AAUW Los Alamos Branch March 2005 Newsletter

A PLEA for help! We need New Council Members for 2005-2006-- Our Coordinating Council is looking for members to serve on next year's Council. If you would be interested in helping us keep our organization thriving, please call Nina Thayer at 662-6835.

March General Meeting

Thursday, March 17, 2005, 7:30pm Bethlehem Lutheran Church 2390 North Road

In honor of Women's History Month we will be treated to a portrayal of Emily Dickenson presented by Carol Kessler of Santa Fe.

State News

2005 Priorities New Mexico Women's Agenda:

<u>First Tier</u>

Reproductive Rights

Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault

Women in Prison

New Mexico Commission on the Status of

Women

Second Tier

Child Care-Increase to 200% of poverty level

At Home Infant Care

Full funding for Medicaid

Domestic Partner bills, oppose Defense of

Marriage

Local Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law

(limit)

Individual Development Accounts

Study Establishing Office of Women's Health

Mandate Human Papillomavirus Screening

Expand Education Works by second semester

Third Tier

Health Security Act

Campaign Finance Reform

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!

Branch News

Rilla Baxter is on the way to San Diego. Here is her message to the branch "We'll start driving on March 2 and will dilly-dally along the way. We'll reach San Diego by March 6 at the latest. Our address in San Diego will be:

3735 Brandywine Street

San Diego, CA 92117

I don't know what our home phone number will be, but will let you know when I find out. I will miss all of my Los Alamos AAUW friends, but I hope to come back every once in a while for a visit."

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:

Monday, March 14, 2005, 7:30 pm at Melissa Lamoreaux's, 5153 Quemazon discussion leader: Nina Thayer book: The Seven Daughters of Eve by Bryan Sykes. This book tells the story of the discovery that our genetic ancestry can be traced through the mitochondrial DNA each of us inherits only from our mother. In 1997 Bryan Sykes examined the remains of a five-thousand-year-old man, and was able to prove not only that the man was a European but also that he has living descendants today. In this lucid, absorbing account, Sykes reveals how the identification of a particular strand of DNA that passes unbroken through the maternal line allows scientists to trace genetic makeup of all Europeans back to prehistoric

times, to seven primeval women, the Seven Daughters of Eve. This book is on the AAUW Adelante list for January 2005.

Next meeting: May 16, *When Corporations Rule the World* by David C. Korten.

Call Nina (662-6835) or Rosmarie (662-5915) for

Book Group:

more information

The March 7 meeting will be hosted by Jean Nereson, 1537B 41st, 7:30pm. The book is *The Winter Queen by* Boris Akunin. 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

Tuesday, March 29 at 6:30pm-8pm at Film Festival (Arkansas and Diamond). *The Black Dahlia* by James Ellroy.

(http://www.lamountain.ws/mystery.html)

\$\$\$\$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.

Biography of the Month:

Hypatia (355 or 370 - 415), philosopher, astronomer and mathematician

Hypatia's father, Theon of Alexandria, was a teacher of mathematics with the Museum of Alexandria in Egypt. A center of Greek intellectual and cultural life, the Museum included many independent schools and the great library of Alexandria.

Hypatia studied with her father, and with many others including Plutarch the Younger. She herself taught at the <u>Neoplatonist</u> school of philosophy. She became the salaried director of this school in 400. She probably wrote on mathematics, astronomy and philosophy, including about the motions of the planets, about number theory and about conic sections.

She corresponded with and hosted scholars from other cities. Synesius, Bishop of Ptolemais, was one of her correspondents and he visited her frequently. Hypatia was a popular lecturer, drawing students from many parts of the empire.

From the little historical data about Hypatia that survives, it appears that she invented the plane astrolabe, the graduated brass hydrometer and the hydroscope, with Synesius of Greece, who was her student and later colleague.

Hypatia dressed in the clothing of a scholar or teacher, rather than in women's clothing. She moved about freely, driving her own chariot, contrary to the norm for women's public behavior. She exerted considerable political influence in the city.

Orestes, the governor of Alexandria, like Hypatia, was a pagan (non-Christian). Orestes was an adversary of the new Christian bishop, Cyril, a future saint. Orestes, according to the contemporary accounts, objected to Cyril expelling the Jews from the city, and was murdered by Christian monks for his opposition.

Cyril probably objected to Hypatia on a number of counts: She represented heretical teachings, including experimental science and pagan religion. She was an associate of Orestes. And she was a woman who didn't know her place. Cyril's preaching against Hypatia is said to have been what incited a mob led by fanatical Christian monks in 415 to attack Hypatia as she drove her chariot through Alexandria. They dragged her from her chariot and, according to accounts from that time, stripped her, killed her, stripped her flesh from her bones, scattered her body parts through the streets, and burned some remaining parts of her body in the library of Caesareum.

Hypatia's students fled to Athens, where the study of mathematics flourished after that. The Neoplatonic school she headed continued in Alexandria until the Arabs invaded in 642.

When the library of Alexandria was burned by the Arab conquerors, used as fuel for baths, the works of Hypatia were destroyed. We know her writings today through the works of others who quoted her -- even if unfavorably -- and a few letters written to her by contemporaries. (source is: http://womenshistory.about.com)

Branch Calendar

Dianen Calendar				
Mar	7	Book Group, <i>The Winter Queen</i> , 7:30pm, Jean Nereson's, 1537 41 st		
Mar	10	Council Meeting, 7:15, Rosmarie Frederickson, 1372 47th		
Mar	12	WCTF, Favorite Recipe Nite, Marilyn Minshall, 536 Brighton, 6:30pm		
Mar	14	Non-fiction book group, The Seven Daughters of Eve		
Apr	11	Book Group, Ahab's Wife, Karin Roberts,415 Cheryl 7:30pm		
Apr	16	EF fund raiser – Fuller Lodge		
Apr/May	29-1	State Convention – Las Vegas,NM		
May	2	Book Group, 7:30, Chris Sierk, Caramelo		
May	7	WCTF, Lebanon Dinner, Melissa Lamoreaux 5153 Quemazon, 6:30pm		
May	16	Non-fiction book group, When Corporations Rule the World		

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	