

## March 2024 AAUW Newsletter Loveland, Colorado

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

### **March Meeting**

Sosamma Samuel-Burnett, JD, the founder and president of G.L.O.B.A.L. Justice will speak on “Celebrating Women’s History and International Women’s Day by Promoting Justice for Women Worldwide” at our March 25 meeting at 6 pm at First United Methodist Church. You need a code to get into the church. E-mail Martha DiCicco if you need the code [marthavd@msn.com](mailto:marthavd@msn.com)

For those of you interested in socializing before our monthly meeting, some of us will be gathering at the Pourhouse, downtown Loveland, 124 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St. at 4:00/4:15. Come join us for an early dinner and drinks.

### **Flower Sale**

Claudia says “There are only 13 days left so sell flowers for our sale and we are nowhere near breaking even. I know I always worry but we need to **SELL, SELL, SELL**. I am happy to get orders in the mail or you can bring your orders and checks to the March 25 meeting.” If you need more order forms contact Claudia.

### **Nominations**

The nominations committee is happy to announce the slate of officers that will be voted on at the April meeting.

President: Karla Marroquin  
V. President for Program: Claudia Ward and Leni Bohren  
V. President for Membership: Jan Witt  
Secretary: Linda Wasielewski  
Treasurer: Teri Arends Smith

### **Book Club**

The April book is *Good Night Irene* by Luis Alberto Urrea. Susan Gerrard will lead the discussion and the meeting will be at the home of Claudia Ward, 615 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., April 1 at 1 pm. This also happens to be the Loveland Loves to Read book for this year and the author will appear at the Thompson High School Auditorium on April 11 from 7 – 9 pm. Tickets available through the Loveland Library website.

### **Great Decisions**

This discussion group will meet Monday, April 16 at 1:00 pm at the home of Jill Osofsky. The topic will be *Risky Science Across Borders* and Jill will lead the discussion.

## Hiking Group

The “Wild Women” continue to meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month for a fun walk/hike adventure! We typically meet at Mehaffey Park (9:30) and car pool to our destination from there. Tuesday, March 19, we plan to explore Hall Ranch, outside of Lyons. Watch for monthly hike emails from Jan Witt...questions/comments, contact Jan 720-203-4198.

## Meet a New Member

**Joyce Haas** recently joined our branch. She graduated from the University of Nebraska in Omaha and has a BS in Education and an MA in Early Childhood Education. This is the information she gave about her background:

Bill (my husband for nearly 33 years) and I moved to Loveland in May of 2023 in order to locate more closely to Omaha, where we lived most of our lives, and where our children (2) and grandchildren (5) and great grandchildren (2) live. The Loveland/Estes Park area were favorite vacation spots for my family for many years, so we thought it would be wonderful to return to this beautiful place. We settled in Meadowbrook Ridge near Mehaffey Park, a great place for walking and meeting people.

I taught kindergarten for 18 years in a suburb of Omaha. I loved helping children get excited about all kinds of things, especially art, stories, and beginning to read. After retiring from teaching, we moved to Palisade, CO where I operated a B & B for ten years before we moved to Prescott, AZ where I stayed busy with volunteer activities.

I enjoy historical and current women’s issues. It is energizing to be involved with women from all walks of life who wish to be informed on a variety of topics. The hobbies I most enjoy are cooking and baking (breads, pies, and cookies are my specialties). I also love to read and enjoy participating in my neighborhood book group.

Thank you for welcoming me into the Loveland AAUW organization.

## Loveland Website

If you haven’t looked at our website lately, be sure to click on it and see the updates. Hopefully, you will be able to find answers to questions you might have about programming, membership, interest groups, etc. If you have suggestions let Karen Danbom, Teri Smith, or Jill Osofsky know.

## Community Conversation

This announcement comes from Heart & Sol. “We’re excited to announce we’ve partnered with **Rainbow Collective Loveland** and the **Loveland Police Department** to host our first in a series of Community Conversations. The first meeting will focus on experiences of the LGBTQIA+ community in Loveland and LPD. This will take place Wednesday, March 20 at 5:30 pm. The location is 2525 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Loveland – the Public Works Administration Building. Come join us.”

## Webinars

AAUW National periodically reminds us of webinars they are presenting on Zoom. I have watched two recently that were excellent. They are recorded and available on the [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) website. One was the **evolution of AAUW** presented by the archivist, Jessica Miller. The organization has been going since 1881 – 142 years so, as you can imagine, there have been many changes. For example, I did not realize that in the beginning you had to have a master's or doctor's degree to join. In the 30's and 40's most branches required new members to be recommended by members and they sometimes visited their homes before recommending them. In the 40's only 7 branches had women of color. In 1987 men were included in membership.

There are many other interesting facts. And now in April we will be able to vote for another big change that would say men or women can join whether or not they have a degree. National says this change will align our membership practices with our purpose of advancing equity for women and girls and enable us to include members with the diverse backgrounds and perspectives needed to achieve our purpose in today's world. **Voting dates will be April 3 – May 15.**

Another relevant webinar was **School Boards: The Background for the Education Culture Wars**. The presenter for this was Kathi Harper, director of public policy for the California AAUW. She talks about book banning, LGBTQ issues, etc. She also gives background of the Moms for Liberty groups that are working in many states to change policies. Since we in Loveland have had our own issues in the past with a school board with members working behind the scenes to change policies, we must not let this happen again.

## State Convention

The Colorado state convention will be held May 4 in Colorado Springs. The theme will be Women's Leadership: Barriers and Bias. This is an in-person convention this year. Go to the Colorado AAUW website for more information. Let Karla know if you would like to attend. People attending usually carpool.