

## **AAUW October 2024 Newsletter**

### **Loveland, Colorado**

**The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.**

#### **A note from our president Karla Marroquin**

I want to thank you all for being a part of AAUW Loveland Branch and participating and volunteering in our programs, events, interest groups and fundraisers. Our Conversations with Authors event on October 5 was a huge success with authors Jacqueline St. Joan and Dan Danbom providing interesting talks about their writing. Not only was a good time had by all, but a nice profit was made for scholarships for women pursuing a college degree. Around 50 people attended with AAUW State Presidents, Jim Smith and Carolyn Cooley in attendance. Our probable profit was \$1272.690 including \$372 on the raffle baskets; I thank those of you who bought tickets for a chance at a basket.

Remember to check our newly revised website for information on what interest groupus are going on. One interest group I will point out because it really didn't take off the past year, but is starting up once again. Coffee, Crafts, and Conversation will meet the third Monday of the month at 1:30 pm (2:00 pm this month) at Claudia Ward's house. This is a time to hang out and you don't need a craft to be there! If you are a new member, it's a good time to get to know fellow members. And, of course, another social time is meeting at the Pourhouse (4:00-4:15 pm) before our program meetings on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 pm.

As you peruse your ballots this year and want more information, think of our state AAUW website which has information and the stand that AAUW takes for women and families. Also the League of Women Voters is a good resource.

#### **October Program**

Monday, October 28 will be our next AAUW meeting at the First United Methodist Church, 533 Grant Ave. at 6:30 PM. Please bring your friends to hear Sean Hawkins, Executive Director of the Loveland Downtown Development District, present a program on the Heart Improvement Plan (HIP). He will discuss which area of downtown will be affected and the duration of the construction. HIP is part infrastructure and part cosmetic makeover of the historic core of downtown Loveland. Sean will discuss funding, parking, lighting, and landscaping. You are also welcome to come to the Pourhouse Bar and Grill in downtown Loveland at 4 – 4:15 for food and/or drinks before the meeting.

There is no November meeting as our meeting date falls so close to Thanksgiving. Our December meeting will be December 2 at 4 pm when we will take a tour of The Landings, a soon to be open shelter for homeless young people. After that we will have food and fellowship at the home of Wanda Marker. More information will follow in the next newsletter.

### **Book Group**

**Go As a River** by Shelley Read is the book to be discussed on November 4 at 1:00 at the home of Ronnie Patterson, 11 Gregg Drive. E-mail Ronnie if you plan to attend.

### **Coffee, Crafts and Conversation**

This group meets the third Monday of the month at the home of Claudia Ward, 615 W. Third St. This month they will meet at 2 pm (one half hour later than usual) as Claudia is scheduled as an election worker until 1 pm. You can bring crafts or needlework you are working on or just come for conversation.

### **Great Decisions**

Great Decisions will hold its final meeting of 2024 on Wednesday, November 13 from 10 am to 12 pm in the Mt. Dunraven meeting room at the Loveland Library. We will discuss Pandemic Preparedness: Should the United States prioritize pandemic preparedness and prevention in the same way that we do a strong defense? Great Decisions will meet the second Wednesday in January for 2025 book distribution and to schedule discussion leaders.

### **Colorado AAUW Positions on Ballot Issues**

They are actively supporting Amendment J which would repeal the Constitutional Definition of Marriage, Amendment 79 – the Constitutional Right to Abortion and Proposition KK – Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax. They are actively opposing Amendment 80 – the Constitutional Right to School Choice and taking no position on Proposition 131 – Establishing All-Candidate Primary and Ranked Choice Voting in General Elections. This information was determined by the state Public Policy Committee and is consistent with AAUW National positions.

Joyce Haas, Loveland AAUW member and a League of Women Voters member, along with her husband Bill, will present on ballot issues at the LWV presentation Wednesday at 7 pm at Namaqua Unitarian Church. Fran Feinerman, another dual member, is helping with this presentation which will also be on Zoom. Go to the LWV Larimer Co website to register.

### **Good News**

Susan Gerrard, one of our members, is recovering after spending several days in the hospital.

### **Welcome New Members**

Joyce Swartz is a new member of our branch. She has a BA degree from Loretto Heights College. She is retired from work in sales support and finance and has lived in Loveland for nine years. Her hobbies include quilting, playing bridge and reading. She and her husband have one son who lives in Broomfield with his girlfriend and her Dalmatian. Her son is 31 as she reports she had her son late in life. Her two brothers and families live in California. She is quite interested in abortion rights. They moved to Loveland to have land and her husband is converting an acre of their land into a certified wildflower garden. Joyce has already made herself a part of our book group.

Judith Bryant earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Colorado – Boulder and her PhD from the University of Washington. She returned to Loveland in 2006 to be closer to her family. She shared that she spent her career in higher education positions in Student Affairs. Her last job was in the Honors Department at Colorado State University. She says pickleball is her passion since she is too old to have benefitted from Title IX so she is trying to make up for lost time. Her two daughters were adopted from China and are now out on their own. One is in finance and one is in film and photography. Three small dogs complete the family.

Marion Cox has a BA in elementary ed. from Goucher College, an MA in Library and Information Science from Dominican University and an MA in Human Services from Concordia University in Chicago. She has lived in Loveland since 2009 when she moved here to be closer to one of her 3 sons and his family. Her other sons live in Utah and Oregon. She also has three grandchildren. Before retiring she was a school media specialist and head of the department. She also facilitated parenting classes for parents of troubled kids who were sent to these classes by the court system. Women's issues of interest are workplace equality and equal pay and rape and incest issues. Her hobbies include hiking, kayaking and paddleboarding and reading and music (both playing and listening). Her mother was an AAUW member and headed the scholarship committee for many years in Honolulu where she was born.

Victoria (Tori) Holloran has also joined and her information will be shared in the next newsletter.