



## AAUW Hilltopics March 2013 There is no March General Meeting

### LAF Fundraiser Report: *The Invisible War*

On Feb. 21, fifteen branch members and guests watched *The Invisible War* at the Jeannette Wallace Hall, UNM-LA. The film is an award-winning documentary about a troubling phenomenon: the epidemic of rape in the US military. The statistics behind this epidemic are sobering:

- Women serving in combat zones like Afghanistan are more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by enemy fire
- Since 2006, more than 95,000 service members have been sexually assaulted in the US military
- The Department of Defense estimates that there were more than 19,000 violent sex crimes in the military in 2010 alone
- DoD estimates that 20% of women in the services have been sexually assaulted—but that 80% of such attacks are never reported
- Only 8% of all military sexual assaults are prosecuted and only 2% of those end in convictions

*The Invisible War* puts faces and personalities on these grim statistics. Focusing on the stories of eight idealistic young veterans, it is a telling examination of the staggering personal and societal costs of sexual assault. It is also a telling indictment of the systemic cover-up of military sex crimes, chronicling the women's struggles to rebuild their lives and fight for justice.

At the core of the movie are often heart-rending interviews of the rape survivors themselves—people like Kori Cioca, who was beaten and raped by her supervisor in the US Coast Guard; Ariana Klay, a Marine who served in Iraq before being raped by a senior officer and his friend, then threatened with death; and Trina McDonald, who was drugged and raped repeatedly by military police on her remote naval station in Alaska. And it isn't just women; according to one study's estimates, 1% of men in the military were sexually assaulted in 2009.

While rape victims in the civilian world can usually turn to an impartial police force and judicial system for help and justice, rape victims in the military must turn to their commanders—a move that is all too often met with foot-dragging at best, and reprisals at worst. Many victims find themselves forced to choose between speaking up for themselves and keeping their careers.

Film director Kirby Dick and his team interviewed more than 100 people for the movie, including many survivors of sexual assault. The latter, who are mostly but not exclusively female, were interviewed by co-producer Amy Ziering. Their stories are different, yet eerily similar in outline. Nearly 40 years ago, Susan Brownmiller wrote in *Against Our Will* that "rape is not a crime of lust, but of violence and power." *The Invisible War* supports this assessment. Servicemen and women are often abused by their superiors and are strongly discouraged from reporting such crimes by officers further up in the chain of command. Sometimes they are required to report the crime to the person who committed it.

*The Invisible War* also documents efforts underway to address and prevent sexual violence in the military. One initiative is using the justice system to change the legal precedent that deems rape an "occupational hazard" of

the job. Through financial grants from the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), AAUW is helping support three lawsuits against the military:

- Cioca vs Rumsfeld, filed Feb. 2011 in the US District Court in Virginia
- Klay vs Panetta, filed March 2012 in Washington, DC
- Hoffman vs Panetta, filed Sept. 2012 in northern California

The plaintiffs in these cases include 43 veterans and active duty servicemen and women who allege that the military failed to (1) investigate sexual assaults, (2) prosecute perpetrators, and (3) provide an adequate judicial system as required by the Uniform Military Justice Act.

AAUW is actively promoting *The Invisible War* and the stories of the survivors it so movingly tells. While the film and the lawsuits have helped pressure the military to make some changes, much more needs to be done to protect our troops. As director Kirby Dick has commented, "The military is a very effective fighting force when it comes to dealing with the enemy without. It's really now time for them to start dealing with this enemy within": sexual assault. To learn more about the issue, click on "Fighting Sexual Assault in the Military" on AAUW's new website ([www.aauw.org/](http://www.aauw.org/)).

**If you missed the film but want to support this cause, make a donation to the  
Legal Advocacy Fund.**

Make your check payable to AAUW Funds, adding LAF on the memo/for line,  
and send it to Judy Prono, 670 Totavi St., Los Alamos, NM 87544

Checks received by March 6 will be included with branch proceeds from showing the film. All donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged by AAUW.

### **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.

### **Branch News:**

ADVANCE NOTICE: NEXT AAUW GENERAL MEETING, Thursday, April 4 at BLC

The yearly "international" meeting of AAUW will feature a talk on Myanmar/Burma by Dorothy Shaner. Helena Whyte will discuss the section on Myanmar and Southeast Asia in this year's Great Decisions series. John Shaner is preparing a slide show to run during the talk. Those who have

traveled to Myanmar are especially encouraged to add their experiences during the discussion period.

Dorothy's talk will consider Myanmar's past and current positions in the millennial melting pot that is Southeast Asia, China and India. There will be some consideration of United States policy toward Myanmar's current government.

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 March book is *The Spectator Bird* by Wallace Stegner. Karin Roberts will host Monday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m.; let her know if you plan on attending ([karinroberts875@icloud.com](mailto:karinroberts875@icloud.com) or 672-9625). Jenny Bishop, 114 Alhambra will host the meeting on Tuesday, March 5 at 1:00 p.m.; let her know if you

plan on attending ([Jjab7@aol.com](mailto:Jjab7@aol.com) or 672-3614).  
 Rozelle Wright 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
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. Helena's contact information is 672-9153, [mozden08@aol.com](mailto:mozden08@aol.com). The schedule is:

Date	Topic	Hostess	Leader
Wed. Mar 20	Egypt	Marilyn Thayer 505 Oppenheimer #810	Marilyn Thayer
Thurs. Apr 4	Myanmar /Burma	AAUW - Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Dorothy Shaner
Wed. Apr 24	NATO	Judy Prono 670 Totavi	Judy Prono
Thurs. May 2	China in Africa	Natalie Markin 505 Oppenheimer	Natalie Markin
Thurs. May 23	Iran	Beverly Cooper 521 Ridgecrest	Beverly Cooper
Thurs. June 6	Threat Assess.	Local Restaurant	Group

### 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.

**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)).

## AAUW Science Fair Report

Rosmarie Frederickson, chair

January 25th was the 2013 Science Fair and we wish to thank the following people for helping to judge this years Science Fair projects for AAUW. Ginny White, Marilyn Doolen, Alahna Weller, Helena Whyte, Denise George and myself looked over the approximately 165 projects. There were many wonderful projects this year and it was difficult to choose the very best ones.

We awarded the following projects a \$5.00 prize:

- Kristin Carrera, "Hidden Bacteria in Water"
- Talulah BJORKE, "The Mechanics of Propulsion"
- Zachary Geller, "Blocking Sunlight with Different Material"
- Tanna Hollander and Haley Adams Brown, "Pulleys as Simple Machines" ( Each received \$5.00)
- Matt Walker, "Rust Issues"
- Josh Shevitz, "How Far Will a Potato travel as a fnction of Pressure When Fired Out of an Air Cannon"
- Rebecca Lockhart, "Ultraviolet Rays vs. Sun Protection Factor"
- Kevin Clark, "Friction"
- Mickey Aslam, "Drops of Color"
- Declan O'Leary, "Scratch Race"
- Maximus Jiron, "Motor Movers"
- Natalie Olivas, "How Many Recycled Bottles do I Need for my Windmill Generator"
- Katy Burke, "Why Did My Cookies Burn"
- Kalen Melton, "Drag Racing in the Water"
- Gus Yeager, "Blind Video Games"
- Sophie Schmidt, "Which Diaper is Best"
- Emily Holmes, "Age vs. Memory -- The Battle"

We recognized two class projects, one with \$20.00, the other with \$15.00:

- "First Graders Explore Sound"
- "Density, Buoyancy, and Surface Tension"

This year's Science Fair again was an inspiration and a good fun. I wish to thank Marilyn Doolen especially who wrote a personal note of encouragement and evaluation for each project we selected for an award. We had never done that before, but it certainly is an excellent tool for teaching and should be remembered for future years .

## Biography of the Month

It's Oscar time, and I thought this would be the perfect time to showcase costume designer **Edith Head**. She is responsible for some of the most memorable film wardrobes in history (her credits included *Vertigo*, *Sabrina*, and *Sunset Boulevard*). Head was nominated for 35 Oscars throughout her career and won 8 times. For millions



of American women, she was *the* authority on what was chic, what was of the moment, and how to wear it; she was every bit as influential as her fashion editor counterparts in New York City. If you loved Grace Kelly's iconic look in *Rear Window* or Audrey Hepburn's lavish wardrobe in *Funny Face*, take your hat off to Edith. Ms. Head's snippets of advice and witticisms may remain relevant today. Decide for yourselves:

- You can have anything you want in life if you dress for it.
- Life is competition; clothes gird us for the competition.
- The cardinal sin is not being badly dressed, but wearing the right thing in the wrong place.
- Your dresses should be tight enough to show you're a woman and loose enough to prove you're a lady.
- Clothes not only can make the woman; they can make her several different women.
- I say sacrifice style any day for becomingness.

She was born Edith Claire Posener in San Bernardino, CA in 1897, the daughter of Jewish parents, Max Posener and Anna E. Levy. Her father, Max Posener, was a naturalized American citizen. Her mother was born in St. Louis. There is nothing to document if Max and Anna ever married. Just before Edith's birth, Max Posener opened a short lived haberdashery in San Bernardino. In 1905 Anna married mining engineer Frank Spare. The family moved frequently as Spare's jobs moved, and the only place whose name Head could later recall from her early years was Searchlight, NV. Frank and Anna Spare passed Edith off as their mutual child. As Frank Spare was a Catholic, Edith ostensibly became one as well.

She received a B.A. with honors in French from UC Berkeley in 1919 and earned an M.A. degree in Romance languages from Stanford in 1920. She became a language teacher. After one year, she took a position teaching French at the Hollywood School for Girls. Wanting a slightly higher salary, she told the school that she could also teach art, even though she had only briefly studied the discipline in high school. To improve her drawing skills, which at this point were rudimentary, she took evening art classes at the Chouinard Art College. In 1923 she married Charles Head, the brother of one of her classmates. The marriage ended in divorce in 1936 after a number of years of separation, although she continued to be known professionally as Edith Head until her death.

In 1924, despite lacking art, design, and costume design experience, Head was hired as a costume sketch artist at Paramount Pictures. Later she admitted to borrowing another student's sketches for her job interview. She began designing costumes for silent films, and, by the 1930s, had established herself as one of Hollywood's leading costume designers. Head married set designer Wiard Ihnen in 1940, and this marriage lasted until his death in 1979. She worked at Paramount for 43 years until she went to Universal in 1967, possibly prompted by her extensive work for director Alfred Hitchcock who had moved to Universal in 1960. She remained at Universal until her death in 1981.

Her association with the "sarong" dress designed for Dorothy Lamour in *The Hurricane* made her well-known

among the general public. In 1944, she gained public attention for the mink-lined gown she created for Ginger Rogers in *Lady in the Dark* which gained notoriety due to its being counter to the mood of wartime austerity. The establishment in 1949 of the category of an Academy Award for Costume Designer further boosted her career, because it began her record-breaking run of Award nominations and wins.

Head was known for her low-key working style and, unlike many of her male contemporaries, usually consulted extensively with the female stars with whom she worked. She was a favorite among many of the leading female stars of the 40s and 50s such as Ginger Rogers, Bette Davis, Sophia Loren, Barbara Stanwyck, Shirley MacLaine, Anne Baxter, Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn, Elizabeth Taylor, and Natalie Wood. She was well known for her work on Hitchcock films. During her long career, she was occasionally criticized for her working methods. Early in her career, she opposed the creation of a union to represent studio-based costume designers and outfitters and was accused of being anti-union on several occasions.

As studio-based feature film production declined and many of her favored stars retired, Head became more active as a television costume designer, often designing outfits for film actors, such as Olivia De Havilland, who were now involved in television series. In 1974, Head received a final Oscar for her work on *The Sting*.

During the late 1970s, Edith Head was asked to design a woman's uniform for the United States Coast Guard. Head called the assignment a highlight in her career and received the Meritorious Public Service Award for her efforts. Her last film project was the black-and-white comedy *Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid*, starring Steve Martin and Carl Reiner. For the production, she re-created fashions of the 1940s, extensively referencing the film clips from classic *film noir* motion pictures. It was released shortly after her death and dedicated to her memory. (Information from Wikipedia and Huffington Post, Lamour photo from ACertainCinema).

### Branch Calendar

Mar	4,5	Book Group
Mar	11	Great Decisions
Mar	18	Non-fiction Book Group
Mar	20	Evening Great Decisions
Mar	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>