**AAUW January 2023 Newsletter**

**Loveland, Colorado**

**Our mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research,**

**education and advocacy.**

**A Note from Karla, our President:**

I’m looking forward to another interesting and fun rest of the year. Our hiking and book group are still in full swing and we have some interesting programs coming up. A new group, Great Decisions, will be starting in February. And the AAUW Public Policy Day online is coming up in early February. It is always informative to see and learn from the speakers that are lined up through AAUW State, so I encourage you to take the time to register and see the event. Our board had a great meeting to plan the rest of the year and I would encourage members to ask questions and make any contribution that they can. I am thrilled that we are an engaged group that has fun and loves to learn while fulfilling the AAUW mission statement.

**January Program**

The first meeting of 2023 will be January 23 at 6:30 pm at Artspace, 140 W. Third St. Our speaker, Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Northern Colorado, George Junne, will be presenting on the history of the former African American Town of Dearfield, Colorado. Junne is a specialist on African Americans and film, the Black American West, the Civil War and general African American history and culture. If you are interested in eating with other members previous to the meeting, meet at The Pourhouse in downtown Loveland by 4:15.

**Hiking Group**

The Hiking Interest Group continues to hike the 3rd Tuesday of the month (weather permitting!) Last month a group hiked Coyote Ride, off Wilson Ave north of Loveland. January 17 we are planning to meet at Seven Lakes Park at 10 am and wander the bike/walking trail towards Boyd Lake.

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/colorado/boyd-lake-trail-via-park-drive>

For more info or questions, contact Jan Witt ([wittjl@comcast.net](mailto:wittjl@comcast.net)), 720-203-4198

See you on the trail!

**Great Decisions Interest Group Begins in February**

The Great Decisions Interest Group will meet for the first time on Monday, February 13 from 1 – 3 pm a the home of Jill Osofsky, 3536 Parlin Street. Future meetings will be on the second Monday of the month from 1-3 pm.

Please mail Jill at [jillosofsky@comcast.net](mailto:jillosofsky@comcast.net) to let her know you plan to attend, or if you have questions about Great Decisions.

If you wish to join the group but haven’t yet ordered a Great Decisions Briefing Book, plan on ordering your book now. Both paper and eBook options are available for $35. To order a book contact the Foreign Policy Association online:

[www.fpa.org/great\_decisions/?act=gd\_materials](http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_materials) or you may call 1-800-477-5836.

**Book Club**

Karla Marroquin will host and lead the discussion of the book Apples Never Fall by Liane Moriarty at 1 pm on February 6. Karla lives at 4755 Ignacio Avenue. E-mail her at [babieweemus@aol.com](mailto:babieweemus@aol.com) if you plan to attend.

**State Public Policy Day**

*Behavioral Health…help, hope, and beyond* is the theme for Public Policy Day which will be a Zoom webinar on February 4 from 9:00 am to 12 noon. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Morgan Medlock, Behavioral Health Commissioner of the State of Colorado. She is an emergency psychiatrist and addiction medicine specialist by training. She previously served as the Chief Medical Officer and Director of Crisis and Emergency Services for the Washington, DC Department of Behavioral Health.

In addition there will be a panel discussion of behavioral health in Colorado.

Other speakers include Robin Lucas, National AASUW’s Grassroots Advocacy Manager; CO AAUW members Betty Boyd and Su Ryden who will share an update on Colorado legislative issues as well as the 2023 Call to Action; Joan Brown, President of CO AAUW, and the CO AAUW Nominating Committee.

There is no cost for this webinar. So get yourself a cup of coffee or tea and enjoy this morning with AAUW friends across the state as you are enlightened and empowered. You can register online by searching for AAUW Colorado.

**Member Concerns**

Our thoughts are with Claudia Ward and her son who has had a recurrence of heart problems. Claudia is with him in Ohio.

We also send healing thoughts to Barbie Clark who spent time in the hospital during December. She was on a Zoom call with friends in Colorado Springs when she passed out and the friends called 911 in Loveland. How fortunate is that! She is on a heart monitor at home as they try to ascertain her specific problem.

**Welcome Mona Benz**

Mona is a new member to our branch this year. Her higher education began with a two year degree in Medical Transcription until one of the doctors encouraged her to get a higher degree. She received a degree with a major in Elementary Ed and a minor in Early Childhood Ed and opened her own school in Dickinson, North Dakota. She also received a business degree at that time. Mona taught kindergarten for 32 years and loved it. She moved to Colorado 2 ½ years ago with her husband to work at American Airlines. She says “I am grateful and excited to be welcomed into the AAUW community here!”