



**DOUGLAS COUNTY**  
**January -February, 2024**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

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**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

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Jan 17, 2024: Women in Film; January 18th, 2:00, Castle Rock Library

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Feb 3, 2024: Public Policy Day - info in this newsletter

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Mar 20, 2024: Sex Trafficking Discussion; Location & Time TBD

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Apr, 2024: CO State Convention in CO Springs

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May, 2024: End of Year Celebration; Location & Time TBD

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**Friends and family are always welcome at our meetings!!!**

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**January 17:** Our January meeting will focus on film stars who have made a contribution outside of the film industry. We will watch a DVD documentary on the life of actress, Hedy Lamarr and note any other women who have contributed outside of their well known industry. Bring your popcorn or snack and a beverage and relax watching the DVD.

Hedy Lamarr was born in 1913 in Austria. She was an Austrian born, American actress who did not receive recognition for her inventions until after her film career ended. By the time she was 10 she was a proficient pianist and dancer and could speak four languages. She went to Hollywood in 1937, after leaving a restrictive marriage. She starred in many films but one of her most famous statements was “Any girl can be glamorous; all you have to do is stand still and look stupid.”

In collaboration with George Antheil, she invented an electronic device that minimized the jamming of radio signals. The device is a component of present-day satellite and cellular phone technology.

There will be a short board meeting prior to the meeting or maybe afterwards.

February: No meeting as we will all be watching Public Policy via zoom on Saturday, February 3, in our jammies.

*Diane*

**PUBLIC POLICY INFORMATION** from Diane Norten, Public Policy Chair

Public Policy Day will be Saturday, February 3, 2024. Registration information is on the state website. It is always an exciting and informative event and you can watch it from your home in your Pjs.

We can look forward to 2024 being an exciting year with campaigns and elections, both local and national. Several initiatives are gathering signatures to be added to the state ballot. Among them are items related to Property Tax increases, an Economic Impact Statement, Living Child, and Consumer Choice. If you are asked to sign an initiative, make sure you have an understanding of what it involves. To find out more, you can check the website for the League of Women Voters. The Leagues website is full of information, events and volunteer opportunities.

*Diane*



**Public Policy Day**  
**Hot Topics in Education**  
Sat. Feb. 3, 2024 9:00 - Noon  
Zoom Webinar

**REGISTER HERE**

**From Early Childhood Education...**

**KEYNOTE**  
  
**State Senator Janet Buckner**

**PANEL**  
(Moderated by Hon. Nancy Todd)  
  
**Dr. Rebecca Vlasin**  
State Director of Early Childhood Workforce Development

  
**State Rep. Eliza Hamrick**

**...to Higher Education**

**KEYNOTE**  
  
**State Rep. Brianna Titone**

**PANEL**  
(Moderated by Hon. Nancy Todd)  
  
**Dr. Angie Paccione**  
Executive Dir., CO Dept. of Higher Education

  
**Lilly Thomas**  
Ft. Lewis Student and NCCWSL Delegate

**Featuring:**

- Gemma Lockhart, Filmmaker, Lakota member of Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Legislative Update: Su Ryden, Public Policy Co-Director & Hon. Betty Boyd
- Meghan Kissell: AAUW National Public Policy Director
- AAUW of Colorado Updates



**TREASURER'S REPORT** via Deb Swiecinski, Treasurer

The checking account balance is \$8710.94.

We have a total of 46 active members for this year. Only 3 members from the prior year did not renew. Thanks to all of you for your continued support of our branch!

The Girl Power event on November 11<sup>th</sup> was a success. We budgeted \$1,000 (which included \$175 in individual contributions and \$674.43 in eBay Jewelry Sales earmarked for the event). A total of \$588.74 was spent so we will be able to carry forward \$411.26 towards next year's program. Special thanks to Suzanne and Beryl and for all those who helped with this event.

Also, I want to remind everyone that if you do not already participate in the Safeway or King Soopers fundraisers, please contact Marcia Miller to sign up. It's a great way for us to earn extra income for our projects.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding our finances.

*Deb*

**JEWELRY/WATCH FUNDRAISER:** Please donate old jewelry and windup watches.

Condition doesn't matter. Many thanks to all who donated already! Call or email me if you have questions. Donations can be brought to any meeting or I can pick them up. **ENDING IN DECEMBER.**

**All you do is EAT!**

**SAFEWAY/ ALBERTSON FUNDRAISER** uses a reloadable card. If you would like a card, let Marcia know. No cost.

**KING SOOPER'S FUNDRAISER** continues. King Soopers is connected to your Loyalty Card and can be easily registered online and/or connected to your phone number. Your family can also register for our club. Our club number is Club **YN919**. Holler if you get stuck. Contact is Marcia Miller;  
[millermarcia@me.com](mailto:millermarcia@me.com)



## **INTEREST GROUPS**

Chair: Dorothy Nugent, [dorothynugent@comcast.net](mailto:dorothynugent@comcast.net)

*If you are interested in starting a new interest group, please speak up! Dorothy will be happy to help you get started.*

**Single's Bridge** - meets 1st Wednesday of every month @ 2:00 p.m. in member's home or restaurant. Contact: Char Sholes, (303) 349-0901, [char37sholes@gmail.com](mailto:char37sholes@gmail.com)

**Couple's Bridge** - meets 1st Saturday monthly @6:30 p.m. in member's home.  
Contact: Margaret Boone 303-688-3728.

**Morning Book Club** - meets 2nd Tuesday of every month @ 10:00 a.m. at the Castle Rock Library.  
Contact: Susan Berger, [susanrae68@gmail.com](mailto:susanrae68@gmail.com), 603-930-7190

**Afternoon Book Club** - meets 2nd Wednesday of every month @ 12:30 in member's home.  
Contact: Linda Washburn 719-487-0203, [lindacwashburn@gmail.com](mailto:lindacwashburn@gmail.com)

**Mexican Train** - meets 3rd Wednesday of every month in a member's home. Contact: Pat Proctor  
720-353-8032, [mpatproctor@msn.com](mailto:mpatproctor@msn.com)

**History and Culture Group** - meets every month at  
different venues. Contact: Stephanie Fong, [s\\_fong@comcast.net](mailto:s_fong@comcast.net),  
303-249-0112,



**Book Group Books** - contacts are above.

**Morning Group:** January - Free Read

February - **The Last House on the Street** by Diane Chamberlain. “A community’s past sins rise to the surface when two women, a generation apart, find themselves bound by tragedy and an unsolved decades old mystery.”

**Afternoon Group:** January - **Someone Else’s Shoes** by JoJo Moyes; “Nisha Cantor lives the globetrotting life of the seriously wealthy, until her husband announces a divorce and cuts her off. Nisha is determined to hang onto her glamorous life. But in the meantime, she must scramble to cope--she doesn’t even have the shoes she was, until a moment ago, standing in.”

February - **Good Night, Irene** by Luis Alberto Urrea; “In 1943, Irene Woodward abandons an abusive fiancé in New York to enlist with the Red Cross and head to Europe. She makes fast friends in training with Dorothy Dunford, a towering Midwesterner with a ferocious wit...What if a friendship forged on the front lines of war defines a life forever?”

**Editor’s Choice:** **The Story of Arthur Truluv** by Elizabeth Berg; “An emotionally powerful novel about three people who each lose the one they love most, only to find second chances where they least expect them.”

## Our *Leadership:*

**\*Acting Administrator: Marsha Johnson**

**VPs of Programs: Suzanne Kroepsch, Anne Herrington, Betty Rossen**

**VP of Membership: Linda Gaylo**

**Public Policy: Diane Norten**

**Treasurer: Deb Swiecinski**

**Secretary: Pat Smith**

**Newsletter: Marcia Miller**

**Website: Pat Smith**

**Directory and Emails: Pat Proctor**

**Scholarships: Kendra O'Hayre**

**Interest Groups: Dorothy Nugent**

**Historian: Beryl Jacobson**

**Stem Program: Beryl Jacobson & Suzanne  
Kroepsch**

**\*OPEN POSITION. Please volunteer!!!**

*Contact Marsha Johnson with questions or to help. It takes all of us!!*



**Note from Diane:** Remember, February is traditionally the time a nominating board begins a search for new officers for the 24-25 term. Elections are in April and the new officers begin their term on July 1. Please respond positively if you are asked. It would ease the work of the nominating committee to have members volunteer for a position. We have a wonderful group that needs to continue but cannot do it without support. Positions open include Chairman or Co-Chairman and Program Chair.

## JoAnn McCall: A friend and colleagues reflections

Call her spunky, feisty, smart, a dedicated and loving parent/grandparent, an accomplished teacher, educator, and a supporter of equal opportunities for girls and women...and a valued friend...that's a short description of JoAnn McCall.

JoAnn grew up in Yuma County, Colorado, and her approach to education and life reflected the eastern plains values of hard work, persistence, and dedication to family, friends, and causes dear to her heart. JoAnn became a teacher, reading specialist, elementary principal, and assistant director of Special Education for Douglas County Schools. She had a positive influence on everyone who met her. JoAnn was respected by others and she demonstrated respect for others...even if she might have disagreed with their point of view! She could definitely assert her "feisty" attitude when needed but behind it all was a loving and caring human being who wanted the best for everyone.

Over the years I had the privilege of spending more time with JoAnn on AAUW (American Association of University Women) projects and groups. As a member of our Book Club, JoAnn always contributed insights into the characters, plots, and themes of selected books. (She would never have supported the banning of books!) She also enjoyed some of our Colorado Culture and History outings. Having grown up in Colorado, she contributed some of her "home grown" views of the history of our state. After mobility became more difficult, I enjoyed visiting with JoAnn and Don at the Retired Teachers breakfasts once a month. JoAnn always asked about my children and grandchildren and she always expressed love and support for the lives of her own children, grandchildren, and all family members.

JoAnn's greatest contributions will live on in the lives of her already accomplished children, grandchildren and other family members...and in the friends who so loved and respected this wonderful woman.

Kendra O'Hayre

## JoAnn McCall

APRIL 20, 1935 - DECEMBER 20, 2023



**Services will be January 4th, 11 am at St. Francis of Assisi in Castle Rock with a reception to follow. The family is asking that donations in JoAnn's memory be made out to AAUW Douglas County Branch. Donations should be sent to Marsha Johnson, 305 Deer Crossing, Castle Rock, CO. 80104 Obituary is available on Andrews Mortuary, Castle Rock website.**

# GIRL POWER HUGE SUCCESS!!!

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

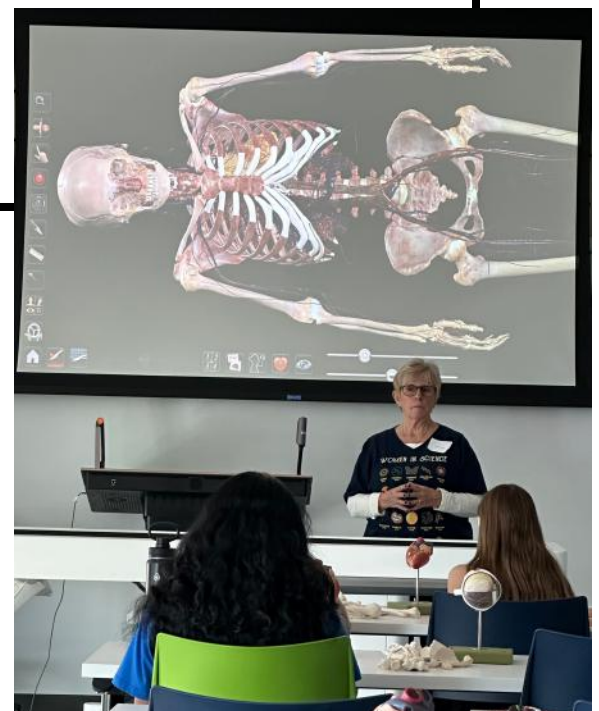
### Girl power 2023

Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023 was the first "Girl Power" event, a collaboration between the Sturm Collaboration Campus, Arapahoe Community College, Douglas County Schools and the Douglas Chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Fifty 8th-grade girls were treated to an exciting morning at the campus learning about STEM careers, and doing hands-on activities on a virtual cadaver and in cybersecurity. Their parents learned about concurrent enrollment in high school, the value of early career exploration and why developing an early relationship with their high school counselor is so important to high school girls.

We are grateful to Sarah Homer, Senior Navigator at the Sturm campus, and to the tireless efforts of AAUW members, Beryl Jacobson and Suzanne Kroepsh and Crowfoot Coffee, Meadows Orthodontics and Domino's Pizza for their in-kind donations to make this a no-cost event for the girls and their parents. After the event, both parents and girls enthusiastically agreed that the

morning had been worthwhile and that they would recommend it to family and friends next year.

*Pat Smith, Douglas County AAUW, Castle Rock*



**Fun party at Pino's Restaurant. About 26 in attendance. Members exchanged books and told a little about each book. (The list of books exchanged is below.)  
Good food, good conversation, good FRIENDS.  
What a great combination!!!**





<i>BOOK TITLE</i>	<i>AUTHOR(S)</i>
<b>AGATHA CHRISTIE 12 NEW MYSTERIES</b>	MULTIPLE AUTHORS
<b>DANCE OF THE DISSIDENT DAUGHTER</b>	SUE MONK KIDD
<b>DAY THE WORLD CAME TO TOWN</b>	JIM DeFEDE
<b>DIAMOND EYE</b>	KATE QUINN
<b>FIRST LADIES</b>	MARIE BENEDICT & VICTORIA MURRAY
<b>GOBLIN, MARKET, THE PRINCE'S PROGRESS &amp; OTHER POEMS</b>	CHRISTINA ROSSETTI
<b>GOOD COMPANY</b>	CYNTHIA D'APRIX SWEENEY
<b>GRAY FEDORA</b>	JUDE RANDAZZO
<b>HOUSEMAID</b>	FREIDA McFADDEN
<b>LADY CLEMENTINE</b>	MARIE BENEDICT
<b>LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY</b>	BONNIE GARMUS
<b>LITTLE PARIS BOOKSHOP</b>	NINA GEORGE
<b>MAD HONEY</b>	JODI PICOULT
<b>MAMA MAKES UP HER MIND</b>	BAILEY WHITE
<b>NIGHT WATCHMAN</b>	LOUISE ERDRICH
<b>OMEN OF THE CROW</b>	JUDE RANDAZZO
<b>OUR MISSING HEARTS</b>	CELESTE NG
<b>SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO</b>	TAYLOR JENKINS REID
<b>SILENT PATIENT</b>	ALEX MICHAELIDES
<b>SLEEPING CAR PORTER</b>	SUZETTE MAYR
<b>SUSAN, LINDA, NINA &amp; COKIE; FOUNDING MOTHERS OF NPR</b>	LISA NAPOLI
<b>THURSDAY MURDER CLUB</b>	RICHARD OSMAN
<b>TURN OF THE SCREW</b>	HENRY JAMES
<b>WICKED</b>	GREGORY MAQUIRE
<b>WINTER STREET</b>	ELIN HILDERBRAND

