

Los Alamos Branch AAUW February 2005 Newsletter

February General Meeting
Thursday, February 17, 2005, 7:30pm
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
2390 North Road

Women at Work in Los Alamos

We will hear from a moderated panel of local women who will talk about the CHOICES, CHALLENGES, and REWARDS of their work in Los Alamos. The panelists are Barbara Yarnell (pottery artist), Tinka Gammel (LANL scientist), Shirley Raye Redmond (writer) and Rita Sanchez (LA Middle School teacher).

Shirley Raye was born in Arlington, Virginia but grew up on the island of Okinawa. She and husband Bill have two grown children, one grandson and a very spoiled Scottish terrier. She is an award-winning nonfiction writer and frequent conference speaker, who has sold 9 books and over 400 magazine and newspaper articles. Shirley Raye, who has an M.A. in English from the University of Illinois, has taught a variety of writing and literature courses at the Los Alamos campus of the University of New Mexico. She's also a former columnist for The Santa Fe New Mexican. In 1996, Shirley Raye was named Outstanding Literary Artist of the Year by the Los Alamos Arts Council. She has been the activities coordinator the Los Alamos Writers Group for the past 16 years.

Rita Sanchez was born in Albuquerque NM, raised in Cundiyo, NM, attended Pojoaque High School, received a BUS degree from UNM. She was an assistant curator at el Rancho de Las Golondrinas. She then attended graduate school at NMSU, returned with her teaching credentials and was hired by the Los Alamos Public Schools in 1985. She is certified in Social Studies and Modern and classical Languages and teaches Spanish at Los Alamos Middle School. She has been nominated for Who's Who Among American Teachers and for Golden Apple Award. Rita has two children, Bryan 17, and Elena 13. Both attend Los Alamos Schools.

Tinka Gammel holds the PhD in theoretical condensed matter physics from Cornell. She has over 75 professional publications, hundreds of citations, several papers in Physical Review Letters (arguably the premier journal in the field), and is currently doing equation of state work. She is a board member of New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering and a regular EYH and AAUW Careers and Curiosity participant. She is chair, LANL Women's Diversity Working Group. She was president of Los Alamos Symphony Orchestra during it's 50th anniversary (1998), and organized successful student solo competition in celebration of that event. She helped write and get passed the Los Alamos ordinance that limits streetlights, thus protecting the night sky.

Barbara Yarnell's bio was not received by press time.

National News

Women have made remarkable strides in education during the past three decades, but these gains have yet to translate into full equity in pay - even for college-educated women who work full time. A typical college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 compared to \$61,800 for college-educated male workers—a difference of \$17,600! Here are New Mexico data:

		Rank:
%women with 4 year degree	22.4	25
median income of college educated women (2003 dollars)	\$37,600	37
earning ratio between college educated women and men	68.1%	39

Educational Foundation/Fellowships and Grants

- The Educational Foundation received 543 eligible Career Development Grant applications for the 2005-06 application cycle, up from 519 eligible applications in 2004-05.
- Eleven nominations were received for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award for 2005. This award will be presented at the 2005 AAUW Convention in June.
- The Educational Foundation received the following response from 2004-05 International Fellow Anuradh Ramanujan (India) about the tsunami crisis in South Asia:
Thank you for your support and concern. My family and friends are safe even though they tell me that the devastation in parts of coastal India—as in South East Asia—is immense and the people affected by the tragedy need all the help they can get. As citizens of the world, we must all (re)focus our resources and energies to help rebuild the lives and communities shattered by the tsunami.

State News

Have you ever wanted to stay in the old, refurbished Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas, NM? Now's your chance. The **AAUW-NM convention** will be held April 29-May 1 at the historic hotel in Las Vegas, less than a hundred miles from Los Alamos. The spring RoadRunner will contain a complete schedule of activities and registration materials, but here is an inside peek at activities. Saturday afternoon will be an international event held at the United World College in the newly remodeled Montezuma Castle. Save these dates!

From: Mary Grathwol

(mgrathwol@mail.cybermesa.com)

American Association of University Women Santa Fe is organizing a morning “Career Fair” in Math and Science: unsurpassed opportunities to demonstrate the appeal of math and science to Santa Fe schoolchildren:

Thursday, **February 17, 2005, Gonzales Elementary** (just West of St. Francis on Alameda) Feel free to come alone, enlist others, team up. If you think you can make either event, Mary will pass on details about enrollment, directions for parking, etc.

Want a reminder of why we make the effort? A Salazar Elementary school kid, responding to the query “List ways you found this valuable,” wrote “Because I do not want to be poor.”

Denise George is available to brainstorm age appropriate activities – this event is both fun and rewarding – what more can you ask for!

Branch News

Please correct your branch roster:

Susan Oldham, (oldham98@hotmail.com)

Adda Moldt, (miarasmus@msn.com)

Welcome to returning member, Judy Gosling!

This summer AAUW has a new event, **A Night at the Opera with Friends**. The Branch has purchased 8 tickets to the **Barber of Seville** by Rossini on **Wednesday, July 13**, at the Santa Fe Opera. They are \$48 tickets in a block in section 5 on the main floor of the opera house. The branch is offering these tickets at a price of \$75 each. This price includes the ticket, transportation and an optional pot-luck dinner on the back deck of Nina's home. Use of the proceeds (profits) of this event will be decided by the Branch Coordinating Council and suggestions are welcome. Please get your ticket(s) immediately; when they are gone, they are gone!. Tickets are reserved when a check for \$75 (made out to Los Alamos Branch of AAUW) is received by either our treasurer Rosmarie Frederickson or Nina Thayer. If this event is a success the Council may consider offering a choice of two operas for the summer of 2006. Reserve your ticket(s) today! Questions, call Nina, 662-6835.

Study Group Meetings:

Non-fiction book group:

\$\$\$\$Reminder \$\$\$\$

Remember to include AAUW-EF in your charitable giving this year. Mail your checks to Rosmarie Frederickson, 1372 47th Street. The AAUW Educational Foundation--the world's largest source of funding exclusively for graduate women--supports aspiring scholars around the globe, teachers and activists in local communities, women at critical stages of their careers, and those pursuing professions where women are underrepresented.

2004-2005 Membership Challenge

AAUW-New Mexico is challenging every current member to ask another eligible person to become an AAUW member and there is a reward for your effort. The New Mexico AAUW Board has created a new AAUW-NM membership pin and is giving every new member one FREE and also one to every member who recruits a new member. Four Los Alamos Branch members are now wearing the new pin. Wouldn't you like one? Please ask Angela Coop for new member brochures.

When Corporations Rule the World by David C. Korten will be the book for the **March 14** meeting. Please note this is the second Monday of March. In May the group will return to the third Monday, **May 16**, to read a book from the AAUW Adelante list, The Seven Daughters of Eve by Bryan Sykes, a study that reveals our genetic ancestry through the mitochondrial DNA inherited only from our mother. Call Nina (662-6835) or Rosmarie (662-5915) for more information.

Book Group:

The February 7 meeting will be hosted by Karin Roberts, 415 Cheryl at 7:30pm on Monday. The book is *The Lobster Chronicles* by Linda Greenlaw. The reviewer is Nina Thayer. Call Melissa Lamoreaux for more information (661-1235)

World Culture through Foods:

March 12, Favorite Recipe Nite at Marilyn Minshall, 536 Brighton, 6:30. For more information call Marilyn (672-3499)

Mystery Book Club

The Mystery Book Club (<http://www.lamountain.ws/mystery.html>) meets approximately once every month at Film Festival (Arkansas and Diamond) from 6:30pm to 8pm. **February Meeting:** Thursday, February 24, 2005, *The Wench is Dead* by Colin Dexter.

Call for Volunteers

The Los Alamos Visitor Center needs individuals to volunteer at the reception desk. Schedule is flexible. Contact Cindy Whiting at 661-4815 if you are interested.

Biography of the Month, Maria Mitchell

“We especially need imagination in science. It is not all mathematics, nor all logic, but is somewhat beauty and poetry.”, Maria Mitchell

Readers of *Ahab's Wife*, (April book group choice) have been introduced to Maria Mitchell. Here is a little more information about her:

Born on Nantucket in 1818, Maria Mitchell was one of ten children. Her father, William, taught astronomy and celestial navigation to sons and daughters alike while her mother, Lydia Coleman, urged her girls to learn occupations and seek independence. As first librarian of the Nantucket Atheneum, Maria continued her studies in astronomy. On a clear autumn night in 1847 Maria stood on the roof of her parent's house, focusing her telescope on a faraway star. Suddenly she realized that the faint, blurry light wasn't a star at all, but a comet. She earned international renown and a gold medal from the King of Denmark from this discovery. Mitchell became the first woman elected to fellowship in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the first woman Professor of Astronomy. A devoted professor, from 1865 to 1888 she nurtured a generation of Vassar College graduates. Mitchell is famous for asking generation after generation of Vassar students: "Did you learn that from a book or did you observe it yourself?" In 1878 Mitchell organized a journey across country to see the total solar eclipse for themselves. Mitchell, her sister (Mrs. Phebe Kendall), and four Vassar graduates traveled over 2,000 miles by train in the heat of July, wrangled with stationmasters over lost luggage, pitched their tents on a hill outside Denver, Colorado, and pointed their telescopes to the center of the solar system. All that to witness an event that would last exactly two minutes and 40 seconds.

As President of the American Association for the Advancement of Women, Mitchell promoted higher education and suffrage for women. Today, as we encourage a new appreciation of women's contributions, this remarkable scientist, educator, and social reformer assumes her rightful place in the pantheon of famous Americans.

Branch Calendar

Feb	7	Book Group, Karin Roberts, 7:30, 415 Cheryl, <i>The Lobster Chronicles</i>
Feb	10	Council Meeting, Pat Mendius, 7:15, 124 Rover
Feb	17	General Meeting, 7:30, Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Mar	7	Book Group, <i>The Winter Queen</i> , 7:30pm
Mar	12	WCTF, Favorite Recipe Nite, Marilyn Minshall, 536 Brighton, 6:30pm
Mar	16	Non-fiction book group, <i>When Corporations Rule the World</i>
Apr	11	Book Group, <i>Ahab's Wife</i> , Andrea Ettinger, 256 Canada Way, 7:30pm
Apr	16	EF fund raiser – Fuller Lodge
Apr May	29- 1	State Convention – Las Vegas, NM
May	2	Book Group, Jean Nereson's, 1537 41 st , 7:30, <i>Caramelo</i>
May	7	WCTF, Lebanon Dinner, Melissa Lamoreaux 5153 Quemazon, 6:30pm
May	16	Non-fiction book group, <i>The Seven Daughters of Eve</i>

Coordinating Council for 2004-2005

Marilyn Minshall	Facilitator	
Rosmarie Frederickson	Treasurer	
Bev Cooper	Secretary	
Angela Coop	Membership	
Pat Mendius	Historian	
Denise George	Newsletter	
Gloria Cordova	Program	
Alahna Weller	EF	
Natalie Markin	Publicity/Pub. Policy	