

Los Alamos Branch AAUW March 2009

Promoting Democracy in North Africa: 3 years of Assisting Parliament to Fulfill its Constitutional Mandate. Presented by Julia Demichelis Wednesday, March 11, 7pm UNM-LA Lecture Hall

Ms. Demichelis has just returned from 3 years in Morocco and previously was in Iraq helping them to write the new constitution. She has also worked with NGOs in former Yugoslavia, Albania, and other countries. This meeting is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

State News:

The state board has made available \$1000 total for up to five travelships for members to attend Association convention this June in St. Louis. Each travelship would have a minimum value of \$200 and a maximum of \$300 depending upon the number of applicants.

The DEADLINE for application is March 15, received by Nina Thayer, via U.S. mail, phone or email. Phone Nina for more information (662-6835).

Legislative Update: We need every member to contact her senator about the AAUW-NM pay equity bill, "Permitting Employees to Discuss Their Salary Without Retaliation". If employees are not allowed to discuss their pay, it is obviously very difficult to know if one's pay is equitable. It is common practice for employers to forbid pay discussions and to use such discussions as reasons for dismissal. Jeannette has assured the AAUW lobby corps verbally and in writing that she will support it, but the Senate is another matter. The Senate bill number is S305. If you don't remember which senator is yours, contact all three and say you are from Los Alamos. Just cut and paste this text: "I urge you to support senate bill S305 that permits employees to discuss salary without retaliation". Sign it with your name followed by Los Alamos.

Here is a list of our senators:

Carlos Cisneros, district 6, 986-4365

carlos.cisneros@nmlegis.gov

Phil Griego, district 39, 986-4861

senatorgriego@yahoo.com

Richard Martinez, district 5, 986-4389

richard.martinez@nmlegis.gov

Branch News:

EYH (Expanding Your Horizons) Los Alamos is scheduled at UNMLA for April 2, 2009. Marilyn Minshall is busy working on the teacher portion. She will need more volunteers.

State convention (April 24-26) planners are in need of volunteers. Nina Thayer has the list. Early callers have the best choice of jobs. Phone Nina (662-6835).

Alahna Weller, Denise George, Helena Whyte, Nina Thayer and Natalie Markin manned an activity table at DiscoverE night. Kids learned a bit about fractions by making pictures using circle sectors. Susan Oldham's children stopped by:



Study Group Schedules are posted at:

http://aauw-nm.org/los_alamos_study_groups.html

Book Group: The March book is Easter Island, by Jennifer Vanderbes. The March 2nd evening

meeting will be held at 7:30pm at the home of Pat Mendius, 124 Rover. The March 3rd day-time meeting will be held at 2pm at the home of Marilyn Minshall, 536 Brighton.

Non-Fiction Book Group: The next meeting will be Monday, March 16. The book is Soldier's Heart: Reading Literature through Peace and War at West Point by Elizabeth Samet. The reviewer is Margo Batha. The meeting will be at the home of Lynn Jones, 520 Navajo.

The World Cultures through Foods: All dinners are at 6pm. Contact Marilyn Minshall (672-3499) for more information. The next dinner will have a Dutch theme and will be held at the home of Mona Wecksung, 161 El Corto, on April 18.

Great Decisions: Carroll Thomas (672-1937) is the coordinator of the day-time group. The day time meetings are held at Mesa Public Library on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 10am. The schedule for the remaining meetings is:

Mar 9	Energy/ Roberts
Mar 23	Egypt/ Hyman and E. Petschek
Apr 13	Cuba/ M. Petschek and Beurss
Apr 27	Artic Age/ Hahn and Lazarus
May 11	Human Rights/ George

The evening group is coordinated by Helena Whyte (672-9153). All meetings except for last are at 7:30pm – 9pm

The schedule for remaining meetings is:

Date	Topic	Hostess	Leader
Wed. Mar 18	Afghanistan and Pakistan	Helena Whyte 100 El Morro	Mona Wecksung 662-7084
Thurs., Mar 26	Egypt	Marilyn Minshall 536 Brighton	Marilyn 672-3499
Mon., Apr 13	Global Food Crisis	White Rock Branch Library	No food
Thurs., Apr 30	Cuba on the Verge	Rosmarie Frederickson 1372 47 th St.	Rosmarie 662-5915
Thurs., May 14	Human Rights	Mesa Public Library, Rml	7pm

Bridge: Contact Jane Sherwood if you would like to play this year.

Study group chairs are asked to send schedules and any changes to Denise at georgeje@acm.org

Changes will be posted at:

http://aauw-nm.org/los_alamos_study_groups.html

Legislative Day and Leadership Team Meeting:

Kristina Fisher from Think NM spoke at the winter LTM. This year, Think NM attacked the school dropout problem. Research has shown that large schools, large high schools being defined as over 1000 students, correlate with high dropout rates. This is true even when accounting for factors such as socio-economic status. Students who drop out report alienation and a sense of being lost in the crowd. Also economies of scale work only for numbers between 300 and 900 students, so large schools actually cost more. Learn more:

<http://www.thinknewmexico.org/policypubs.html>

Martha Burk, money editor for Ms magazine and governor Richardson's advisor on women's issue, reviewed a study done of pay equity within several departments of state employees of New Mexico. Although there are some outliers, the state scores well. For businesses within the state, the statistics are not as encouraging for women.

Jeannette Wallace spoke about what information is important to give a legislator when lobbying for a bill. She finds it impossible to keep track of bill numbers and much more helpful if a constituent mentions a few words describing the bill and then the position they support. She emphasized the full time nature of her work and the many interim committees she attends when the legislature is not in session. She always keeps the best interests of her constituents in mind, most especially those living in the very small communities she represents in Sandoval (Jemez Mountains) and Santa Fe counties as well as Los Alamos.

Some of us learned that **Patsy Mink**, member of the U.S. House of representatives from Hawaii co-authored the Title IX amendment to the Higher Education Act of 1972. Mink had experienced discrimination in many forms. At the U. of Nebraska she was forced to live in a dormitory for 'students of color'. She organized a coalition and was successful in ending the university's

segregation. She intended to go to medical school, but in 1948 none of the 20 medical to which she applied accepted women. She decided that the best way to cause change was to become lawyer and entered the University of Chicago law school. She returned to Hawaii, married, raised a daughter, practiced law, and became active in politics. In 1965, Mink became the first female minority in the U.S. Congress. She served six consecutive terms. During the 1972 Presidential race, Mink ran in the Oregon primary as an anti-Vietnam War candidate.

In Congress, Mink's most important coalition was one to support the Title IX Amendment of the Higher Education Act (renamed in 2002 the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act). It prohibits gender discrimination by federally funded institutions. Thank you Patsy.

At legislative day, the Los Alamos lobby corps contacted our representatives about AAUW issues such as education, pay equity and ethics reform.

Eric Vasquez of Diane Denish's staff spoke to the

Science Fair Report:

This year's Science Fair had a very good turnout. There were many nice projects, which kept the five AAUW judges busy. This year's judging team included Margo Batha, Deepa Nadiga, Jane Sherwood, Cas Mason and Rosmarie Frederickson. Rosmarie submitted this report.

The judges felt the following projects deserved a \$5.00 prize:

#138	Mark Torres "Firing a Trebucket"	4 th grade
#145	Derek Selvage "Press the Penny"	5 th grade
#149	Isabelle Lakis "Making Magnets"	5 th grade
#151	Madison Foley "One Tough Cookie"	5 th grade
#164	Jovan Zhang "Diffusion and Temperature"	5 th grade
#174	Rachel Wallstrom "Prime Frequencies"	5 th grade
#178	Evan Orn "Changing the Boiling Point of Water"	4 th grade
#182	Pippa Chadwick "The Pendulum Clock"	4 th grade
#189	Zealand Waltercheid "Three Puck Experiment"	5 th grade
#28	Lauren Parten "The Amazing Elbow"	4 th grade

\$10.00 each was awarded to three class projects:

#128	First Grade	"Sunspots, Spots and Spinning"
#156	Second Grade	"How we solved the mystery of who left fingerprints on Monster's Lair"
#207	First & Second Grade	"Bess Beetles' Wood Preference"

One suggestion we would like to make to the Science Fair Committee is to encourage bibliographies, to mention the source for the idea for the project and to group the class projects together.

state corps. Because of budget uncertainties, this is a very unusual session. Bills are moving extremely slowly as most bills have a financial component and cannot be considered until a budget estimate for next year is in place. However the administration is supporting reform in installment loan rates, mortgage originator regulation, loans on auto titles, improving the state contractor database, regional housing authority reform among others issues.

Future Branch Events:

April 24-26. Los Alamos hosts the AAUW New Mexico State Convention.

May 15 from 4:30 to 6:30PM. Mark your calendars for the Spring Membership Tea at the Unitarian Church. The NM Co-Presidents Nina Thayer (our own) and Mary Sanford will be presenting. Be sure to come to meet Mary.

July 13, Let's Read Math Program at Mesa Public Library, 7pm.

Thank you notes:

From Ethan, Emily, Sarah, Wenke, Tabitha, Andreas, Nate, Martin, Ainsley, Elen, Johnny, Mrs Altherr:

We appreciate the money you gave us for the science fair. The snails were slimy and slow but we had fun with them. Speaking of snails did you know that snails' slime is so thick that they can crawl on a razor blade! Thank you again and we hope you liked our project.

From Tristan, Zephram , Michelle and Maricela:

Thank you for the \$5. I liked working with snails. I also liked when we did the predator shadow. Do you eat snails because we don't!?!?! Thank you for supporting our science project.

From Eleanor, Emily, Lydia, Hao and Mrs Altherr:

Thank you for \$5 cash. We really hope those beetles come soon! I hope you liked the science fair! The beetles are some amazing little things! It was amazing how fast the beetles made the tunnels! The beetles squeaked when we disturbed them.

From Mrs. Rust's First Grade Class, Emily, Lydia, Alex, Brian, Natalie, Brianna:

Thank you for the award we received at the county science fair! Our first grade class was excited to participate and win this award.

Branch Calendar

Mar	2	Book Group, Pat Mendius, 124 Rover, 7:30
Mar	3	Book Group, Marilyn Minshall, 536 Brighton, 2pm
Mar	3	Council Meeting, 7:15, Pat Mendius, 124 Rover
Mar	9	Great Decisions, MPL, 10am
Mar	11	General meeting, Julie Demichelis, 7:00pm UNM-LA.
Mar	16	Non-fiction book group, Lynn Jones, 520 Navajo, 7:30pm
Mar	18	Great Decisions, Helena Whyte, 100 El Morro
Mar	23	Great Decisions, MPL, 10am
Mar	26	Great Decisions, Marilyn Minshall 536 Brighton, 7:30pm

Coordinating Council for 2008-2009

Helena Whyte	Facilitator	672-9153	mozden08@aol.com
Rozelle Wright	Treasurer	662-5490	rozelle@losalamos.com
Bev Cooper	Secretary	672-9696	mcooper@cybermesa.com
Alahna Weller	Membership	672-9539	acweller@comcast.net
Carroll Thomas	EF/LAF	672-1937	ctgb@earthlink.net
Denise George	Newsletter	672-9688	georgeje@acm.org
Susan Oldham	Communications	672-0778	oldham98@hotmail.com
Mona Wecksung	Diversity	662-7084	wecksung2005@msn.com
Cas Mason	International Affairs	672-1938	casmason01@msn.com
Rosmarie Frederickson	Public Policy	662-5915	frederrh@yahoo.com
Natalie Markin	Program	662-9399	natalie@lanb.com
Jane Sherwood	Hospitality	662-3194	jane.sherwood@att.net