

AAUW-Loveland JANUARY Meeting @ FUMC-Fellowship Hall on 1/22/2024:

13 Members Present  
2 Guests  
1 Speaker (Dr. Maria Gabriel)  
**TOTAL: 16 Attendees**

**PROGRAM ~**

Claudia Ward introduced Dr. Maria Gabriel - Member of the National Association for Multicultural Education to speak on the subject of DEI in TSD (Diversity/Equity/Inclusion in Thompson School District). Maria initially shared that she was born in South America. She landed at Loveland as a kindergarten student (her 1st Grade school picture showed Maria as the only student of color in the class), was educated in Colorado, and has worked as a PK-12 local educator since 1997. Maria is a mother of 2 daughters. In fact, one daughter greatly benefited from doing an independent study of poetry under the wing of Veronica "Ronnie" Patterson (Loveland's 1st Poet Laureate, and a current AAUW Member).

Dr. Gabriel stated that language is important, as she leaned in to some relevant words about multicultural education:

- **Ethnicity** - describes shared cultural characteristics & identifying physical features;
- **Race** - is a social construct, and race categories have shifted over time on surveys;
- **Inclusion** - all students are able to access and gain equal opportunities to learning;
- **Equality** - everyone gets the same offerings (marks are missed);
- **Equity** - the removal of barriers to best meet needs by innovating & creating access.

Maria's presentation included a slide of 4 individuals given the very *same* bicycle (Equality), however only 1 properly fit. To demonstrate Equity, the other 3 riders were then individually fitted to bicycles best meeting their needs.

When Maria played a video of Minnie & Mickey Mouse talking to youngsters, Inclusion was on display as Minnie started using sign language to communicate with a deaf child standing front & center. The little one then ran into Minnie's arms - oh, the wonders of acceptance & belonging!

TSD's "**Strive 2025**" is a strategic plan focused on: 1) Student Achievement, 2) Inclusive & Supportive Culture, 3) Human Talent, and 4) Stewardship of Resources (funding where the needs are). [Our good intentions don't always match needs; for example, giving out frozen turkeys & canned goods for Thanksgiving does not meet the needs of homeless families.]

TSD's Mission: Empower to Learn / Challenge to Achieve / Inspire to Excel (in conformance with Federal, State, and Local Law under the Non-Discrimination Policy AC). TSD's scholastic standard testing scores continue to improve, and are higher than Colorado's State scoring.

## **BUSINESS MEETING ~**

Karla Marroquin shared about AAUW-Loveland's January 11th Board Meeting, and our focus to cultivate a greater community presence (who we are, what we do, and what we can do). Claudia Ward is now submitting entries for our Annual Flower Fundraiser for Scholarships in the Reporter Herald's *Club Notes*. Karla will help to launch, with assistance from Barbara Lambert & Jill Osofsky, our Branch's inaugural **Community Action Group** to begin the first half of February. AAUW Member Jody Shadduck McNally (and Larimer County Commissioner representing District 3), added that she'll connect our group to "packing opportunities." Some organizations to target once per month are: The Nappies Project, Grace Upon Grace, The Matthews House, and Project Self-Sufficiency.

**AAUW of Colorado Public Policy Day** will be Saturday, February 3rd (from 9am - 12 Noon). Register online to get the link for the Zoom Webinar. There will be several speakers to address the subject of Early Childhood => Higher Education.

Per Claudia, the **Flower Committee** meets in February; Order Forms will later be Emailed, and reminders will continue to be submitted to the RH in their *Club Notes*. Wanda Marker's home in Loveland will (again) be the Drop Off for Plantorium & the Pick Up location for Customers. Large orders can be delivered.

It was also reported that the **CWA (Conversations With Authors) Committee** will start up early in March.

Member Linda French announced that Monday, February 5th is the last day to vote by Email for the **AAUW 2024 Art Contest**. Each person can vote 1 time for 10 different images. Linda participated in 2013 & 2015, and has previously won. Look for her dog images this year!

Teri Arends-Smith distributed **our Branch Budget for 2023-24**. As of 1/17/2024, the Bank Balance was \$5,066.45. Estimated Total Income (\$4,777.85) - Estimated Total Expenses (\$4,350.00) = \$427.85. Teri made a motion to pass the Budget; Claudia second it, and the motion was passed.

**Re: Our Website** - Teri shared that not all permissions have been granted from National, so Anthony Smith (our new Webmaster) continues to work with National. All hands on deck are striving to upload both our **2024 Flower Fundraising Order Form & Scholarship Application Form**.