



February 2015

“AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.”

Volume 15 Issue 1

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AAUW Holiday Party 2014



This year's holiday dinner was held at Bear Dance Country Club in Larkspur on December 14, 2014. As usually happens at our winter social event, it was a snowy night but over 50 people attended and enjoyed a delicious four course meal, delightful music provided by a string quartet - four wonderful girls from Castle View High School and University of Northern Colorado and U. of Kansas, playing holiday music on violins, viola, and cello. As in the past, our silent auction was a big success which added funds for our scholarship programs. Special thanks to Beryl Jacobson who chaired the event, Julie Reagan and Stephanie Fong who organized the auction, and Kristin Sydney for arranging the quartet. And thanks to all who contributed items to the auction, made purchases, and came out to enjoy the evening. Also, a big thanks to those that contributed to the Women's Crisis & Family Center and the Castle Rock Task Force. We were able to donate \$80 to each organization. (Submitted by Doris MacDougall)

February 18, 2015

PS Miller Library
Reading Room
6:30 PM

Guest Speaker
Kathy Chavez

El Camino de Santiago



Editors

Kathy Chavez: kchavez20@comcast.net (303-814-6898)

Nedda Altschuld: neddaalt@gmail.com (303-688-2587)

Submit to Kathy Chavez by the 25th of the Month,



Co-President's Message

Jane Ott

I recently attended the Colorado Springs AAUW branch's community presentation on the state of public education. There was showing of a 2014 documentary "Rise Above the Mark" which was followed by a panel discussion featuring Dr. Al Ramirez, a professor at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS), LuAnn Long, District 11 School Board President, and Flora Roten, a kindergarten teacher in District 11. The presentation was well attended. There was some spirited discussion between panel members and the audience of about 90 attendees, many of whom were current or retired teachers or education faculty members at UCCS or Colorado College. There were community members represented, too, including a former Commissioner of Education in Oklahoma.

The documentary highlights some disturbing realities of public education, focusing on recent developments in the state of Indiana. It's the story of what happens when politics enters the classroom and high stakes testing is mandated by state and federal legislators. There were interesting interviews with various educational experts who felt that standardized testing was the "new bully in school". Standardized tests were originally developed to be diagnostic in nature, not threatening and punitive. Now they are taking large sums of money from state and school budgets, trimming classroom learning time, evaluating teachers based on test results regardless of the many factors beyond their control and stifling student and teacher creativity. The federal government, under both political parties, has imposed unfunded mandates and the paperwork required by these mandates is discouraging many veteran teachers, causing many to leave the profession earlier than they planned.

This is politically relevant in our state, too, as the new legislative session begins. The Douglas County school district and parents have expressed concern about this testing issue, as have other districts.

Another issue discussed in this film was the threat that charter schools and vouchers present to the integrity of the public school system in America. To paraphrase one audience member, we are seeing the demise of the neighborhood school in America and losing the community solidarity promoted by those schools. We are seeing an emergence of school segregation based on economic class. Again this is quite relevant to the Douglas County schools as we await the state supreme court decision regarding the voucher proposal in Douglas County.

Finally, one expert interviewed in the film was a visiting education expert from Finland, where the schools have undergone some major changes and have been successful in improving the quality of schools for all children in the country. Ironically, he said they came to the United States to find research and methods which were implemented and resulted in success. Meanwhile, educators in the US have had their control of the educational experience of our students limited by interference from politicians and profit seeking corporations.

I would encourage you all to stay tuned to updates from our Public Policy team regarding action in the Colorado legislature and in the US Congress.



Douglas County Branch AAUW Minutes
November 19, 2014
Submitted by Suzanne LaRue



The evening began at 6:50 p.m.

- Leslie Foster presented our program, speaking about The Gathering Place, Denver's only day-time resource for women, children, and the transgendered who are experiencing homelessness.
- We had two guests: Hope Wescott and Barbara Lake.
- Jane read a eulogy for founding member Margaret Golder, who died on October 31.
- She also acknowledged the receipt of Diane Norten's thank you note for the group's gift of a bracelet honoring her for serving as state AAUW President for the past two years.

Minutes of previous meeting

Bobbie made the motion, which Dorothy seconded, that the minutes be approved as published in the newsletter; passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report

Ginger made the motion, seconded by Sue, that the treasurer's report be approved as published in the newsletter; passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Fundraising - please submit your silent auction donations soon.

Programs - January's meeting will feature the story of a woman who saved children in the Warsaw ghetto during WW2.

Membership - We have 72 members.

Social-- While many people have signed up for Casual Cuisine, no one has yet stepped forward to organize the group. Perhaps after the holidays, someone will find the time.

Communication - Kathy reminds us that the deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month. The State bulletin should appear in our mailboxes any day now.

Public Policy - Dianne wasn't present to report. Public Policy day is in February and will take place at the Marriott in south Denver.

Other business

Holiday Dinner - please mail your check to Marsha Johnson a.s.a.p.

Meeting rooms for 2015 - watch for further information. We had difficulty securing rooms for most months.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.



Douglas County AAUW Budget Report

December 2014-January 25, 2015

Marsha Johnson, Treasurer

Our account balances are as follows:

SAVINGS:	\$4296.18
RESTRICTED CHECKING:	\$1519.71
UNRESTRICTED CHECKING:	\$3797.43

There was a little activity the past two months with regard to our accounts.

In December, donations were made based on our budget approval in the following amounts:

National AAUW Fund (73 members @ \$30) - \$2190.00

NCWSL - \$1200.00

Smart Start - \$650.00

We also realized income from the following:

Holiday Auction - \$764.00

King Soopers Fundraiser - \$335.00

Safeway Fundraiser - \$302.00

Dates to Remember



- ◇ February 7, 2015, Public Policy Day, Marriott Denver South, Lone Tree
- ◇ **March 18, 2015, AAUW Board Meeting at 5:00**
- ◇ April 14, 2015, Equal Pay Day
- ◇ **April 24-25, 2015, State Convention, Ft. Collins**
- ◇ June 18-21, 2015, National Convention, San Diego, CA.

Future meeting Locations



- February: PS Miller Library Reading Room
March: PS Miller Library Reading Room
April: Methodist Church
May: Louviers (more details to follow)

New Email Addresses

Sherri Rich: sheririch@kellin.net
Ruthellen Riffe: ruthellenr@icloud.com

More Holiday Photos



February Program

Please join us on Wednesday, February 18th, for our monthly AAUW meeting. Our guest presenter will be Kathy Chavez (one of our members) who will speak with us about her pilgrimage in Spain backpacking the Camino de Santiago. The Camino de Santiago (the French Route) is a 780 km (500 miles) trail from St. Jean Pied de Port in France, over the Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Kathy started her journey on July 1, 2013, and arrived in Santiago de Compostela on August 3, 2013. She'll share her reason for backpacking the Camino, the trials and tribulations along the way, and the friendships she made. Kathy has many photos she took along the way. She also kept a daily journal which was posted daily (when WIFI was available) for her friends and family to read. If you'd like to read part of her journal, you can access it at www.trailjournals.com/kathyChavez.



Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela

Meet Our Outstanding Experts on Public Policy Issues

Public Policy Day, February 7th.



Stacy Buchanan is Vice President of Information Strategy at Qualistar Colorado, a statewide nonprofit striving to advance quality early childhood education across Colorado. Stacy is responsible for the maintenance, quality and usage of Qualistar's data regarding the supply, demand and quality of child care programs. Prior to assuming this position at Qualistar, Stacy managed the statewide child care resource and referral network, the Colorado T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarship program and quality improvement grants. Stacy holds a bachelor's degree from Montana State University in Family Science and a master's degree in Educational Administration at the University of Denver.

Claire Levy is the Executive Director of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy. She assumed that position in November, 2013. Prior to that Claire was a member of the Colorado House of Representatives, where she was Vice-chair of the Joint Budget Committee and Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations. She also served as Speaker Pro Tem. In her role on the Joint Budget Committee Claire helped secure expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, fought declines in public employee salaries and benefits, and scrutinized sex offender treatment and other programs in Colorado's prisons. Claire Levy is an attorney with experience in criminal appeals, civil litigation and land use law.



Jeannie Ritter joined the Mental Health Center of Denver in 2012 to serve as Mental Health Ambassador and continue her advocacy efforts for mental health which she made her focus as former First Lady of Colorado (2007-2011). Mental illness affects one in five Americans in any given year and touches most every important issue, from homelessness and substance abuse to education and healthcare. Through her efforts to bring a voice to mental health, her hope is that she is helping to create a community that does not avert its eyes but views mental illness with the same compassion as other ailments. She speaks publicly at hundreds of businesses, civic organizations, faith based groups, chamber meetings and community gatherings each year. Her passion for improving access to mental health supports is underscored by her belief that mental wellness is the foundation for healthier families and stronger communities.



Tracey Stewart is a principal at Colorado Impact: Center for Economic Prosperity. She monitors policies and programs that improve access to resources that give every Coloradan the opportunity to work toward economic stability and security. She educates state leaders and communities on the importance of helping Coloradans on the road to economic self-sufficiency through the use of critical tools and resources. She also provides research to inform Colorado businesses, governments and communities on the progress Colorado is making in its poverty reduction efforts. Before joining Colorado Impact: Center for Economic Prosperity, Tracey worked with the Colorado Center on Law and Policy and the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, where she was the project manager for the Colorado Homeless Management Information System. She holds a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and a master's degree from the School of Education at the University of Denver.



Henry Sobanet is a Denver native, educated at Regis High School, the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of Colorado at Denver. He was employed as an economist for five years at the Colorado Legislative Council, the nonpartisan research office for the state legislature. In September 2004, Governor Bill Owens appointed him to be Director of the Office of State Planning and Budgeting. In 2005, Henry was the lead negotiator and researcher for the Governor's Office in reaching a compromise with the legislature on the State's budget shortfall. This effort resulted in Referendum C, which was adopted by the voters in November 2005. In 2006, Henry helped develop and negotiate an innovative plan to address the State's pension shortfall. From 2007 to 2011, he was President of Colorado Strategies LLC, a firm that specialized in economics, public affairs, and strategic management. In 2011, Governor John Hickenlooper selected Henry to return as Director of the Office of State Planning & Budgeting.





Highlands Ranch Mansion Tour

(submitted by Kendra O'Hayre)

On December 11, seventeen members of our AAUW Colorado History & Culture group enjoyed an interesting and informative tour of the Highlands Ranch Mansion in northern Douglas County. The mansion was decorated for the holidays and the weather cooperated by providing us with a beautiful sunny, blue skied Colorado day! After learning many interesting facts and stories about the history of the mansion we traveled west for a "Clue" style lunch in the library at Lansdowne Arms. A good time was "had" by all!

A bit of background from the mansion's website:

The historic Highlands Ranch Mansion and future Historic Park stand today as valuable examples of history, reflecting the lifestyle of early settlers and early pioneers of the area now known as Highlands Ranch, Colorado. More than 100 years old, the historic Mansion has been home to some of Denver's more notable families including cattle barons, oil tycoons, prominent Denver socialites, as well as political and business leaders who have helped create the Colorado we know today.



Any changes in
the calendar
are in RED!

CALENDAR FOR ANY MONTH

Questions contact Natalie Weber 303-688-4797

Changes...Contact AAUW newsletter editors.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 st	1 st	1 st	1 st Bridge-Singles 6:30 pm (Doris Mac-Dougall)	1 st	1 st	1 st B r i d g e - Couples 6:30 pm (Margaret Boone)
2 nd	2 nd	2 nd AM Book Club 10 am Miller Library (Kendra O'Hayre)	2 nd Evening Book Club 6:00 PM (Linda Washburn)	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd
3 rd	3 rd	3 rd D o m i n o Games 1 pm Ann Aviles	3 rd AAUW Branch 6:30 pm PS Miller L i b r a r y (u s u a l l y) Check page 1	3 rd C o l o r a d o History / Culture Club Pat Proctor 9:00 AM	3 rd	3 rd
4 th	4 th	4 th Mah Jongg 2:00 PM Julie Reagan Susan Blackburn	4 th	4 th	4 th	4 th

AAUW promotes equity for women and girls, life-long education and positive societal change. In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barrier to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation,

Elected Board Members	Current (2014-2015)	Incoming (2015-2016)	Advisor (Previous Year's Officers -2013/2014)
Co-Presidents	Jane Ott 303-688-3960 janeo.crc@gmail.com Doris MacDougall 720-733-1892 dorismacd@hotmail.com	Marcia Miller 303-470-2844 millermarcia@me.com	Dianne Bailey 303-805-2380 bailey.nyce@pcisys.net
VP Program	Peggy SerVaas 303-688-0525 pservaas@kw.com Sue Goodrich 303-688-9719 cosue62@gmail.com		Pat Kammerling 303-688-3408 pskammerling@hotmail.com
VP Membership	Pat Proctor 303-663-8032 mpatproctor@msn.com ,	Kristin Sidney 303-660-3346 kwbhsid@gmail.com	Ruth Lundgren 303-663-0512 jnr66@sbcglobal.net
VP Fundraising	Stephanie Fong 303-663-8127 S_fongAAUW@comcast.net Julie Reagan 303-688-0754 juliereagan@aol.com		Marcia Miller 303-470-2844 millermarcia@me.com
Secretary (Two-year term)	Suzanne LaRue(2013-2015) 303-660-1646 slarue@gmail.com		
Treasurer (2 year term)	Marsha Johnson (2013-2015) 303-814-8795; 303-619-5757 mimifj714@aol.com	Marsha Johnson (2013-2015) 303-814-8795; 303-619-5757 mimifj714@aol.com	

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