

Colorado Springs Branch hosts Second Raising of America Community Dialogue on April 30th



Looking for a way to educate ourselves about a major barrier to self-sufficiency for women and girls—the **lack of quality, affordable childcare**—the Colorado Springs Branch discovered the PBS documentary, *The Raising of America in 2014*, when it was still in the production stage. Our early plans to use the film in a community education effort coincided with plans by the Early Childhood Colorado Partnership/Civic Canopy in Denver to launch a statewide initiative that will reframe how we view early childhood. It was these early efforts, along with AAUW Colorado Springs organizing the RoA Pikes Peak Community Alliance, that enabled Rocky Mountain PBS to win permission to do a pre-screening of the RoA *Signature Hour* a year ago, months before the documentary was released. **Colorado has been acknowledged by the producer, California Reel, as the lead state in promoting the documentary.**

Public Policy Director Cara Koch arranged with trained Food for Thought Facilitators to facilitate two Community Dialogues where participants could engage in a back-and-forth small group discussion of issues and examples of some solutions tried in other communities featured in the film. According to Carol Scott, a nationally known expert and trainer for the F4T facilitators, there is a big difference between what is sometimes referred to as a community dialogue-- listening to a panel of people followed by a Q & A session---and actually engaging participants in a back-and-forth small group discussion where ideas and opinions are exchanged in a neutral setting. This engagement strategy clearly worked, with over 200 people having participated so far.

It is the hope of the Colorado Springs Branch that our community will continue participating in the statewide Early Childhood Colorado Partnership initiative to impact public policy related to our children's early years. AAUW Branches throughout the state can learn more about ECEP with this link: <http://www.earlychildhoodcoloradopartnership.org/>

Cara Koch
AAUW Public Policy Director
Colorado Springs Branch

IT'S MY VOTE

 I WILL BE HEARD 

A A U W A C T I O N F U N D

“AAUW is dedicated to making sure every woman is registered and has the information she needs to cast her vote. From Congressional inaction on the Paycheck Fairness Act to frequent attacks on our reproductive rights, the current political landscape – which increasingly focuses on social issues – seldom includes or responds to women's voices. To create real change, women must be part of the conversation, and the most powerful way for us to chime in is at the polls.” (AAUW GOTV Toolkit)

If you know someone who is interested in registering to vote, please encourage Colorado residents to register online at <http://govotecolorado.com>.

Members may also access AAUW's GOTV Toolkit at <http://aauwaction.org>. The toolkit includes our tips to help your branch run a successful voter registration, GOTV, and voter education campaign in your state or locality in 2016.

Branches interested in running voter registrations must be trained and certified by the Colorado Secretary of State. Any election activities carried out in AAUW's name must be conducted with the guidelines set out in AAUW policies. Activities must also be allowable under regulations established by the U.S Internal Revenue Services and Federal Elections Commissions.

If your branch is interested in conducting election activities, please contact Joan Peterson/Colorado Voter Education Director at j1421peterson@netscape.com.

