-forum/engagement/holocaust-awareness-series.html>.



BUZZ ON DOWN TO THE PALISADE INTERNATIONAL HONEYBEE FESTIVAL Saturday, April 12, 2025.

It begins at 10 a.m. as the festival kicks off at the Town Plaza in Downtown Palisade. Other events include costume contests for your pets, elementary school spelling bee, chef demonstrations and educational discussions.

If you would like more information, you can visit their website.

<https://palisadehoneybeefest.org>