

AAUW-Loveland Branch MARCH Meeting @ FUMC-Fellowship Hall on 3/25/2024:

17 Members

1 Guest

1 Speaker (Sosamma Samuel-Burnett, J.D.)

**TOTAL: 19 Attendees**

**PROGRAM ~**

Claudia Ward introduced **Sosamma Samuel-Burnett** who is Founder/President of G.L.O.B.A.L. Justice - an international, nonprofit organization. Our speaker was born in India, and came to the United States by way of Canada. Sosamma has more than 30 years of experience as a human rights advocate & policy professional, and about 20 years as a college professor. Sosamma's calling & passion for impacting human rights was predominantly influenced by her grandmothers & her mother.

A handout of PowerPoint slides was distributed with global data & statistics about political, economic & social status of women - identifying both historical & current trends. Currently, there is uneven progress toward women's rights; and, regions with less concern or progress for justice have less rights. Gender-based discrimination, persecution & exploitation are increased and varied depending upon vulnerabilities (3 courageous, surviving women were profiled).

Some interesting stats shared about Women in the World:

- 3.95+ billion women live in this world (out of a 7.8+ billion people living on the planet).
- More than 50% of the women live in Asia; the least amount of women are located in the United Arab Emirates.
- In the United States, more women reside on the East Coast.

G.L.O.B.A.L. Justice hosts about 150 events/year at their offices @ Micah Place (342 E. 3rd St., in the historic Hahn Haus built in 1893). Their phone number is 970/800-3473, and the website is [www.globaljusticeonline.org](http://www.globaljusticeonline.org). GLBL MRKT, their artisan store partnering with organizations serving vulnerable populations through survivor-made goods, is located inside.

March is Women's History Month in America, and March 8th is International Women's Day. This month a number of activities are scheduled @ Micah Place, and *Women in Power* is an annual event. Also, G.L.O.B.A.L. Justice supports & partners with other organizations (such as Alternatives To Violence in Loveland). On Thursday, 3/28 @ 5:30 pm there will be a Community Conversation with the Loveland Police Department & BILPOC community (Black, Indigenous, Latinx, People of Color) @ Micah Place - sponsored by G.L.O.B.A.L. Justice & Heart and Sol.

G.L.O.B.A.L. Justice, in the spirit of **Inform, Impact, Inspire**, provides geopolitical learning, advocacy & leadership opportunities to help raise awareness of global injustices ...

**Learn, Lead, Do Justice.** Sosamma also shared the importance of mentoring in both directions - to mentor and to be mentored. This closing quote was offered: "Women should study history, and make it." - Malala Yousafzai

## **BUSINESS MEETING ~**

In Karla's absence, Jan Witt led the meeting. The following activities were highlighted, and several Committee Members provided status updates:

- **Book Group** - Meets Monday, 4/1 (no fooling) @ Claudia Ward's home. Susan Gerrard will lead the discussion on Luis Alberto Urrea's Good Night, Irene. [This is Loveland's Loves to Read book selection for 2024. The author will speak at Thompson Valley High School on Thursday, April 11th @ 7pm. General Admission is \$20; Priority Seating & Book Signing is \$30. For more information, visit [www.friendsofthelovelandlibrary.org](http://www.friendsofthelovelandlibrary.org).]
- **National Vote on AAUW Membership** - From April 3rd through May 15th, Members will be able to vote online for the elimination of degree requirements in order to join AAUW. Both our State & National AAUW are advocating for this change to promote greater inclusivity. An Email reminder to Members will be forthcoming from National.
- **State Convention** - Will be held on May 3rd & 4th in Colorado Springs at The Antlers-A Wyndham Hotel. April 29th is the Registration deadline. There will be 4 speakers to explore the topic of *Women In Leadership: Barriers & Bias*.
- **Great Decisions** - Will meet @ the home of Jill Osofsky on Monday, 4/8 @ 1pm to discuss *Climate Technology & Competition*.
- **Flower Sale** - Claudia reported that orders are being processed, and will be tallied this Wednesday. Wanda Marker's home in Loveland will be the happening place for the delivery of flowers from Plantorium on Friday, 5/10; then, customer pickups & deliveries from 9am - 12 Noon will take place on Saturday, 5/11.
- **Nominations Committee** - Karen Danbom shared that all Officers will remain in place, with the exception of Linda Wasielewski replacing Linda Espanol as Secretary. Teri Arends-Smith will continue to hold the Treasurer position, although she'd like to have someone shadow her so that she'll be able to step aside.
- **Scholarship Committee** - Kari Gomez-Smith handed out to us the informational sheet that's being distributed to a wide variety of places & organizations. Applications are due by 4/27. The Press Release is accessible on our improved website, along with Scholarship Requirements and the Application Form. [Since both Karla Marroquin & Jan Witt will not be able to attend this year, Karen Danbom has offered to lean in with helping hands. The Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, 5/18 @ 11:30am; venue is TBD.]

- **Conversations With Authors** - SAVE THIS LUNCHEON DATE for Saturday, 10/5 (9am - 12 Noon) at the Rialto's Devereaux Room located upstairs. April 17th will be the next Committee Meeting.
- **Membership** - Annual Renewals can be done online (National sends reminders by Email); *or*, Members can give their checks to Teri. See Jan Witt with any questions.
- **AAUW-Loveland's APRIL Program** - Barbara Bennett with Larimer County Sheriff's Office will address our group on the topic of Scam Prevention. Claudia suggests that Members bring Guests who are also concerned about scams & identity theft.