

Los Alamos Branch AAUW April 2008

Because **equity** is still an **issue** **Thursday, April 24, 7:30pm** **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

To match men's earnings for 2007, women will have to work from January 2007 to April 2008—an extra four months. But Equal Pay Day is not just about disseminating information, it is also about mobilizing around the issue, to educate your community and continue the process of change. The wage gap between men and women persists. In 2005, women earned only 77 cents on the dollar to their male counterparts. Over a working lifetime, estimates of what this wage disparity costs the average American woman and her family range from \$440,000 to \$2 million. In 2004, a typical college-educated woman working full-time earned \$31,223 a year, compared to \$40,798 for a college-educated man—a stark difference of \$9,575. Since its founding in 1881, the American Association of University Women has been committed to promoting equity for all women.

Come to our meeting and wear red to signify the fact that women are in the red when it comes to wages. Awareness of the issue is step one in determining what each of us can do to promote pay equity.

One thing we can do right now is contribute to AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund via our April non-event.

Non-event for the Legal Advocacy Fund

It's spring and we all welcome a break from fund raising – just think no baking, no phoning, no organizing, just write a check to the Legal Advocacy Fund (suggested donation \$5 to \$10). You will have done a world of good and Carroll Thomas our hard working Educational Foundation chair will thank you.

The Legal Advocacy Fund is a part of the Educational Foundation and helps students, faculty, staff, and administrators in higher education challenge discriminatory practices such as sexual harassment, denial of tenure or promotion, **pay inequity**, and inequality in women's athletics programs. Currently LAF supports 14 lawsuits and has awarded \$32,500 for FY2008. Among its successes, on September 20, **Laura Violand** prevailed against George Washington University's appeal when the appeals court judge upheld her \$280,955 jury award for back-pay damages. This decision is a major victory in light of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company*.

Write your check (tax deductible) payable to AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund now, before you forget, and mail it to:

Carroll Thomas
115 La Senda Road
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Another thing we can do right now is to support AAUW NM's coalition of women's groups formed to urge Senator Domenici to support of The Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act (S. 1843). This has passed the house and currently has 36 senate cosponsors (including Senator Bingaman). This is the number one AAUW public policy priority right now and would restore the deadline for filing pay discrimination cases to 180 days following the last discriminatory pay check, rather than 180 days following the hiring or pay raise decision. We will have postcards available at the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, call or e-mail Senator Domenici. (mailto:Senator_Domenici@domenici.senate.gov)

At the meeting, we will watch two short videos produced by the association that deals with the pay equity issue. The second video called Tech Savvy addresses the issue of women working lower paying jobs because they do not have the required math and science skills for the more technical, better paying jobs.

Also, Helena Whyte will lead a discussion of the book Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich. The author went 'underground' to do investigative reporting by working at low paying jobs thereby experiencing living poor and trying to make ends meet. Helena says, "There are at least 4 issues presented in this book: lack of health insurance, inadequate leave policies, low-wage jobs are often more strenuous and prone to injury, and the inadequacy of the minimum wage." From my point of view this book is relevant to pay inequity for women because displaced home makers who may be well educated, but have not been in the labor force for many years are forced by necessity to take jobs that are minimum wage or close to it."

This meeting will be a relevant lead into the [AAUW-NM Spring Convention in Rio Rancho](#) on April 26, 2008. Catherine Hill one of the co-authors of Behind the Pay Gap (<http://www.aauw.org/research/upload/behindPayGap.pdf>) will be presenting updates to and insights into her research.

Future Branch Events:

April 2, Wednesday, Expanding Your Horizons Conference. Marilyn Minshall has been our liaison with Los Alamos Women in Science for this event. She is looking for help. Contact Marilyn at 672-3499.

May 9, Unitarian Church, 1738 N. Sage, 4:30-6:30, Spring Membership Tea.

July 21, Mesa Public Library, Let's Read Math workshop for parents and children: helpers needed contact Helena, or Natalie to volunteer. Training will be provided.

Branch News:

Candidates for coordinating council:

The Nominating Committee has nominated Bev Cooper, Natalie Markin, Susan Oldham, and Cas Mason, to assume positions for two year terms on the coordinating Council. The nominees will be voted on at the May Tea. The accepted nominees will join the following returning Council members who will complete the second year of their two year term: Alahna Weller, Rozelle Wright, Helena Whyte, Denise George, and Carroll Thomas. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Adjunct members are: Marilyn Minshall who will continue as Historian; Jane Sherwood, who will

continue as Hospitality Chair; and Pat Mendius, who will continue to do her fabulous job of Council hostess. We wish to thank Jill Forman for her hard work as Nominating Chair for this year.

Study Group Schedules are posted at:

http://aauw-nm.org/los_alamos_study_groups.html

Study group chairs are asked to send schedules and any changes to Denise at georgeje@acm.org

Book Group: The next meeting will be Monday, April 7, 7:30pm at the home of Nina Thayer, 1707 Solano. The book is *Crow Lake* by Mary Lawson

Non-Fiction Book Group:

The next meeting will be at the home of Nina Thayer, 1707 Solano, May 19 at 7:30 pm. The book is *Endangered Species*, by Steven Younger. The author will be present at the meeting.

The World Cultures through Foods: The next dinner is a Paula Deane Dinner on April 20, 2008, at 6pm. Contact Marilyn Minshall (672-3499).

Carroll Thomas is the coordinator of the day-time *Great Decisions* group. All meetings of this group are held at Mesa Public Library at 10 a.m. in room 1. The dates are as follows: April 14 (Latin America) and 28 (Russia), May 12 (Blacklisting the enemy).

The evening *Great Decisions Group* contact is Helena Whyte (672-9153). Meetings Apr. 10 (China) May 1 (Philanthropy) May 15 (U.S. Defense).

State News:

The 2008 State Convention will be hosted by the West Mesa Branch from April 25 through April 27. Registration will be \$40 before April 7 and \$45 after. One day registration will be \$20. The convention will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rio Rancho (505) 896-1111: \$89 per night for

double rooms with two double beds. A block of rooms is reserved for April 25 and 26th. Please make your own reservations by Friday, April 11th and tell the hotel that you are with the AAUW convention.

The conference schedule and registration form are posted on the state web site. <http://aauw-nm.org>. The spring issue of the Roadrunner will have all this information as well.

Branch Calendar

Apr	2	Expanding Your Horizons.
Apr	7	Book Group, <u>Crow Lake</u> by Mary Lawson, 7:30pm, Nina Thayer's, 1707 Solano
Apr	10	Evening Great Decisions, China, 7:30pm
Apr	14	Great Decisions, Mesa Public Library, room 1, 10am, Latin America
Apr	20	World Culture Through Food, Paula Deane Dinner, 6pm
Apr	21	Council Meeting, 7:15pm, Pat Mendius, 124 Rover
Apr	24	General meeting, 7:30pm, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Equity is an Issue
Apr	28	Great Decisions, Mesa Public Library, room 1, 10am, Russia
May	1	Evening Great Decisions, 7:30pm, Private Philanthropy
May	5	Book Group, <u>Water for Elephants</u> by Sara Gruen, 7:30pm, Veronica Encinas, 416 Cheryl
May	9	Spring Tea, Unitarian Church, 4:30-6:30

Coordinating Council for 2007-2008

Helena Whyte	Facilitator	helenaw@lanl.gov
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