



SAN JUAN SAGE

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Newsletter of the Durango Branch of the American Association of University Women

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Message from your Board of Directors

Great news! On Wednesday September 11 we signed the Sandy Brown Endowed Scholarship Agreement with the Fort Lewis College Foundation. At the same time, we delivered the check for \$25,000 to establish the endowment. This was all due to your hard work, dedication to the cause and your generosity. Thank you!

Now it's on to our next endeavor. We want thank you all who attended the Annual Meeting in June and shared your opinions and ideas.

On August 11 the board met for their annual Board Retreat. The primary topic at this meeting was planning the Path Forward, using your input from the Annual Meeting as our guideline. After much robust discussion the Board decided that we should stick with what we do best – fundraising for the NCCWSL and VAP travel grants and fundraising for an endowed scholarship at the Fort Lewis College Foundation.

We are thrilled to announce the establishment of the Butler-Falkenstein Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The Fund and ultimate endowed scholarship will honor the contributions that Mary Lou McElreath Falkenstein and Ann Butler made to AAUW Durango and to the community.

On December 14 we will have our annual Holiday Open House. This event will also serve as the kick-off event for this Fund. Watch your email for details.

We have set aside other fundraising options for now. We are still considering the other ideas and actions relating to visibility in the community, social connectivity and education.

A hearty “thank you” to each of you for your contributions to AAUW Durango.

Faye Schrater and the AAUW Durango Leadership Team



UPCOMING EVENTS - SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, October 26 - Our NCCWSL Fundraiser will be in the Vallecito Room at Fort Lewis College. Commissioner Marsha-Porter Norton will be the honored guest speaker. [Click here](#) for the flier with more information. Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 14 - Holiday Open House and Kick-off Event for the Butler-Falkenstein Endowed Scholarship Fund. From 1:00 - 4:00 - dedication at 2:00. Watch your email for details



Get to Know Your Leadership Team

Debbie Stein-Kurz Membership Chairman



Debbie Kurz was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio and earned a BS in Pharmacy from Purdue University in 1979. She enjoyed a varied career using her pharmacy background in nontraditional settings. She worked as a Cosmetic Chemist for Elizabeth Arden, a subsidiary of Eli Lilly at the time. She then joined Lilly working in clinical research to collect, analyze and submit safety and efficacy data for new drugs. Debbie ultimately specialized in Clinical Quality Assurance. She left Lilly to join a start-up company that provided clinical trial data management services to pharmaceutical companies. She spent the last eight years of her career as president of DSK Consulting: Quality in Global Clinical Research. Her career allowed her to travel extensively both domestically and internationally.

Both drawn to the mountains, Debbie and her husband Ken moved to Durango in 2004 when he retired. They enjoyed skiing, hiking, Jazzercise and Pilates for many years. Debbie has been active with Big Brothers Big Sisters for nearly 20 years, including 6 years serving on their board. For the past 7 years, she has enjoyed a sweet friendship as a Big Sister to a wonderful Little. She has volunteered with Snowdown as a writer for the Schedule of Events since 2013 and is proud to have been on stage for three years of Snowdown Follies. She also loves playing Mah Jong with the AAUW interest group!

Peg Kimple, DEI Chairman



Peg grew up in southern New Jersey. She attended Earlham College, a small Quaker college in Indiana, earning a degree in Far Eastern History. A foreign study experience took her to Japan, where she stayed with the family of a girl who had lived as an exchange student with her US family for a year. She has returned to Japan twice since, once on a national fellowship to work with Japanese not-for-profits. Later she earned a Master's Degree from the State University of New York.

Peg's first work experience was interviewing teen mothers about their substance use during pregnancy. She developed a deep respect for their resilience and sense of responsibility during their pregnancies. Peg continued to work with women's issues: reproductive health, domestic violence, and teen motherhood. And finally, Peg was able to make clear the relationship between women's issues and substance abuse; she became the coordinator of a coalition that brought a diverse urban community to understand how substance abuse affects everyone. For this work, the local NAACP awarded Peg the honor of "Woman of the Year".



"It's a baby. Federal regulations prohibit our mentioning its race, age, or gender."

FLC rep explaining why they will be choosing our scholarship recipients.



AAUW members **Kathleen Adams**, **Jill Donley**, and **Faye Schrater**, flanked by **Emily Phillips** and **Critter Golden** of FLC, deliver the check and sign the documents establishing the Sandy Brown/AAUW Scholarship

INTEREST GROUPS

Mahjongg Group: The mahjongg group meets every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in the foyer of the Durango Public Library. We're always looking for new players. If you would like more information or a tutorial, contact Katherine Burgess at katherineburgess@outlook.com.

Edouard Book Club: Edouard book club meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 2:00 January through November. If the last Wednesday of November is the day before Thanksgiving, then we meet on the first Wednesday of December.

Upcoming book club readings -

October 30, 2024 - *Dragonfly* by Leila Meacham

December 4, 2024 - *The Women* by Kristen Hannah

January 29, 2025 *Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America* by Heather Cox Richardson

February 26, 2025 - *Go as a River* by Shelley Rea

March 26, 2025 - *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

April 30, 2025 - *Lost in the Valley of Death* by Harley Rustad

May 28, 2025 - *Wandering Stars* by Tommy Orange

Birthday Luncheons: Each month we gather at 11:30 a.m. in a different location to celebrate the members whose birthdays fall within the month. The following dates are planned; both dates and locations are subject to change. For more information, contact [Katherine Burgess](#).

- Wednesday, 16 October – East by Southwest
- Thursday, 14 November – Edgemont Grill at Doubletree
- Wednesday, 18 December - TBD



AAUW Women of Distinction

The AAUW Women of Distinction program pays tribute to women leaders who have made extraordinary accomplishments in their professions or their communities.

The honor is given at a special even held in conjunction with the annual National Conference of College Women Student Leaders. [Click here](#) to learn more about this program and its honorees.