AAUW Meeting

3/26/2018

Art Space

Speaker: Aimee Heckel (Author)

Minutes

*Announcements*

* The April 23 meeting will be held at the Sweetheart Winery (Amy Blackwell will be the speaker)
* Book Club will meet at Martha DiCicco’s home next month. The book will be *The Story Teller* by Jody Picoult.
* March 27,28 is the AAUW State Convention

The second day has most of the speakers. You must register by April 18th. You can find the registration link on the AAUW CO website. There is $250.00 in the budget for registration. The cost of registration is $75.00. It will be held at the Highlands Ranch Hilton Garden Ranch. If you plan to stay at the hotel registration is due by March 30th. The national AAUW board chairwoman, Julia Brown will be the keynote speaker.

* Equal Pay Day April 10th
* It would be great to support Jackie Marsh at the City Council meetings. Stop by her store or send her a note to let her know you appreciate her leadership.
* UD Graduate School of Social Work (Women Collaborative Group) is hosting a free seminar on “Women and the Environment: Opportunities and Impact”

It will take place on April 17 from 5:30-7:30. The address is 2148 S. High St. Denver, CO 80208.

* There will be a Northern Colorado discussion focused on Tabor and the Gallagher Amendment. It will be held at the Ranch on April 17th at 6:00PM. Two of the featured speakers will be Carol Hedges and Lisa Weil. They will talk about the ballot initiative and HB 18-1232. This is the Superintendents Bill to support a new school finance formula that would ensure that all districts receive additional funding in a more fair and equitable manner.
* LaDonna Palm has a friend in Uganda that is teaching girls skills that they can use to make a living. She is teaching them about computer skills with no computers. LaDonna is collecting used laptops for her. She needs them by April 5th. Contact her if you can help.
* The May 5 Awards luncheon will be held at Biaggi’s at 11:30AM. The speaker will be from the Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame. The cost will be appoximately $11.00 per person and you are encouraged to bring guests.
* The AAUW regional Meeting will take place June 22-24 in Salt Lake City, Utah.
* Jean Clune brought Kate Johnson as a guest. Kate is a local podiatrist and is excited to be a part of a women’s organization.

Group Reports

*Conversations with Author’s Committee*

* The Author’s Talk will be on Oct. 13th in the morning. They are working on booking two authors.

*Flower Committee*

* Flower orders are due
* They will need workers to sign up for the flower sale

*Scholarship Committee*

* Applications are starting to come in and are due by April 8th.
* Wanda will reach out to the nurses
* Di will contact the newspaper
* The committee will meet April 9th to discus the applicants

*Treasurer’s Report*

* Dues have been raised $10.00 and are now $80.00. You should be receiving emails and can pay online or by getting a check to Karen Danbom.

Speaker

Aimee Heckel and her mother shared their stories with the group. Aimee obtained her journalism degree from Heidelberg University and is fluent in German. Aimee has been a journalist for 18 years. She refers to herself as a “word nerd”. She has written more than 40 books in all different genera’s. She has also edited 44 books, which she refers to as her side job. Her ultimate goal is to be the nation’s top writer for Colorado travel.

Aimee began her writing on the school newspaper at Big Thompson Elementary School. She moved on to write for her high school newspaper and then for the Loveland Reporter Herald. She graduated from CSU and worked as an education reporter prior to graduating. She also reported for the Boulder Daily Camera covering Boulder government, cops and court, and youth (18-24).

While writing for the Daily Camera she took some personal time to travel to Haiti on a humanitarian trip. During her time in Haiti she wrote 5 stories about the Haitian people. Aimee shared her stories with the Boulder Daily Camera and they were so impressed that they ran her stories in a 5-day series.

She had another travel opportunity present itself and she was off to South Africa to write about the plight of the Ugandan people. She wrote about how malaria, a curable disease, was killing people. While there she learned that the medicine that could cure malaria cost a mere $3. Aimee realized that she had a real passion for sharing humanitarian stories. Through her travels she was also motivated to begin a non-profit group called Think Humanity. This agency supports a clinic, an education program, and the digging of water wells in Uganda. They also reach out to meet the needs of the local girls and women.

Aimee is currently a full time travel writer and editor. She also works closely with other women authors. She wants women to be confident enough to write their stories. She is there to support them through the process. She is very rewarded by this work.

Aimee’s mother spoke to the group about her involvement in Think Humanity. She has made more than 20 trips to Uganda to provide services and support for the Ugandan people. She spoke about the 31 women who recently graduated from the school that Think Humanity supports. Many of these women have already received jobs, which is remarkable considering that South Africa has a very depressed job market. She noted that the second cohort of girls is about to begin their secondary educational program. She is weeks away from returning to Uganda to continue the work.

Mrs. Heckel is an ardent fundraiser who works diligently to provide funds for Think Humanity. Funding comes from the following:

* Individuals
* Fundraisers
* Grants
* Sponsors (Social Media) Think Humanity Facebook Page
* Golf Tournament
* Selling Ugandan jewelry
* Selling Ugandan ornaments
* Rotary Club donation