**February 2023 AAUW Newsletter**

**Loveland, Colorado**

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

**research, education and advocacy.**

**A note from the president….**

Greetings to Everyone!

I’m excited about the great start to the New Year and the energy that is floating around in our branch. We had a great turnout for our January program on a snowy evening, and I’m hoping we will have just as good a turnout for our February program on February 27 at 6:30 pm. It was fun meeting for dinner at the Pour House before our program; anyone interested just come at 4:00 or 4:15. Meeting then gives us time to have a leisurely dinner before setting up the chairs for the program.

All of our committees (Scholarship, Flower Sale, and Conversations with Authors) are meeting and working on getting “things” done. Our book group had a great turnout also in early February and there was also a very good turnout for the first meeting for Great Decisions at Jill Osofsky’s house. And, last but not least, Jan Witt’s hiking group is well attended even in the dead of winter! AAUW stands for empowering women and we are certainly accomplishing that.

The organization Moms Demand Action invites our branch to participate in Gun Prevention Advocacy Day at the Capitol which take place on March 3. A free bus is available from Ft. Collins or Longmont – seat must be reserved. For those of you that are interested, let me know and we can carpool to either location to board the bus. I am planning on attending. An invitation sent by Beth Haven provides more information about the event.

The Colorado AAUW State Convention will take place April 21 – April 22 hosted by the Aurora Branch. The theme will be *Empowering Women – Keeping Up the Good Fight* and the keynote speaker is Phil Weiser, our State Attorney General. It will be held at the Hilton Doubletree Hotel in Aurora. Go to the AAUW Colorado State website to register. I plan to attend the actual convention on the 22nd and those who are interested in attending can plan to car pool. I’ve been to a few of these throughout the years and they are very interesting.

Wanda Marker came up with the idea of giving a gift to Claudia Ward who is in Ohio for about six months taking care of her son after heart surgery. Wanda will purchase a gift certificate for a healthy meal service with our donations. If you would like to contribute, please bring a little cash ($10 - $25 cash donation) to the meeting on February 27. I’m sure Claudia will greatly appreciate a meal gift certificate; she is the chef and driver to all medical appointments for her son.

It’s Flower Sale time again and Teri Smith will have order forms available to download and/or paper copies. It seems early to sell while there is snow on the ground, but we only have the month of March to sell and turn in our orders. Every flower we sell helps a woman obtain a scholarship for her graduate education so let’ get out there and sell to our friends and neighbors. Karla Marroquin

**February Program**

Antoinette Lee Toscano, MBA will BE THE PRESENTER AT OUR fEBRUARY 27 MEETING AT 6:30 AT aRTSPACE, 140 n. 3RD sTREET IN lOVELAND. aNTOINETTE HAS A VARIED BACKGROUND -SERVING IN THE us aRMY DURING THE gULF wAR, WORKING IN MANY POSITIONS IN THE iNFORMATION tECHNOLOGY FIELD, WORKING AS A WRITER AND as A MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER. aNTOINETTE IS ALSO currently TEACHING A CLASS AT aIMS ON hOW TO cREATE A sIDE hUSTLE. sHE IS AN AMERICAN CROSS-CULTURAL KID AND THIRD CULTURE ADULT aMERICAN BY BIRTH WITH ANCESTRY FROM nIGERIA, iRELAND, sPAIN, iNDIGENOUS aRAWAK, aSHKENAZI jEWISH, AND cHINA. sHE WILL SPEAK TO US ON **hOW TO CREATE A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR DIVERSE PEOPLE.**  (sORRY, MY COMPUTER WON’T LET ME OUT OF CAPS LOCK.)

**Gun Violence Prevention Advocacy Day at the Capitol**

Moms Demand Action Invites he Loveland AAUW to this Day at the Capitol to be held Friday, March 3 in Denver. It will begin at 9 am at First Baptist Church, 1373 Grant Street with bagels and coffee provided. It will include:

* An energizing morning of rallying and meeting with state legislators to promote common sense gun laws
* No experience necessary – jut wear a red shirt or another sign of your partnership and support for gun violence prevention
* Families and kids are welcome.
* Special guest, Shannon Watts, Moms Demand Action Founder will be there.

There will be a free bus from Fort Collins or Longmont. The bus will depart from Fort Collins at 7 am and from Longmont at 7:45 am returning to Longmont by 1:45 pm and to Fort Collins by 2:30pm. You are also welcome to drive yourself or carpool.

There will be a “Get Ready to Go” Training on Thursday, Feb.23 from 7:= - 8:30 pm at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, 2000 S. Lemay Ave., Fort Collins. CO Gun Violence Prevention Caucus Member Rep. Andrew Boesenecker will be there to help prepare us for the day’s events.

**In order to sign up for the event search Moms Demand Action Event – CO State Advocacy Day.**

**Book Club**

Linda Waslielewski will host and lead the discussion of The Next Ship Home: A Novel of Ellis Island on March 6 at 1 pm. Her address is 1807 Daphne Drive. E-mail her if you plan to attend - lindawaslielewski@gmail.com

**Great Decisions**

This group will be meeting March 13 from 1 to 3 pm at the home of Jill Osofsky. Jill will lead the first discussion on the topic of economic security. E-mail her if you are **NOT** able to attend.

**Dates to Remember**

March is Women’s History Month

March 3 is the Moms Demand Action Advocacy Day at the Capitol

March 8 is International Women’s Day

March 14 is Women’s Equal Pay Day

April 21-22 is the Colorado State Convention

**National AAUW Art Contest**

Each year National AAUW has an art contest where members can submit art, and members can vote for their favorites of the art submitted. The winners then have their art featured on a collection of notecards available to AAUW members. The back of the notecard will include the winning artist’s biography, a fact about AAUW and a highlight of the artist’s local branch. I don’t believe any of our members submitted art this year although one of our members – Linda French – has been a winner two different times. The contest is now over and winners will be announced soon.

**National Fellowships and Grants**

Three Fellowship and Grant Winners for the 2022-23 year are attending school at Colorado State University. Kelly Nieto won an American Fellowship as she works on her PhD in Materials Chemistry. Khuc Phan from Vietnam received an International Fellowship and is working on a PhD in Education, Equity and Transformation. Sara Bombaci received a Research Publication Grant in Engineering, Medicine and Science. Her degree and specialization is in Natural Resources Management.

**Women’s Equal Pay Day**

This day is symbolic of how far into 2023 women had to work to earn what men earned in the previous year. National AAUW said in *Mission and Action* on their website that “this year, we compared all wage earners, including part-time and seasonal workers. When we used this analysis of the data released by the US Census Bureau, women were paid barely three-quarters – **just 77% -** of what men earned in 2021. And the pay gaps for Black Women (64%) and Latinas (54%) were even worse.

**In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.**