

Los Alamos Branch AAUW March/April 2010

GROWING UP FEMALE IN INDIA

Tuesday, March 2 - 7:30
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
2390 North Road

What is it like to grow up female in India? What can we learn about Indian educational opportunities, customs, holidays, challenges unique to women?

Come hear two Indian women from the Los Alamos community speak of their experiences of growing up in India and of transitioning as adults to an entirely different culture.

Selvi Viswanathan is currently a Board member of the Pajarito Environmental and Education Center (PEEC) and has been engaged in many other community activities since she and her husband, Nathan, came to Los Alamos in the 1970s. Selvi was born in the central eastern state of Orissa and took a Bachelor of Science degree at Utkal University, Orissa. Her interests range from science to real estate, to Indian cooking and spices. Selvi has a son, Hari, and a new grandson as well.

Deepa Nadiga is a member of AAUW. She was born in India and came to the United States at the age of 25. Deepa lived in two very different parts of India, the northern state of Punjab and the southern state of Karnataka, which includes the famous city Bangalore. She was educated at an all-female Catholic school and then medical school in India. She did her residency in psychiatry in the United States and is a practicing psychiatrist here. Deepa and her Indian husband have three children including a baby girl recently adopted from India.

This promises to be a very interesting discussion – tales of more than two cultures, since the Indian states from which our speakers come are very different in and of themselves. Refreshments, both sweet and savory, will be served.

Branch News:

Helena Whyte and Rosmarie Frederickson brought “Let’s Read Math” to DiscoverE. Kids worked to solve tangram problems, and learned that one can use many units of measurement including toilet paper and their own feet. Their faces tell the story that learning is fun.





1372 47th St at 7:30pm. The book is The Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell. Lynn Jones is the reviewer.

World Cultures through Foods: The March 6th dinner has a Chinese theme and is hosted by Mona Wecksung. Contact Marilyn Minshall (672-3499) for more information.

Great Decisions: Carroll Thomas (672-1937) is the coordinator of the day-time group. The March meetings are *Special Envoy in American Foreign Policy* on the 8th and *China* on the 22nd. The April meetings are *Europe's Far East* on the 12th and *Kenya* on the 26th. All meetings are at 10am at Mesa Public Library.

The evening group is coordinated by Helena Whyte (672-9153). Contact her for topics and dates.

Study Group Schedules are posted at:

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

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

Several branch members attended Legislative Day at the roundhouse. We were given a briefing by Eric Vasquez, assistant to Diane Denish. We were told that the legislature is consumed with dealing with the budget crisis and is not likely to address other issues this year. We left notes for our senators and representative stating our preferences on how to fix the budget crisis without harming education.

Book Group: The March book is Sor Juana's Second Dream by Alicia Gaspar de Alba. The March 1st meeting will be held at 7:30pm at the home of Karin Roberts, 415 Cheryl.

Alahna Weller, 2 Cherokee Lane, is hosting the March 2nd, 2pm meeting. The reviewer for both meetings is Marilyn Thayer.

The April book is The House at Riverton by Kate Morton. The April 5th 7:30pm meeting will be held at the home of Mary Ann Lindahl, 201 San Juan.

The April 6th 2:00pm meeting will be held in the library at Aspen Ridge. The reviewer for both meetings is Veronica Encinas.

Non-Fiction Book Group: The next meeting will be Monday March 15th at Rosmarie Frederickson's,

State AAUW News:

Mark your calendars. In connection with AAUW-NM's annual spring convention, a symposium, *Women Across Borders: Chihuahua and New Mexico*, is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2010. Sounds like a long way off, but it's not!

The symposium is intended for women and girls on both sides of the border to promote communication and friendship among those who want a better education, a better career, and a better life.

Jeanette Wallace won the AAUW-NM Terry Sleight award presented for her support of equality in education and for advancing women's issues.



Biography of the Month: Yvonne Brill

Many of today's rockets and commercial communication satellites are working better and more efficiently because of the pioneering work of Yvonne C. Brill. Her patented hydrazine resistojet propulsion system keeps a satellite in a fixed geosynchronous orbit longer than other systems and with a larger payload. More than two hundred of these rocket engines have been flown on both low earth orbit and geosynchronous satellites. She also worked on propellant management feed systems, electric propulsion, and an innovative propulsion system for the Atmosphere Explorer, which in 1973 allowed scientists to gather extensive data on the Earth's thermosphere for the first time. Since 1994, she has served on the nine-member Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, a senior advisory committee on safety issues created by NASA after

the command module spacecraft fire during the Apollo program.

When Ms. Brill began her career in 1945, she was the sole woman of technology working in rocket propulsion systems. Since then, she has worked to increase the number of women in technology, encouraging other technical women and seeing they get the recognition they deserve. She recommends women to influential boards and nominates women every year to the National Academy of Engineering, which she joined in 1987. She nominates women for awards from the Society of Women Engineers, for the National Medal of Science and for the National Medal of Technology.

Ms. Brill has a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Manitoba and a master's in chemistry from USC. She is a member of the International Academy of Astronautics and a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. In 1986, she received the Society of Women Engineers' Achievement Award, that organization's highest honor. In 1993, she received their Resnik Challenger Medal for expanding space horizons through innovations in rocket propulsion systems.

This year she was selected by the American Association of Engineering Societies to receive the John Fritz Medal the highest award in the engineering profession. She is the second woman to receive this award since its inception in 1902.

(Sources MIT and WITI)

Branch Calendar

Mar	1	Book Group, 7:30pm, Karin Roberts, 415 Cheryl
Mar	2	Book Group, 2pm, Alahna Weller, 2 Cherokee Lane
Mar	2	General Meeting, 7:30pm Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Mar	8	Great Decisions, MPL, 10am
Mar	22	Great Decisions, MPL, 10am
Apr	5	Book Group, 7:30pm Mary Ann Lindahl, 201 San Juan
Apr	6	Book Group, 2pm, Library Aspen Ridge
Apr	16-18	State Convention
Apr	12	Great Decisions, MPL, 10am
Apr	26	Great Decisions, MPL, 10am
May	7	Spring Tea – speaker is Lucy Moore

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