

## Los Alamos Branch AAUW FEBRUARY/MARCH, 2007

### Branch News

#### FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING:

#### “Thoughts on Contemporary Russia.”

Unitarian Church, (note change of venue-not BLC )  
1738 N. Sage St.

We will meet at **7pm** in the Assembly Room located upstairs. (Use the main entrance on the west side.) The Hearth Room, where we have met in the past, will be in use by another group, so please don't go through it

AAUW is fortunate to have three speakers to discuss Russian issues, all of whom have extensive knowledge of Russia and who visit there regularly.

The program will be opened by Steve Gitomer who will give an overview of contemporary Russia with photographs from some of the many places to which he has traveled. He will be followed by Olga Augustson, a long term Russian resident, who will speak on women's issues in Russia. Finally, Bob Thomsen will address our own Los Alamos Sarov Sister City Initiative. All three speakers speak Russian, although the presentations will, of course, be in English!

There will be plenty of time for questions following the formal presentations. The evening will be chaired by Caroline (Cas) Mason.

**Steve Gitomer** joined the technical staff of Los Alamos National Laboratory in 1974 after completing his PhD studies. His research work turned to nonproliferation issues, following a Washington DOE assignment, putting him in contact with scientists in the Former Soviet Union (FSU) as a scientific advisor to the US Department of State. As a LANL retiree (2005) and part-time senior scientist with the US Civilian Research and Development Foundation, he continues his nonproliferation work, now adding Iraqi scientist interactions to his portfolio.

**Olga Augustson** has lived in Los Alamos and taught Russian language and culture, both at UNM and privately, for the last seven years. Prior to that time she lived in Sarov (the Los Alamos of Russia) where she taught English both in High Schools and at the University. She is married to Ron Augustson, a long time resident of Los Alamos. Both Olga and Ron are active in the Los Alamos Sarov Sister City Initiative which allows Olga to keep her contacts with Russia current.

**Bob Thomsen** grew up in Iowa during the depths of the cold war and has been practicing medicine (dermatology) in Los Alamos since 1981. Bob has been involved with community outreach work in many spheres, including our Sister City in Russia, Sarov. His first visit to Sarov was as part of a physicians visit in 1998, followed by being director of projects in our medical partnership with Sarov. Now he is involved with the Los Alamos Sarov Sister City Initiative as the board secretary.

Please invite your family and friends to attend this most enlightening evening.

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#### MARCH BRANCH MEETING:

March 22, 2007  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

6 PM

The evening will include a potluck dinner, with everyone attending bringing a dish to share and their place settings. The speaker will be anthropologist Mary Greene who will talk about studies of 1.4 million year old skulls in Africa. Betty Scannapieco will host a jewelry sale before the program. A portion of her profits will be donated to AAUW EF/LAF. Please invite your family and friends to enjoy this very interesting meeting.

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### **Los Alamos Branch News:**

Rosmarie Frederickson, Treasurer, reported that she has sent checks of donations on behalf of our Branch to both EF and LAF. Our EF monies are designated for the Corrine Wolf Fund. Rosemarie stressed that she will accept any donations for EF/LAF at any time!

The Council voted to have three honorees for our EF donations of \$500 each. The three to be honored are Frances Mueller (recently deceased on 12/26/2006), Rosmarie Frederickson and Pat Mendius. These women will receive recognition at the Spring Tea on May 4, 2007.

Frances Mueller was a founding member of the Los Alamos Branch of AAUW. She was the Los Alamos Branch President from 1956-58. Her obituary appeared in the Monitor as follows:

Frances Clough Mueller

February 5, 1914 to December 26, 2006, Pacific Grove, Calif. -

Frances C. Mueller, age 92, died peacefully at her home in Pacific Grove on December 26, 2006. Frances was the daughter of Dr. Herbert T. and Frances F. Clough. She was born in Bangor, Maine. She earned her BA from Wellesley College, 1935, and her MS from Bank

Street College of Education, New York City, 1936. She taught

pre-school and elementary school at Rockefeller School in New York City; Jacksonville, Florida; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Manzano

School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Following her marriage to Donald

W. Mueller in June, 1944, she ran the nursery school at Los Alamos,

New Mexico, during the Manhattan Project. After WWII, Donald and

Frances moved to Hartford, Connecticut, returning to Los Alamos in

1947 where they lived until 1996. During Frances's time at Los Alamos, she raised

four children. Frances was an active member of AAUW as well as other community

groups..

Those members remaining on the Council for the 2007-2008 year will be: Susan Oldham, Cas Mason, Alahna Weller, Natalie Markin, Beverly Cooper and Helena Whyte. The Council will need a new Treasurer and two other members. To volunteer or share ideas for nominees please contact Pat Mendius, Nominating Committee Chair at 672-3222.

Call Rosmarie, Public Policy Chair, 662-5915, if you would like to attend **A Day at the Legislature** in Santa Fe on February 12<sup>th</sup> with other AAUW members.

Call Marilyn Minshall, AAUW Coordinator for EYH, 672-3499, if you would like to be a volunteer for this program on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Expanding Your Horizons is a program put on by Women in Science to interest girls in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades in a career in science. Invitations are sent to numerous high schools in the North-Central area of our state.

Science Fair: Thank you to Rosmarie Frederickson, Julie Wangler and Mary Ann Lindahl for being AAUW judges at the Los Alamos Science Fair on January 27<sup>th</sup>. \$75 was awarded as follows: 6 \$5 prizes and 3 \$15 dollar prizes. The winners and awards were as follows:

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- #156 "the five second rule" -- Jaque Kieltyka (\$5.00)
- #173 "lego crash test" -- Mrs. Altherrs Gate class (\$15.00)
- #177 "how to do a science fair project" Mrs. Gorman's and Mrs. Morrow's 2nd Grade (\$15.00)
- #181 "Static electricity", Mr. Mossier's 1st and 2nd grade class (\$15.00)
- #133 "altitude and alka-seltzer" Colin Hemez (\$5.00)
- #96 "implotion" Brandon Hodges (\$5.00)
- #103 "Squeeze it" Rachel Martineau (\$5.00)
- #105 "Do laundry stain removers really work", Amanda Mercer (\$5.00)
- #84 "Gridlock Solution" Elliot Clay (\$5.00)

**STUDY GROUPS**

Study Group Schedules are posted at:

[http://aauw-nm.org/los\\_alamos\\_study\\_groups.html](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](mailto:georgeje@acm.org) and Alahna Weller at [acweller@comcast.net](mailto:acweller@comcast.net)

*Non-Fiction Book Group: Contact is Denise George: See calendar for upcoming books. Next date is March 19 at 7:30 PM. Meeting site is yet to be selected. The book is Daughter of Persia by Sattareh Farman Farmaian and Dona Munker. The reviewer is Lynne Jones.*

Fiction Book Group: Contacts are Rozelle Wright and Denise George: See calendar for upcoming books. Next dates are March 5 and April 9 at 7:30 PM. The March book is The Known World by Edward P. Jones. Carol Thomas is the reviewer and Bev Cooper is the hostess. The April book is Emilie's Voice by Susanne Dunlap. Maryjane Giesler is the reviewer and Jean Nereson is the hostess.

*The Mystery Book Club: [www.lamountain.ws/mystery.html](http://www.lamountain.ws/mystery.html)*

**Great Decisions Groups:**

**DAYTIME:**

Carroll Thomas is the coordinator of the day-time *Great Decisions* group. All meetings are at 10 AM, room 1 at Mesa Library. Next dates are February 12 and 26, and March 12 and 26.

**EVENING:**

Helena Whyte is the coordinator of the evening Great Decisions group. All meetings are at 7:30,

The February 8 meeting has been changed to February 15 at the home of Rosmarie Frederickson. Paul Frederickson will also be included in the discussion of climate change as he has some expertise in this area. Helena will host and lead the February, 26 meeting if no one else can. The March 20 meeting is at the home of Marilyn Minshall. The topic is Migration.

World Cultures Through Food Group: Marilyn Minshall is the coordinator. The next dinner is March 10, 6 PM, at the home of Marilyn. The dinner will feature Japanese food.

**National News:**

AAUW urges you to resolve in the New Year to join the Help Action Network and help it grow and be even more of a force in our Nation's capital. Join the AAUW Action Network today at [votered@aauw.org](mailto:votered@aauw.org).

AAUW will celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2007.

The new member services data base is now online. It allows every member, branch or state to read and update their personal information or their branch or state officers list. This is the easiest way to keep your information current. Go to [executive@aauw.org](mailto:executive@aauw.org). Some links in EdEqChange may require you to log onto the Member Center at [aauw.org/membercenter/leadercorner/EdEqChange.cfm](http://aauw.org/membercenter/leadercorner/EdEqChange.cfm).

Make plans to attend the AAUW National Convention in Phoenix, June 29 to July 2. Call Helena Whyte if you are interested in attending.

#### **STATE AAUW NEWS:**

**The Winter Leadership Team** meeting will be held February 11 in Santa Fe at the Santa Fe Skies RV Park clubhouse. The RV park is located at 14 Brown Castle Ranch. The phone number there is 473-5946. See the current Roadrunner, page 4, for directions and details. The meeting begins at 12:45 PM. Albuquerque State Representative Mimi Stewart will be the speaker, prior to dinner at 6:15 PM. Grant Taylor from think New Mexico will address the meeting at ~ 1 PM. His organization is sponsoring SB 364 which calls for reform of the New Mexico state lottery and requires that a larger percentage of sales be used to fund university scholarships. The Senate Education Committee unanimously voted for a "do pass" on January 31. Later in the afternoon the Leadership team will decide if AAUW-NM wants to support this legislation. Please contact Nina Thayer, 662-6835, or Nancy Scheer, 473-9897, if you would like to attend all or part of the day.

**AAUW Legislative Day** is Monday, February 12 at the NM State Capitol. **Lt. Governor Diane Denish** will meet with all of our Legislative Day participants at 9:30 AM at the Capitol. This is a great opportunity to inform her of our priorities and to hear about hers. Call Rosmarie Frederickson, 662-5915, if you would like to carpool to Santa Fe and for more information regarding the day. Please plan to attend this most interesting day and help make AAUW's positions heard!

## Branch Calendar:

February	11	Winter State Leadership Team meeting, hosted by the Santa Fe Branch
February	12	Morning Great Decisions, 10 AM-12 PM, Mesa Library, room 1
February	12	A Day at the Legislature, in Santa Fe
February	15	Evening Great Decisions, 7:30 PM at home of Rosmarie Frederickson
February	20	General meeting at the Unitarian Church, 7:00 PM. Cas Mason presenting a panel discussion on "Thoughts on Contemporary Russia"
February	26	Morning Great Decisions, 10 AM-12 PM, Mesa Library, room 1
February	26	Evening Great Decisions, 7:30 PM at home of Helena Whyte
March	5	Fiction Book Group, 7:30 PM, home of Bev Cooper, <u>The Known World</u> , by Edward P. Jones
March	6	Coordinating Council meeting, 7:15 at the home of Pat Mendius.
March	10	World Cultures Through Foods Group, 6 PM, home of Marilyn Minshall
March	12	Morning Great Decisions, 10 AM-12 PM, Mesa Library, room 1
March	19	Non-Fiction Book Group, 7:30 PM, at home of ?, <u>Daughter of Persia</u> , by Sattareh Farman Farmaian and Dona Munker
March	20	Evening Great Decisions, 7:30 PM at home of Marilyn Minshall
March	22	General Meeting at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 6:00 PM. Pot luck dinner and jewelry sales (EF fund raiser) preceding a program by anthropologist Mary Greene presenting "Studies of 1.4 million year old Skulls in Africa".
March	26	Morning Great Decisions, 10 AM-12 PM, Mesa Library, room 1
April	17	General Meeting at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7:00 PM. Historian Nancy Bartlit will speak about her new book <u>Silent Voices</u> .
April	24	Equal Pay Day
April	27-29	Spring State Leadership Team meeting and AAUW State Convention, hosted by the Las Cruces branch
May	4	Spring Tea at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4 – 6:30 PM. The program will be Sharon Mulrey presenting <u>Ladies Civil War Time Clothing</u>
June	29-July 2	AAUW National Association convention in Phoenix, AZ.
June	30	Association/State/Branch dues deadline

The April newsletter deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>. Please send news to Alahna Weller and Denise Georg