



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

Volume 18 Issue 6

March 2018

Editors:

Kathy Chavez
Nedda Altschuld

Please submit
items for the
Newsletter by the
25th of the month.

**March 21
6:30 PM**

PS Miller Library

**Dr. Art
Strasburger
Speaker**

**End of life
Options**



Robotics

Speaker, Pat Smith

Pat Smith, a Douglas County Chapter member, provided a quick overview of the “Fascinating World of Robotics” in her talk for the Branch meeting. A broad overview covered robots used in medicine, in the military, in security and rescue and importantly, the potential impact on jobs that will be replaced by robots. We had an interesting discussion on self-driving cars. More than half the members have brought the robot “Alexa” from Amazon into their homes and shared stories how they are using Alexa. Pat facilitates courses on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence at OLLI, (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) and encouraged members to register by April 2 for the Spring term.



*Co-President's Message
March 2018
Pat Proctor*



The DC branch of AAUW was well represented at Public Policy Day on Feb. 3rd with 6 of our members attending the event in Golden, CO. Public Policy Day underscores the AAUW mission of advancing equity for women and girls by supporting a strong system that promotes gender fairness and diversity. This year's topic was "Human Trafficking - It's Closer than You Think". The excellent speakers provided an abundance of current information. We were provided a packet of valuable material containing concrete examples of actual Colorado cases and a comprehensive explanation of current Federal and State laws. We can all help by becoming informed about the issues and making sure that our government representatives are supporting corrective legislation. All important information including hotlines can be found on the "Colorado Human Trafficking Council" web site.

When you attend Public Policy Day, you should ask yourself what you can do about these important issues. Unlikely that many of us will run for public office, but there are things we can do to support the causes of our choice. I urge you to log into aauw-co.aauw.net. This is the AAUW Colorado wonderful website.

Go to the section called Legislative Alerts on the right-hand side. Click on TAKE ACTION. You will find a way to keep current on what is happening and express your concern by becoming a 2-minute activist.

As a Two-Minute Activist, you will receive urgent email notices when your advocacy is needed most. It provides you with all the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress, write letters to the editor for your local newspapers, contact your state legislators about pressing issues, and more.

The DC branch of AAUW is truly an amazing group of women each of whom contributes to the success of the organization and its many worthwhile endeavors. When I look at the names in our beautiful directory, it seems that most of you have either held an office, headed up a committee, lead an interest group or participated in a brain storming session to improve the organization. We will be soon asking for board members and leaders for the upcoming season of events. I sincerely hope that you can find it in your hearts to accept some of these important tasks. If, for example, you have previously held an office, there is no doubt that your experience counts toward taking on a job for a second time. If you are a recent member, we need your fresh new ideas. We are all busy with our families, our volunteer work, and our activities, but it truly does take a village to keep the organization running smoothly. We are hanging out the "help wanted" sign and hoping for some willing applicants.

DOUGLAS COUNTY AAUW MINUTES

February 21, 2018

Pat Smith, Secretary



Beryl Jacobson opened the meeting and introduced AAUW member, Pat Smith, who provided a talk on the "Fascinating World of Robotics". This was a "teaser" talk for an 8-week course at OLLI South this Spring.

Beryl called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

Secretary

Approval of minutes as printed in the newsletter was moved by Bobbi Van Horne and approved by membership.

Treasurer

Marsha Johnson reported that we earned \$618.32 from King Sooper and Safeway gift cards and \$875 for the holiday raffle. She reminded membership to renew early.

Programs

Upcoming Branch Programs:

March: End of Life Options - Speaker Dr. Art Strasburger

April Stem Award Meeting - Volunteers needed for set up of tables and chairs. Members with last names from M-Z are to bring appetizers and members with last names of A-L are to bring desserts to share.

Upcoming State and Regional Programs:

State Convention: Hilton Garden Inn, Highlands Ranch, April 27 - 28 Register on the State Website

Regional Convention: Salt Lake City, June 22 - 24

AAUW FUNDS DRAWING was held.

New Members were introduced: Anne Herrington and Joyce Volp

Nominating Committee

Marcia and Stephanie will form the Nominating Committee for Co-President, Program VP and Membership VP

(Continued on the next page)

(Minutes on the previous page)

Public Policy

Diane Norton reported on Public Policy Day and encouraged members to go online to look at the issues on the LAF Express and Action Alert. She noted our membership dollars support very good causes for women.

Pamela Steinman represented our branch at the 9th Annual Southern Colorado Girls STEM Initiative at UCCS noting that they attracted several hundred middle school girls from all over Southern Colorado.

Pat Smith and Beryl Jacobson will represent our branch at the February 24, 2018 STEM day in Boulder hosted by the Boulder AAUW branch.

Culture Club

Stephanie noted that about 10 members have signed up for the February trip.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Scholarship Update

(submitted by Kendra O'Hayre)



We were honored to award the Lou Flatland Memorial Scholarship to Jennifer Steiner at our Holiday Party in December. Jennifer will use the scholarship funds to pursue her goal of becoming a high school counselor. In a thank you note to our AAUW branch, Jennifer expressed her sincere appreciation for the support she felt from Lou's family and from our AAUW group for this very meaningful award.

In addition, we received a thank you note from Jennifer's mother, Darci Steiner. I believe her words should encourage all of us to embrace our philanthropic pursuits:

Dear AAUW—Douglas County,

What an amazing time Jennifer and I had at your holiday luncheon! Thank you so much for the invitation to attend and for honoring Jen with the Lou Flatland Memorial Scholarship. Your kindness and generosity are so deeply appreciated. Thank you for helping my daughter reach higher and believe in the seemingly impossible. We will always remember Lou Flatland and family and the AAUW family with profound gratitude and love.

Sincerely,

Darci Steiner

Douglas County AAUW Budget Report – February 25, 2018

Marsha Johnson, Treasurer



Our account balances are as follows:

SAVINGS:	\$4295.61
RESTRICTED CHECKING:	\$1658.24
UNRESTRICTED CHECKING:	\$5118.10

We recently received checks totaling \$618.32 from our King Sooper and Safeway gift card rewards! Good job eating. Keep it up!

A reminder that previous Safeway cards have been compromised and you will need a new one from Marcia Miller. Please contact her if you need a new card. The cost is \$10 and it is loaded with \$10 credit.

Heads up . . . membership renewal will be coming up mid-March or April so be on the lookout for an email asking you to renew online. Of course, we will always welcome checks for renewal but try out the website link – it is easy!

Meeting Schedule for 2017-2018

- ✚ March 21, 6:30 PM, PS Miller Library, End of Life Issues
- ✚ April 18, 6:30 PM, PS Miller Library, High School STEM Awards
- ✚ May 16, 6:00 PM, location and refreshments TBD, Annual Meeting

April STEM Meeting

There will be a sign-up sheet at the March meeting for those of you that are willing and able to help set up for the April STEM meeting.

Also, the following is the refreshment schedule:

A-L Desserts
M-Z Appetizers

Dates to Remember

- *April 10, 2018, Equal Pay Day*
- *April 27-28, 2018, Colorado State Convention, Hilton Garden Inn, Highlands Ranch (Registration on the state website)*
- *June 22-24, 2018, AAUW Rocky Mountain Conference, Salt Lake City, UT*

On Going Fundraiser...

King Soopers and Albertsons/Safeway gift cards continue to be our biggest fundraiser. Please continue to use those cards and to eat.

If you need information about this program, please contact Marcia Miller or if you need a card or a replacement card, please let Marcia Miller know via email.



FREE MONEY is wonderful!

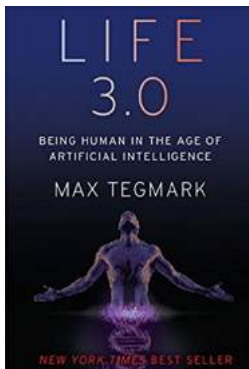


BOOK CORNER

LIFE 3.0

Max Tegmark

(Thanks to Pat Smith for this recommendation.)



How will Artificial Intelligence affect crime, war, justice, jobs, society and our very sense of being human? The rise of AI has the potential to transform our future more than any other technology—and there's nobody better qualified or situated to explore that future than Max Tegmark, an MIT professor who's helped mainstream research on how to keep AI beneficial.

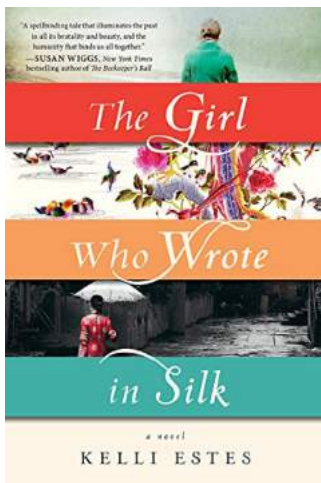
How can we grow our prosperity through automation without leaving people lacking income or purpose? What career advice should we give today's kids? How can we make future AI systems more robust, so that they do what we want without crashing, malfunctioning or getting hacked? Should we fear an arms race in lethal autonomous weapons? Will machines eventually outsmart us at all tasks, replacing humans on the job market and perhaps altogether? Will AI help life flourish like never before or give us more power than we can handle?

What sort of future do *you* want? This book empowers you to join what may be the most important conversation of our time. It doesn't shy away from the full range of viewpoints or from the most controversial issues—from superintelligence to meaning, consciousness and the ultimate physical limits on life in the cosmos. (Review by Amazon books)

The Girl Who Wrote in Silk!

By Kelli Estes

(Thanks to Marcia Miller for this recommendation.)



"*The Girl Who Wrote in Silk* is a beautiful story that brought me to tears more than once, and was a testament to the endurance of the human spirit and the human heart. A powerful debut that proves the threads that interweave our lives can withstand time and any tide, and bind our hearts forever."—Susanna Kearsley, *New York Times* bestselling author

Inspired by true events, Kelli Estes's brilliant and atmospheric debut serves as a poignant tale of two women determined to do the right thing, and the power of our own stories.

The smallest items can hold centuries of secrets...

Inara Erickson is exploring her deceased aunt's island estate when she finds an elaborately stitched piece of fabric hidden in the house. As she peels back layer upon layer of the secrets it holds, Inara's life becomes interwoven with that of Mei Lein, a young Chinese girl mysteriously driven from her home a century before. Through the stories, Mei Lein tells in silk, Inara uncovers a tragic truth that will shake her family to its core — and force her to make an impossible choice.

"A touching and tender story about discovering the past to bring peace to the present."—Duncan Jepson, author of *All the Flowers in Shanghai*

Hayley Neininger

Feminism.

Feminism is not a bad word
It is more than four words
If you are a woman if you are a man
If you believe that gender equality
Is important, if you stand by your mother
When she shouts, "I am equal!"
Then you are a feminist.
And I'm tired, I'm tired and I'm frustrated
That the patriarchal society we live in
Would rather demonize equality
Rather than let it stand tall as the statue
It deserves to be.
All it means
Is you believe that women and men are equal
That they deserve to be treated both fairly and just
And I trust-
That the only image of a feminist in your mind
Is one that hates men, that burns bras, that simply get in the way.
And sure there might be a few of those, yes
But I would like to ask you
Since when did one represent the whole?
Since when were all white Christian men
Devalued, dehumanized because of Jeffery Dahmer?
If I were to follow your logic
If we were all to follow your logic
We'd have to lock up every single one of you
All because a few of your fellow men
Perverted an ideal that at the heart of it was good
And please be good
To your feminists please know that it is not a movement
To strip people of rights but to grant rights to those who have been denied
Feminism isn't a bad word
It's a word that holds an ideal
That genetics that genitalia do not dictate
Whether or not a human being is held to the
American standard of equality.



(Submitted by Peggy SerVaas)

STEM Day at UCCS

by Pam Steinman

On February 1, [†] I volunteered at the 9th Southern Colorado Girls' STEM Initiative's middle school STEM Day on the campus of University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. This annual event is organized by UCCS, with corporate sponsorship from Northrop Grumman. My role was "helper" for one of the sixteen workshop presenters. The participants were 300 middle school girls from Colorado Springs, Falcon, Manitou Springs, Woodland Park, and other schools in the area. According to one of the teachers I spoke to, the girls were invited to this event by teacher and/or counselor recommendation. The 80 adult volunteers, many of them AAUW members, were organized and given duty assignments by Pauleta Tervin, a member of the Colorado Springs AAUW. Volunteer duties included helping the presenters, leading the girls to their workshops, registration, and lunch serving.

The event began with a dynamic keynote speaker, Dr. Meagan Pollock. She earned her Bachelor's degree in computer science with a minor in math from Purdue. She was employed in web design and spent a year in Spain, earned her M.S. in electrical engineering, then worked for Texas Instruments and spent a year in Puerto Rico to dive and do underwater photography, earned her PhD in Engineering Education, and is now the executive director of Design Direct. Somewhere during her busy young life, she became an accomplished power lifter. One of Dr. Pollock's goals was to help the girls overcome the stereotypical idea of what an engineer is, and to help girls understand that engineers are not the stereotypical man with a white shirt and pocket-protector. She impressed upon the girls that, "We [engineers] aren't just one thing." She also wanted girls to know that STEM professionals design products that are essential to happiness, health and safety. She provided examples, including a "vein viewer" patch, designed by a woman engineer, which helps nurses locate and safely draw blood from the tiny veins in babies. The girls in the audience were attentive to every word she spoke. Such an inspiration to them!

The girls attended two of the hands-on workshops which were about an hour each. There were sixteen different workshops, covering a variety of topics such as DNA, space travel, LEGO robotics, and computer game design. I remained with the presenter for the "physics of bottle flipping", which had the girls conducting experiments by altering the type of bottle, the volume and type of liquid contents, and the force applied. In case you are not sure what bottle flipping is, You Tube videos are abundant.

The girls gathered back into the ballroom, and while they ate their lunch, a panel of young women engineers talked about their training, careers, and answered questions for the girls. The girls in the audience quickly made a connection with "Dr. Stephanie", who does aerial acrobatics in her spare time. She also revealed that she had been a high school dropout! Another panelist that the girls were inspired by was Taylor, an electrical engineer for Walt Disney Corporation. My favorite panelist was a brave young lady who described how a high school teacher once told her that she could never do electrical engineering because her grades were not good enough and she struggled with learning difficulties associated with ADD. Today she is a successful engineer, and proud of her perseverance.

I intend to contact the event director with questions about how Douglas and Elbert County middle school girls might be offered the opportunity to participate in this very worthwhile event, and I hope to be invited back to volunteer at next year's STEM Day.

Miscellaneous Items of Interest

History and Culture Club
(submitted by Stephanie Fong)

The History/Culture Group made a trip to the Rosemount Museum, a mansion built in 1893 for John Thatcher, a banker and businessman, and his wife Margaret, Pueblo's first public school teacher. Step inside and you are instantly transported back to a mansion from the late 19th century. Original furnishings and artwork sprawl everywhere as you walk through this dream home. Their son deeded the home to the city in 1968 and it looks as if the family had just stepped out for a while and planned on being back. It is a 24,000-sq. ft. home that far outshines any of the Denver mansions that I have toured in the past; especially the Tiffany chandelier that hangs above the golden oak entrance and the 9'x13' "Kingdoms of Nature" stained glass window that waits up an oak staircase. During the summer months, lunch is served in the old carriage house. It is closed for the winter. Fortunately, we were told of the AJ Restaurant located in the Walking Stick Golf Course and known for their "fried spaghetti", which was deemed delicious by Pat Proctor. They decorate extensively for the Holiday. We might think about going there for the holidays. It is an easy drive to Pueblo and fun since I haven't been south of Colorado Springs in quite a while. It was a fun visit and I highly recommend it as a trip anyone can make on their own.



(Submitted by Ruth Lundgren)

Seventeen members joined the History/Culture group to visit the Molly Brown Museum on December 14th. We enjoyed our docent telling us the history of the house and many interesting stories about Molly Brown. The house was beautifully decorated for Christmas.



CALENDAR FOR ANY MONTH

1st Sunday	1 st Monday	1 st Tuesday	1 st Wednesday	1 st Thursday	1 st Friday	1 st Saturday
			<p><i>Ladies Evening Bridge</i></p> <p>6:30-9:30 PM</p> <p>(Marsha Johnson)</p>			<p><i>Bridge Couples</i></p> <p>6:30 PM</p> <p>(Margaret Boone)</p>
2 nd	2 nd	<p><i>AM Book Club 10AM</i></p> <p>PS Miller Library</p> <p>(Kendra O'Hayre)</p>	<p><i>Evening Book Club</i></p> <p>6:30-8:30PM</p> <p>(Linda Washburn)</p>	2 nd	<p><i>Breakfast Bunch</i></p> <p>8:00 AM Pegasus (Ginger Allspach)</p>	2 nd
3 rd	3 rd	<p><i>Mexican Train</i></p> <p>1 PM</p> <p>(Natalie Weber)</p>	<p><i>AAUW Branch</i></p> <p>6:30 PM</p> <p>PS Miller Library (Usually)</p>	<p><i>Colorado History/Culture Club</i></p> <p>AM Trips (JoAnn McCall)</p>	3 rd	3 rd
4 th	4 th	<p><i>Mah Jongg</i></p> <p>1:00 PM</p>	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, class, national origin, or disability.

<i>Elected Board Members</i>	<i>Current (2017-2018)</i>
Co-Presidents	Beryl Jacobson & Pat Proctor
VP Program	Julie Reagan
VP Membership	Dorothy Nugent
Secretary (2 Year Term)	Pat Smith
Treasurer (2 Year Term)	Marsha Johnson

<i>Committee</i>	<i>2017-2018 Standing Committee Chairs are Voting Members of the Board. Vice Chairs (VC) vote in the absence of the Chair.</i>
Public Policy/AAUW Funds	Diane Norten, Chair
By Laws	Carol Marshall, Chair
Historian	Carol Murphy, Chair
Communications (Newsletter/Directory/Website)	<i>Kathy Chavez, Chair Nedda Altschuld, VC Pat Smith, VC, Website</i>
Scholarships/Awards	Suzanne Kroepsch, Chair, HS Awards Kendra O’Hayre, VC Scholarships
Social Interest Group/Hospitality	Ginger Allspach, Chair Vacant, VC Hospitality Susan Bowie, Committee Member, Hospitality