



## AAUW Hilltopics February 2013

### THE INVISIBLE WAR

Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 pm  
Jeannette Wallace Hall (Bldg. 5) at UNM-LA  
Admission is \$10 adults and \$5 students (with ID)  
All proceeds will be donated to the Legal Advocacy Fund

*THE INVISIBLE WAR* is a groundbreaking investigation into what *Newsweek* has called "the most underreported crime in America": the epidemic of rape in the US military. The Department of Defense estimates that 20% of women in the services have been sexually assaulted—and that 80% of such attacks are never reported. Focusing on the stories of several idealistic young servicewomen who were raped and then betrayed by their own officers when they reported their assaults, the film is a moving examination of the staggering personal and societal toll of these assaults.

AAUW is committed to improving the way the military deals with sexual assault by ensuring that victims receive adequate support for their cases. The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) currently supports three class-action suits that charge the Department of Defense (DOD) and the military with creating a culture in which sexual assault is tolerated and people who report it face retaliation.

Premiering at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival, the film won the esteemed Audience Award. It has been nominated for an Oscar as Best Documentary. Following its showing, there will be discussion of the film's message and of efforts underway to bring about change in the way the military deals with sexual assault.

The UNM-LA website ([http://www.la.unm.edu/PR/campus\\_map.html](http://www.la.unm.edu/PR/campus_map.html)) includes a campus map and driving instructions. For a "no-stairs" route, turn south on 40th St. off Sandia and then turn right at the Mesa Complex sign, following the drive to the back parking lot. From the far end of the lot, go through the double set of doors in Building 6 to enter the school's inner courtyard. Cross the courtyard and enter Building 5 through the doors to the left of the Building 5 sign. There will be signs posted in the courtyard directing us to the film.

#### State News:

There is a new link on the state website (<http://www.aauw-nm.org>) for tracking bills in the New Mexico State Legislature. It will be updated each morning of the session.

There is a change in the meeting dates for the annual convention, now scheduled for April 20-21 in Carlsbad.

#### National News:

AAUW Public Policy Report on \$start \$mart reports that "nearly 200 \$start \$mart salary negotiation workshops will be offered across the country through spring 2013."

A message from the AAUW Action Network urges members to ask their legislators to become original Co-sponsors of the Paycheck Fairness Act, soon to be introduced in the 113th Congress.

## Branch News:

There will be no branch meeting in March. Dorothy Shaner and Helena Whyte are arranging a program for April 4<sup>th</sup> on Myanmar (Burma). This is one of this year's Great Decisions topics, and plans are for Dorothy to be our speaker.

May events will include the Spring Tea on May 10 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church's Gathering Place, and a joint meeting with groups from Santa Fe, Las Vegas, and Albuquerque on May 18.

## Book group:

The February book is *Sarah Thornhill* by Kate Grenville. Angela Coop, 332 Aragon will host Monday, February 4 at 7:30 p.m.; let her know if you plan on attending ([acwalkercoop@yahoo.com](mailto:acwalkercoop@yahoo.com) or 672-1073). Marilyn Minshall, 536 Brighton will host the meeting on Tuesday, February 5 at 1:00 p.m.; let her know if you plan on attending ([mjminshall@q.com](mailto:mjminshall@q.com) or 672-3499). Angela Coop will review at both meetings.

## Non-fiction Book Group:

The next meeting is March 18<sup>th</sup> at Chris Sierk's, 4640 Ridgeway Dr. Let Chris know if you are coming (<mailto:acsierk@hotmail.com>, 662-3894). The book is *This Child will be Great* by Ellen Sirlear, the president of Liberia. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

The May book is *On Thin Ice, the Changing World of the Polar Bear* by Richard Ellis. Helena Whyte will be reviewing, and Harriet Dodder will host the meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Let Harriet know if you are coming (<mailto:hardod@earthlink.net>, 662-7473)

## Great Decisions

Carroll Thomas is organizing the morning Great Decisions group. Carroll's contact information is 672-1937, [ctgb@earthlink.net](mailto:ctgb@earthlink.net). Meetings are held at Mesa Public library on the second and fourth Monday of each month, at 10:00 a.m.

The Schedule for the morning group is:

Topic	Date	Leader
3 Nato	Jan 28	Group
8 Threat Assessment	Feb 11	Denise
4 Myanmar	Feb 25	Ginny T.
2 Egypt	Mar 11	Karin
6 Iran	Mar 25	Angela
1 Euro	Apr 15	Marilyn D.
7 China in Africa	Apr 29	Carroll
5 Humanitarian Intervention	May 13	Group

Helena Whyte is organizing the evening Great Decisions group. The organizational meeting is January 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at her home, 100 El Morro St. in White Rock. Helena's contact information is 672-9153, [mozden08@aol.com](mailto:mozden08@aol.com).

The 2013 topics for both groups are:

**Future of the Euro**

**Egypt**

**Nato**

**Myanmar and Southeast Asia**

**Humanitarian intervention**

**Iran**

**China in Africa**

**Threat assessment**

## Title IX Supporting Girls Sports

Helena Whyte is organizing this group and has arranged for these events for the rest of 2013.

Weather can cause cancellations; if you sign up to attend, Helena will call if that happens.

**February 9, 2013, Saturday, 1 p.m.** Northern New Mexico College Lady Eagles Basketball in Espanola  
**March** dates TBD for District and State High School Basketball playoffs

**April 20, 2013, Saturday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.** Los Alamos High School Softball Double Header at Minor A Softball Field--Overlook Park in White Rock. No admission fee.

Contact Helena if you wish to attend any event (672-9153, [mozden08@aol.com](mailto:mozden08@aol.com)).

## Jean Nereson Memorial Committee Report

At our September Branch meeting three members volunteered to be on a committee to select and implement a memorial for long-time member, Jean Nereson, who died in August 2012. We added a fourth member and have met twice. The committee has generated three ideas all of which involve a local project with the Los Alamos Public Schools, where she taught for 50 years. We have spoken with the executive for the LAPS Foundation and they are willing to work with us on any of these ideas. The suggestions include:

- A named \$1000 scholarship given annually to a LA High School graduate expressing an interest in elementary or secondary education. This could be either endowed or awarded for a given number of years depending on the money raised.
- A significant donation (not less than \$1000) for each of the five LAPS elementary schools designated for books for the library, half of which should be in the fields of social studies, world cultures, geography or history. Books would contain a memorial plate to Jean.
- A \$2000 scholarship awarded annually to a LAPS elementary teacher to travel abroad and bring back resources to use in his/her classroom. The recipient would/could be asked to speak at an AAUW meeting. The number of years for which a scholarship could be awarded is dependent on money raised.

The next step is to consult with the Nereson family and then bring the committee's recommendation to the Council for approval. These are ambitious plans. If you have a strong preference please contact one of the Council members or the Memorial Committee members, as branch support will be critical to the success of this project. The committee plans to extend fund raising to the entire community including Jean's former students.

Judy Crocker, Mary Ann Lindahl, Nancy Scheer and Nina Thayer, Memorial Committee Members

## Biography of the Month

After watching the movie *Iron Jawed Angels*, about the passage of the 20<sup>th</sup> amendment giving women the vote, I decided to read up on Alice Paul. If you decide to watch the movie, take it with a grain of salt; the love interest Ben Weismann and the senator and his wife are not real. But this does not diminish the power of the story.

Here is a little bit about Alice Paul, but I recommend reading more at this site,

<http://www.alicepaul.org/alicepaul.htm>, from which the remainder of this article has been extracted.

Alice Paul was born into a wealthy Quaker family and grew up on the family farm. When asked why she dedicated the whole of her life to women's equality, Paul credited her farm upbringing by quoting an adage she learned from her mother, "When you put your hand to the plow, you can't put it down until you get to the end of the row." As Paul noted years later, "When the Quakers were founded...one of their principles was and is equality of the sexes. So I never had any other idea...the principle was always there."

She graduated from Swarthmore College with a degree in Biology, later acquiring a M.A. in Sociology, a Ph.D. in Economics, and three law degrees. Though Alice's upbringing was steeped in suffrage ideals, it was during her stay in England where she met the Pankhurst mother and daughters that she was transformed from a reserved Quaker girl into a militant suffragist. The Pankhurst women were leaders of a militant faction of suffragettes whose motto was "Deeds not words." Believing that prayer, petitions, and patience was not enough to successfully enfranchise women, the Pankhursts engaged in direct and visible measures, such as heckling, window smashing, and rock throwing.

Paul returned to her home country imbued with the radicalism of the English suffrage movement and a determination to reshape and re-energize the American campaign for women's enfranchisement. She joined the *National American Women's Suffrage Association* (NAWSA). She was quickly appointed as head of the

Congressional Committee in charge of working for a federal suffrage amendment. Alice Paul and two friends headed to Washington, D.C. to organize for suffrage. With little funding but in true Pankhurst style, Paul and Lucy Burns organized a publicity event to gain maximum national attention; an elaborate and massive parade by women to march up Pennsylvania Avenue and coincide with Woodrow Wilson's presidential inauguration. The parade began on March 3, 1913, with the beautiful lawyer, activist, and socialite Inez Milholland, leading the procession, dressed in Greek robes and astride a white horse. The scene turned ugly, however, when scores of male onlookers attacked the suffragists, first with insults and obscenities, and then with physical violence, while the police stood by and watched. The following day, Alice's group of suffragists made headlines across the nation and suffrage became a popular topic of discussion among politicians and the general public alike.



Although both Carrie Chapman Catt, NAWSA president, and Alice Paul shared the goal of universal suffrage, their political strategies could not have been more different or incompatible. Where NAWSA concentrated a majority of its effort upon state campaigns, Paul wanted to focus all energy and funding upon a national amendment. While NAWSA endorsed President Wilson and looked to members of the Democratic Party as allies, Alice Paul wanted to hold Wilson and his party responsible for women's continued disenfranchisement (a tactic of British Suffragettes). In 1914, after initially forming a semi-autonomous group called the Congressional Union, Paul and her followers severed all ties to NAWSA and, in 1916, formed the National Woman's Party (NWP). The NWP organized "Silent Sentinels" to stand outside the White House holding banners inscribed with incendiary phrases directed toward President Wilson. The president initially treated the picketers with bemused condescension, tipping his hat to them as he passed by; however, his attitude changed when the United States entered World War I in 1917. Few believed that suffragists would dare picket a wartime president, let alone use the war in their written censures, calling him "Kaiser Wilson." Many saw the suffragists' wartime protests as unpatriotic, and the sentinels, including Alice Paul, were attacked by angry mobs. The picketers began to be arrested on the trumped up charge of "obstructing traffic," and were jailed when they refused to pay the imposed fine. Despite the danger of bodily harm and imprisonment, the suffragists continued

their demonstrations for freedom unabated and over 200 were arrested.

The arrested suffragists were sent to Occoquan Workhouse, a prison in Virginia. Paul and her compatriots followed the English suffragette model and demanded to be treated as political prisoners and staged hunger strikes. Their demands were met with brutality as suffragists, including frail, older women, were beaten, pushed and thrown into cold, unsanitary, and rat-infested cells. Arrests continued and conditions at the prison deteriorated. For staging hunger strikes, Paul and several other suffragists were forcibly fed in a tortuous method. Prison officials removed Paul to a sanitarium in hopes of getting her declared insane. When news of the prison conditions and hunger strikes became known, the press, some politicians, and the public began

demanding the women's release; sympathy for the prisoners brought many to support the cause of women's suffrage. Upon her release from prison, Paul hoped to ride this surge of goodwill into victory. In 1917, in response to public outcry about the prison abuse of suffragists, President Wilson reversed his position and announced his support for a suffrage amendment, calling it a "war measure." In 1919, both the House and Senate passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the battle for state ratification commenced. Three-fourths of the states were needed to ratify the amendment. The battle for ratification came down to the state of Tennessee in the summer of 1920; if a majority of the state legislature voted for the amendment, it would become law. The deciding vote was cast by twenty-four year-old Harry Burn, the youngest member of the Tennessee assembly. Originally intending to vote "no," Burn changed his vote after receiving a telegram from his mother asking him to support women's suffrage. On August 18, 1920, Tennessee ratified the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Six days later, Secretary of State Colby certified the ratification, and, with the stroke of his pen, American women gained the right to vote after a seventy-two year battle. August 26<sup>th</sup> is now celebrated as Women's Equality Day in the United States.

### Branch Calendar

Feb	4,5	Book Group
Feb	9	Title Nine
Feb	11	Great Decisions
Feb	21	General meeting, The Invisible War
Feb	25	Great Decisions

### Coordinating Council for 2012-13

Mona Wecksung	Co-Treasurer/Membership	662-7084	<a href="mailto:wecksung2005@msn.com">wecksung2005@msn.com</a>
Judy Prono	Co-facilitator/AAUW Funds	662-2691	<a href="mailto:djprono@msn.com">djprono@msn.com</a>
Natalie Markin	Co-facilitator/Co-treasurer	662-9399	<a href="mailto:natalie@lanb.com">natalie@lanb.com</a> <a href="mailto:natgmark@aol.com">natgmark@aol.com</a>
Nina Thayer	Program/Public Policy	662-6835	<a href="mailto:gnthayer@cybermesa.com">gnthayer@cybermesa.com</a>
Dorothy Donnelly-Shaner	International Affairs/ Publicity	672-2224	<a href="mailto:fivesigma@comcast.net">fivesigma@comcast.net</a>
Maryjane Giesler	University Representative	662-5574	<a href="mailto:mgiesler@unm.edu">mgiesler@unm.edu</a>
Ginny White	Secretary	500-8009, 695-2072	<a href="mailto:ginny@atomicski.org">ginny@atomicski.org</a>
<b>Non-council positions</b>			
Jane Sherwood	Hospitality	662-3194	<a href="mailto:jane.sherwood@att.net">jane.sherwood@att.net</a>
Denise George	Newsletter	672-9688	<a href="mailto:georgeje@acm.org">georgeje@acm.org</a>
Marilyn Minshall	Historian	672-3499	<a href="mailto:mjminshall@q.com">mjminshall@q.com</a>
Helena Whyte	Nominating Chair	672-9153	<a href="mailto:mozden08@aol.com">mozden08@aol.com</a>