**January 2021 AAUW Newsletter**

**Loveland, Colorado**

**A Note from the President**

Happy New Year to everyone! It’s nice to think that 2021 will be bringing better times.

We ended the year with our Christmas gifts to Alternatives to Violence. Claudia and I thank all of you who donated to this charity. We estimated about $300 in merchandise and that doesn’t count any monetary donations. Our donations will be helping people who are escaping violent home situations. As reported in our September program, there is a huge increase in domestic violence cases in the county. I love that our group, as small as it is, gets behind our chosen charities each year. We can make a difference in people’s lives!

I’m looking forward to starting the year with our program on Habitat for Humanity on January 18. It should be an informative program as all our programs are. So if you know someone who may be interested, lead them to the link on our local branch website. I’m looking forward to seeing you all even if it is just on zoom!

**January 18 Program:**

Our next meeting will be a zoom gathering on Monday, January 18 at 6:30 pm. This is the first meeting of what we all hope will be a great new year for our organization and the world. Hopefully all the zooming will end soon as we become vaccinate4d. Personally, I have NEVER been so excited to receive a vaccination in my life. Rumor has it, it is easy and fast. Let’s hope so.

Vince Deely, Director of Development, Habitat for Humanity, will present the program along with our very own Linda Jaster. In case anyone is not familiar with this organization, here is a short introduction. The idea that became Habitat for Humanity first grew from the fertile soil of Koinonia Farm, a community farm outside of Americus, Georgia, founded by farmer and biblical scholar Clarence Jordan. The concept centered on those in need of adequate shelter working side by side with volunteers to build decent, affordable houses. The houses would be built at no profit. New homeowners’ house payments would be combined with no-interest loans provided by supporters and money earned by fundraising to create “The Fund for Humanity,” which would then be used to build more homes. Thanks in no small part to the personal involvement of USs President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn and the awareness they have raised, Habitat now works in all 50 states in the US and in more than 790 countries and has helped more than 35 million people achieve strength, stability and independence through safe, decent, and affordable shelter.

As always, please invite friends, co-workers or students to attend this meeting. The National AAUW office is encouraging us to maintain our drive to inform and increase membership of women in our communities. Share the zoom link. Last month several members joined together to watch the zoom presentation. So, if you are quarantining with friends, I would suggest inviting them to the meeting.

I have notices there are many members who have not been attending who were “regulars” when we met in Person. If you are able to assist someone not familiar with ZOOM, please offer

assistance. We need to take care of our friends during these challenging times.

**Start to think about flowers!**

“See” you on ZOOM! Find the link on the Loveland AAUW website. Stay well and safe everyone. Claudia Ward

**A Note from Wanda Marker, Every Word We Utter Board Member and AAUW Member:**

Before Christmas the Every Word We Utter Board had a Congratulatory zoom meeting with the passing of the bill and signed by the President for the sculpture by Jane DeDecker to be placed in the Washington DC National Mall honoring the women who gained the right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment. Of the hundreds of bills from Colorado only 5 were passed with the EWWU H.R. 473 one of them!

There are many to thank and the excitement was palpable. Other guests in attendance and who spoke were:

US Congressman Joe Neguse

Katie Wallace, Legislative Aide to Congressman Neguse, Washington DC office

Anna Laymon, past Executive Director – Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission

Linda Mahan, member of the League of Women Voters of Larimer County

Linda Akey, owner of CANDO Consultant, nonprofit consultant

Jane DeDecker, Loveland sculptor of the WWWU Monument

Jody Shaddock McNally, Loveland AAUW member and CO Founder and President of the Every

 Word We Utter Monument

We can be proud of the members of AAUW state and local chapters who wrote letters to legislators in support of this project.

**A Note from Jan Witt, AAUW Member and Martin Luther King Celebration Board Member:**

The 2021 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration will be a virtual event this year, Monday, January 18, 6:30 pm.

We will feature a variety of musical performances including local favorite Wendy Woo; Thompson School District student art and essay contest winners; a visit to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Monument in Denver’s City Park; a new art installation; and guest speakers from throughout the community helping us to learn about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Join us virtually on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/491780984> In addition to the original time of 6:30 pm 1/18/21 ( also the time of our monthly meeting), it will be visible at any time after the initial showing.

**State Public Policy Day –Saturday, February 6, 2021, 9:00 - noon**

We have almost always had a few members attend this event which has been held in the Denver area. Now the event will be virtual and FREE so many of us should be able to attend. There are always marvelous speakers on great topics. This year the theme is The Education Equity Conversation. Go to the Colorado AAUW website to find out more info about the speakers and to register. Easy, peasy

**Welcome Cindy Black**

Cindy is a new member of our branch as of this year. However, most of you have not met her because we have not been having in-person meetings. Cindy is retired after 40 years of nursing. She received her nursing degree from the University of Phoenix. She worked for 30 of those years in the Poudre Valley Hospital working in every department including the medical unit which she found the most challenging. As an avocation she is an artist and a teacher in oils. She is married and has a daughter who lives in Pennsylvania. After reading an article about our branch she thought she would like to be a part of an active group of women. We look forward to the time when we can work alongside Cindy in branch activities.

**Book Club**

Our February book is Overstory – a novel by Richard Powers. We will meet on zoom at 1:00 on Monday, February 1 and Ronnie Patterson will lead the discussion. All branch members are invited. You will find the zoom link on the Loveland AAUW website.

**Congratulations**

Congrats to Beth Franklin who retired from teaching at UNC on December 31!