

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Mark your Calendar

General Meeting

January 13 @ 7 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

3333 Duffield Ave.

Loveland, CO

****Facility will open at 6 p.m. for committee meetings.**

January hostesses: Odile Lynch, Judy Gangle, Barbara Giesey

February hostesses: Mo Reilly, Florence Doksansky, Rita Harden

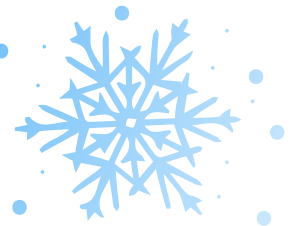
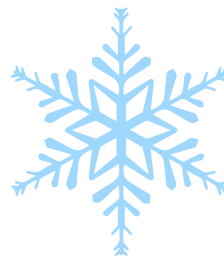


Share Your News

Deadlines to submit information for future newsletters:

MONTH	CONTENT DEADLINE
February	January 24
March	February 21
April	March 21
May	April 24

Please send your submissions to philopublicity@gmail.com. Thanks!



Officers

President: Lorie Smith - lorie.smith@me.com

Vice President: Terri Mulford - mulfordterri@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Ruth Sprain - rsprained@comcast.net

Treasurer: Peggy Pellizzari - peggy_loveland@comcast.net

Corresponding Secretary: Amy Black - blackamyb@hotmail.com

Past President: Ruth Swanty - ruthswanty@gmail.com

President's Message

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. A heartfelt thank you to Carol Booth for hosting our party. She and her husband did an outstanding job of making us feel welcome and creating such a warm Christmas atmosphere. If you haven't already, be sure to check out the Facebook posts for photos from the evening. Great job, Christmas Carol!

Do you make New Year's resolutions? If I'm being honest, I have a bit of a love/hate relationship with them. Some years I take pen to paper with optimism and determination; other years I avoid the whole process altogether—or simply scratch out the date on last year's list and replace it with the new one. I've been thinking about this a lot recently as Philo enters 2026, our 108th year in existence.

At our September meeting, I shared three areas I was committed to supporting during my year as president: improving our visibility in the community, continuing our efforts to recruit new members, and developing stronger relationships with our community partners. I'm proud of the progress we've made together in each of these areas.

We've taken meaningful steps by launching a new public-facing website and gaining traction on our Facebook page (thank you to Margaret Crespo and to everyone who posts, comments, and "likes"). We've welcomed new members who continually inspire me with their creativity, ideas, and talents. We've also continued inviting guests to our general meetings, helping us better understand where and how we can meet the needs of our community.

As we look ahead, I feel encouraged by what we've accomplished and optimistic about what's to come. I hope you share that same sense of enthusiasm and resolve for the year ahead.

As always, I am deeply thankful for all you do to make Philo such a welcoming, impactful, and caring organization.

Best wishes to all,
Lorie

Holiday Party!

As Lorie said above, big thanks to Carol Booth for hosting our annual holiday party! We had a wonderful gathering of 32 Philo sisters in December to celebrate together. Here are some photos of the festivities!



Integrated Early Childhood



The IEC committee wants to send a HUGE THANK YOU to all the Philo members who donated winter items for the Preschoolers. We were able to take 3 huge Christmas sacks loaded with coats, pants, boots, hats and mittens to the Preschoolers. The teachers will pick out the items they think will help out in their classrooms. You are all so generous to help our littlest students!



We will have our next book sale in March. The Spring Literacy Fair's theme is "Pete the Cat". If any of you see any "Pete the Cat" books when you're out and about and want to donate them to the Fair, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all,
Melissa Rutt

Alternatives to Violence

Billie Jo Downing, Yvonne Zack and Carol Rieser, members of the ATV committee, delivered 12 "Fresh Start" baskets, (10) \$25 Walmart gift cards and a check for \$1,000 to Kari Clark, Director of ATV and Rose Marie Massaro. They were very happy to receive these gifts from Philo.

I want to thank you all for your generous donations to fill 12 baskets! I also want to thank the Philo board for approving \$1,000 from "special funds" to give them. ATV has an anonymous donor who will match funds up to \$10,000. This money is used for their special needs, such as car payments, car insurance, and/or car repairs. They recently had a client who had a job and place to live out of State, but needed her car repaired to get there. This money will be used to help clients in similar situations.

We will be taking donations starting in January to fill another 12 baskets.

Wishing everyone a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Rieser, ATV chair



Holiday Giving

Diane Waites and I went with Exodus Moving company on December 5 to schools around Thompson School District to pick up canned goods collected during the Food Drive. Some of the kids were very excited and proud of what they did, so much so, that they wanted to help load! The final weight for the day was 13,149 lbs. Jane McKinstry and I delivered the toys that were donated to HNS, and they were so excited and grateful for the generosity!

Thank you,
Laura Atkins, Chair



Peaches with a Purpose

It was very exciting to be able to distribute \$6,000 to the winning applicants of our peach sale funds.

The recipients were Laurene Edmonson Elementary food pantry \$1000

Truscott Elementary food pantry \$1000

Thompson School District (Family School Community Partnership) \$3000

These funds will be allocated specifically to the food pantries in the districts Title 1 schools.

Loveland Youth Gardeners also received \$1000 to be used toward a new refrigerator to better preserve the harvest of their garden.

Kind Regards,
Cindy Kurtz, chair



Giving with Impact

On Wednesday, November 19th, Diane Meuret and Jeanne Findley met with Erin Bassera, Food Pantry manager for House of Neighborly Service. Philo's Giving With Impact team gave a donation of \$900, plus an anonymous \$100. \$1,000 will be used to immediately refill pantry shelves for food needs. Food Pantry shelves were particularly low before the Thanksgiving season, during the stoppage of the SNAP program and current economic conditions.

The GWI team stepped in to fill the void before a new supply of food will be collected and available during the month of December. Additional donations then will be given from the Philo Holiday Giving committee including their food drive with schools, donations from churches and individuals, exemplifying the heartfelt action of Loveland community teamwork.

Dona Menzies, Chair



Rotary Duck Race

Tickets will be available at the first meeting of the new year! Funds from the Duck Race ticket sales go toward the Philo general fund as well as supporting the Rotary Club. Once again they are sold in sets of 7 for \$20. It would be great if you could convince your friends and family to purchase some also.

Judy Gangle, Chair



New Member Spotlight

Yvonne Zack



My name is Yvonne Zack. I currently live in Johnstown, but consider myself a Loveland transplant. I am married to Jim, my husband of 55 years. We met in our home town of Aurora, Illinois, two weeks before he shipped out to war (Vietnam). When he was allowed "time off", we set up reservations to fly to Hawaii and get married. I was born in Denver, then moved to Nebraska, then Illinois, then South Carolina, then California. I sing in my church choir and am a former Alternatives to Violence Board Member and feel very blessed to have served on that Board. We have four children, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild. My husband and I love to travel and have been to Germany, Amsterdam in the Netherlands, Costa Rica, Italy, Prague, Vienna, Italy, Ireland, Scotland and most recently, Egypt. I like to travel, read, cook, bake, and sew (although I don't do much of this now that our children are grown up and out of the house).

New Member Spotlight

Candace Oates



Hello! I'm Candace Oates, born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana, and I've been residing in Johnstown, Colorado for the last 12 years. My career has taken me across multiple states, first in Corporate Training and Development for a major corporation. After some time, I realized the corporate environment wasn't aligned with my well-being, so I pivoted to health and wellness. I've been in this field for nearly 20 years, blending my passions for education, prevention, and community support.

I'm a certified Personal Trainer through ACE, with specialized work in Metabolic Diseases, Women's Health, and as a Diabetes Prevention Specialist. I'm also a Health Coach, and I've earned an MBA along with Doctorates in Public Health. This journey has naturally steered me toward public speaking and group presentations, and I'm the co-founder and Executive Director of Obesity Awareness IN Action (OAA) non-profit (www.oaamovement.org). OAA supports youth in grades 5–12 by providing preventative health and wellness education, as well as donating shoes for wellness—including working shoes for trades and restaurant safety to help keep our youth prepared for the world of work.

Together with my wonderful husband, I'm a parent to five amazing kids: two older step-sons (28 and 25), a 20-year-old son, and two young daughters aged 6 and 7. My family is a constant source of inspiration and motivation, and we all enjoy traveling the world together and seeking new adventures.

I'm grateful to be introduced to Philo by Cindy Noble, who connected me with a group of fantastic women who share similar values. Our community and conversations have been incredibly meaningful, reinforcing my commitment to wellness, education, and service.

I look forward to our Philo family adventures together.

Bulletin Board

Our **Loveland Community Kitchen** could use your help! Visit the link below to find ways to support this valuable community resource.

Lovelandcommunitykitchen.org

Together Time

A time to gather in community for fun organized by Terri Dimond. This month's event:



High Tea
The Chautauqua Dining Hall
900 Baseline Rd, Boulder
January 6, Tuesday at 2pm
\$50 per person (maybe less)
state dietary restrictions in advance
Must RSVP by January 2, 2026
Let's carpool!

Bunco

We play the first Thursday of the month at 6 pm at various members' houses. See below for more information.

Contact Dona Menzies at dmenzies123@gmail.com to get your name on the Bunco list.

Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee is offering Philo members a new opportunity to add to the Scholarship Funds. Your contribution will be added to the annual Golf Tournament proceeds to increase the total awarded each year to worthy students. Members may contribute any amount at any time of the year, and this amount will be added to the general scholarship fund. This is an entirely optional opportunity which will be available annually and is tax deductible. Funds collected between now and February 28 will be awarded in the 2026-27 academic year, while funds received on March 1, 2026, or later, will be awarded in the following academic year. If you wish to contribute, please contact Mo Reilly for a copy of the Scholarship Agreement form. Your gift will increase the number of scholarships awarded, and will be appreciated by students and recognized by your Philo sisters.

November Minutes

PHILO MISSION STATEMENT – The Philomatheon Club of Loveland is a women’s organization that supports charities and educational needs in the Loveland/Berthoud communities.

PHILO GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held at Trinity Lutheran Church 3333 Duffield Ave Loveland, CO on **November 11, 2025**
– 7pm Doors were open at 6pm for committees to meet.

Attending Officers: Lorie Smith, President; Terri Mulford, Vice President; Peggy Pellizzari, Treasurer; Amy Black, Corresponding Secretary; Ruth Sprain, Recording Secretary; Ruth Swanty, Past President.

AGENDA:

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm

A thank you given for refreshments served by our hostesses Melissa Rutt, Carol Rieser, Peggy McGlynn

Our guest, Kari Clark, Alternatives to Violence. Kari was unable to attend the meeting.

A motion was moved by Cindy Noble to approve the minutes of October 14, 2025; the motion was seconded by Florence Doksansky and unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report - Peggy Pellizzari

General Fund : \$16,230.82

Peach Sales: \$5,319.74

Special Funds/General Savings: \$20,545.21

Golf/Scholarships: \$45,368.17

Business:

1. Update on website changes – Lorie explained that committee chairs have the opportunity to suggest edits and revisions. Then an email will be sent to members, so if they find errors, those can be corrected. Peggy said that Philo’s donation button will connect with Colorado Gives to facilitate giving.
2. Thank you – Amy Black shared a thank you from ATV for help with Pastels on 5th and for the \$200 donation.
3. Bulletin Board reminder on our newsletter – Amy Black reminded members that they can send Amy a bulletin board item, which is an activity for Philo members.
4. Pink Philo shirt orders current status- Melissa Rutt said that members can sign up for a shirt for \$20.
5. Next book sale date: The next book sale will be in March.
6. Holiday Party sign ups- Amy Black showed the sign-up sheet for food to bring to the holiday party at Carol Booth’s home. Carol said her house is in Marianna Buttes, St. Andrew’s Ct. People are encouraged to carpool. Her husband will act as valet. Bring an ornament if you want to be involved in the ornament exchange. Kathy Loken is donating beer.
7. Donation items at Holiday Party reminder – Donations for IEC include mittens and hats. You can also bring snowpants in sizes 4, 5, or 6 and boots in size 9-11 (these can be used instead of new).

Committee Announcements:

ATV – Carol Rieser said thank you for donations for ATV Fresh Start Baskets.

Blood Drive-Florence said the sign-ups are full for the next blood drive.

Golf- Put June 12th on your calendar for the golf tournament. The chairman of the board of Adams Bank, Todd Adams, who is a big donor, just died. Perhaps Philo can send a sympathy card. Snyder’s Jewelry, a past donor, is going out of business. Cindy had cards for this information about Snyder’s Jewelry.

Motion: That Philo send a memorial to the funeral of Todd Adams.Kathy Loken moved, Peggy Pellizzari seconded. Motion passed.

November Minutes, con't

Giving with Impact- Dona said that GWI and Peach Committee will coordinate the gifts to the school district for food for needy families. The district needs a small refrigerator for food donations.

Holiday Giving- Holiday Giving spent \$1350 on gift cards for HNS, and many Philo members brought in toys for the HNS Santa Shop. The cans will be picked up on Dec. 5. Members were thanked for donating toys.

IEC- Melissa Rutt reported that the committee helped with the HUGS Family Night that evening before the Philo meeting. The committee members helped the children make sensory bottles. Philo also donated pizza and food for the families attending the evening

Peaches- Cindy Kurtz has high hopes for expansion of the peach sales. She said that buyers may be able to pick up the boxes of peaches themselves. The mission of the money from peach sales is for food insecurity. Money from 2025 will go towards Loveland Youth Gardeners for a refrigerator. Laurene Edmondson and Truscott requested money for their food pantries and both were given money. The balance of \$3,000 will be given to the district for them to distribute the money to schools needing money for pantries or directly to families in need.

Social Media/ History Yearbook- Ruth Swanty explained that she worked with the history yearbook. They are working on a desk manual for directions on how to put together the yearbook. Plus, Ruth is working with the Facebook committee too. Ruth puts the Philo meeting dates in the Reporter-Herald. Lorie encouraged members to send in photos of committee and Philo work and activities.

Raise Right- Jeanne Findley said that they were collecting Raise Right orders. They will be given out the gift cards at the holiday party. The total right now is \$12,000.

Rotary Duck Race- Tickets should be available in January.

Scholarships- Contacts are made to let groups know that the Philo Scholarship applications will be available in January. Mo said that anyone from the Scholarship Committee who needs help logging on the scholarship website can see her after the meeting for a brief training.

Sunshine- Mo has knee replacement surgery scheduled for tomorrow. The group sang happy birthday to Cindy Kurtz.

Web Management- Peggy is in charge of the Members Only website. There are a lot of tabs across the top, plus "Current" for all the current minutes, yearbook, etc.

Meeting adjourned 7:43 pm

Next meeting: No meeting! Holiday Party at Carol Booth's house

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Sprain, Recording Secretary

Sunshine Committee



The sunshine committee sent cards to Kathy Loken - get well (mild stroke), Carol Watt - thinking of you (hip replacement) and Glenna Bliss Cook - sympathy (husband's passing).

Happy birthday to our Philo sisters who celebrated birthdays in December and who will celebrate birthdays in January!

- 12/02 Sally Moninger
- 12/03 Charlie Johnson
- 12/08 Barbara Worden
- 12/08 Margaret Crespo
- 12/12 Connie DuBois
- 12/13 Donna Beatty
- 12/14 Ruth Sprain
- 12/20 Pat Farnham
- 12/20 Candace Oates
- 12/21 Debbie Welzel
- 12/24 Yvonne Zack
- 12/25 Syd Fancher



- 01/06 Phyllis Reimer
- 01/08 Nita Starr
- 01/09 Amy Black
- 01/11 Julie Mahaffy
- 01/13 Lin Stokes
- 01/14 Carol Booth
- 01/18 Diane Meuret

Please remember to contact Mary at mimivog@gmail.com or 970-669-2245 with any needs or concerns.

Sunshine committee,
Mary Voggesser
Diane Meuret

