

## History Highlights of AAUW-Durango Branch (tidbits of relative perspective)

1880	Durango, Colorado is founded and organized to serve the San Juan mining district.	1974	Branch members staged “Women of All Ages” about women in literature at the Fort
1881	AAUW is formed as a national grassroots organization to empower women.	1976	Presented “Clothes Were the Cause of it All” in the Diamond Circle Theater
1884	AAUW establishes a branch structure.	1980	Durango’s Centennial Celebration gave inspiration to research, write, and produce <i>Women of the San Juan</i> .
1946	Durango forms a branch of AAUW	1981	Members researched, wrote, and performed “Women of the San Juan” a readers’ theater production. Branch member, Ruth Greffenius was highlighted by President, Jeanne Willetto as the director and driving force of all three productions (1981, 1983, & 1989) of <i>Women of the San Juan</i> ; and she gave life to the portraits of those women.
1946	Elsebet Keiler, a holocaust resistance fighter receives AAUW grant <a href="http://www.aauw.org/2014/11/05/elsebet-kieler/">http://www.aauw.org/2014/11/05/elsebet-kieler/</a>	1981	Sandy Brown portrays Ella Berkheimer who was one of those historical women of the San Juan
Late 1940’s	The Branch started a school milk program and began preschool health exams for children entering schools	1982	Carol Simmons joined AAUW
1946	President Harry Truman signs the National School Lunch Program into law. AAUW founder and chemist, Ellen Swallow Richards, created the first planned school lunch program.	1983	National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) was born <a href="https://www.nccwsl.org/our-story/">https://www.nccwsl.org/our-story/</a>
1958	The Branch hosted its first art show with judges from out of state; Stanton Englehart won his first blue ribbon	Early 80’s	Membership plummeted to fewer than the required 15 members. By 1987 the Branch received an AAUW banner for increasing membership by 68%
1958	Cheryl Jackson joined AAUW, Grand Junction Branch	1987	Judith Reynolds joined AAUW
The 60’s	Started a local “Head Start” summer program at Park School, members volunteered to work with teachers in the program	1987	Membership eligibility was changed from “woman” to “person”. Dean Brown became the first male member of the Branch
1962	Fort Lewis College becomes a 4 year college	1988	Again hosted the Parliamentary Institute, first time 1959
1962	On June 7 <sup>th</sup> , AAUW General Director, Pauline Tompkins wrote to President Kennedy and sent him a copy of the 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of the AAUW Journal featuring <i>Change and Choice for the College Woman</i>	1988	Lou Falkenstein & Teresa Jordan join AAUW, Durango Branch
1963	Graduates of the Fort became eligible for membership in AAUW. Prior to this time an AAUW committee did on-site evaluations to determine membership eligibility of a colleges’ graduates.	1988	100 years since National awarded first fellowship; over 5000 total fellowships in more than 100 countries awarded
1964	Ellen Berkheimer, of Durango, who fought to save the old court house celebrates the success of at least saving the original clock that remains in the newly built court house.	1993-1995	Book and Author Brunches were held to raise funds for the AAUW Educational Foundation.
1969	Sandy Brown joined AAUW, Durango Branch	1993	Branch hosted Susan Butruille, author of “Women’s’ Voices from the Oregon Trail” and daughter of member, Ruth Greffenius.
1970	Bobbie Heroy joined AAUW	1995	Cheryl Jackson transferred membership to Durango Branch
		1997	Eleanor Roosevelt was portrayed by Judy Hook at the Courthouse to celebrate the 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Branch
		1998	Dues were \$45

1998 74 members

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 The Branch earned the 5-Star Branch award for Community Action, Public Policy, Educational Foundation, Legal Advocacy Fund, and Visibility

2000 The Branch issued a check for \$2600 to the FLC Foundation, initiating the Virginia Schoser Scholarship endowment

2001 The Branch hosted the state convention

2002 51 members

2002 Sold Christmas wreathes, net \$522

2002 [National AAUW has granted over 8000 awards](#)

2003 The first B & A Fundraising luncheon for local scholarships was held, the speaker was Mary Sojourner

2010 Endowed the Virginia Schoser Scholarship at the Fort

2011 Katherine Burgess contacted Dene Thomas re C/U Partnership, in August the Fort became a partner

2011 B & A luncheon tickets were \$25

2011 Raised \$1150 for the Watson Scholarship Fund from the no-show Christmas party

2011 Cheryl Jackson, a life member, resigned from the board

2011 Katherine Burgess and MJ Moseley attended the Fall Leadership Conference in Vail

2012 Endowed the Janet Watson Scholarship

2012 Began fundraising for the Cheryl Jackson scholarship

2012 Hosted the regional HHS Director, Marguerite Salazar, to discuss the ACA

2013 The branch hosted the State Convention in Ignacio; we received extremely positive feedback

2013 Toured Center for SW Studies at the Fort

2013 43 members

2013 Hosted the film: "The Invisible War"

2013 Members participated in "One Billion Rising"

2014 Two students at Fort Lewis attended NCCWSL, sponsored by the branch and Fort Lewis College programs.

2014 Ann Butler and Bud Poe presented at the B & A luncheon. Proceeds were \$2370, a record

2014 57 members

2015 19 students at the Fort applied for the NCCWSL scholarships, 2 attended

2016 The branch became a co-sponsor of Great Decisions; acquired 3 year license for Start Smart Workshops

**Today** [National AAUW is a 136 year old, worldwide membership of 170,000 and 1000 branches and 800 C/U partners](#)  
 AAUW-Durango Branch is celebrating 70 years with 86 members and currently a C/U partner with Fort Lewis College