

Los Alamos Branch AAUW May 2008

Spring Membership Tea Japanese Gardens by Denise George Friday May 9, 4:30-6:30 Unitarian Church, 1738 N. Sage

Take a tour of Japanese Gardens with Denise. Japanese Garden design evokes the culture, landscape and religion of the country and may appear exotic to the western eye. The elements that combine to form a garden are loaded with symbolism and tradition. Denise will attempt to share with you her knowledge and appreciation of this ancient art form.

Our tea is our "Shape the Future" event at which NEW members can join AAUW 2008-2009 at half price national dues. Bring a friend; everyone loves a bargain.



Branch News:

It is time to renew. Dues may be paid at the tea:

national	\$49
state	\$12
branch	\$10

For most of us dues will be \$71; still a bargain at less than \$6 (or two lattes) per month.

If you are an AAUW member at large, or a life member, or a member of a non-New Mexico branch, dues are \$22.

If you are a member of another New Mexico AAUW branch and wish to be a dual member, dues are \$10.

New members who join at our tea would pay \$46.50.

If you are not able to attend, mail your dues to:

Treasurer, Los Alamos AAUW
P O Box 272
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Please take care of this promptly. Your treasurer and council will be grateful.

Mona Wecksung received the Grace Barker Wilson award. This award honors a woman who through her actions has initiated positive societal change in the areas of women's equity, education or self-esteem. Within AAUW, Mona championed the Georgia Fritz research grant and organized programs focusing on the roles and challenges facing female professors at New Mexico universities. She has worked with Mana del Norte to provide scholarships for young women. At LANL she mentored younger women. She has been active in lobbying the New Mexico legislator. Congratulations Mona!

Los Alamos branch received recognition at the state convention for having made the largest contribution to the Educational Foundation this year. Nina Thayer and her hard working crew arranged a wonderful event, 'Scholarships, Sangria and Tapas', that earned a large part of the total. Thanks to all who made individual contributions as well.

Candidates for coordinating council:

Elections take place at the May tea. The slate consists of Bev Cooper, Natalie Markin, Susan Oldham, and Cas Mason, nominated for two year terms on the coordinating Council. If elected, the

nominees will join returning Council members who will complete the second year of their two year term: Alahna Weller, Rozelle Wright, Helena Whyte, Denise George, and Carroll Thomas. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Adjunct members are: Marilyn Minshall, historian; Jane Sherwood, hospitality; Rosmarie Frederickson, public policy, and Pat Mendius, council hostess. We wish to thank Jill Forman for her hard work as Nominating Chair for this year.

Study Group Schedules are posted at:

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

Book Group: The next meeting will be Monday, May 5, 7:30pm at the home of Veronica Encinas-Saumon, 415 Cheryl. The book is *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. Bring suggestions for our summer book – a summer read should be fun so leave the depressing choices at home.

Non-Fiction Book Group:

The next meeting will be at the home of Nina Thayer, 1707 Solano, May 19 at 7:30 pm. The book is *Endangered Species*, by Steven Younger. The author will be present at the meeting.

The World Cultures through Foods: Contact Marilyn Minshall (672-3499).

Carroll Thomas is the coordinator of the day-time *Great Decisions* group. The May 12 meeting is at 10am at Marilyn Doolen's, 713 Meadow Lane. A pot-luck will follow the discussion of 'Blacklisting the enemy'.

The evening *Great Decisions Group* contact is Helena Whyte (672-9153). Meetings: May 1 (Philanthropy) at Kathy Dimmerling's, Los Cerros Apartments #34; May 15 (U.S. Defense) at Mona Wecksung's 161 El Corto.

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

Mona Wecksung, Rosmarie Frederickson, Alahna Weller, Jill Forman, Jane Sherwood, Bev Cooper, Marilyn Minshall, Karin Roberts, and Nina Thayer from our branch volunteered for the **Expanding Your Horizons** Workshop. Over 100 young girls learned about careers in science and math.

Future Branch Events:

July 21, Mesa Public Library, Let's Read Math workshop for parents and children: helpers needed; contact Helena or Natalie to volunteer. Training will be provided.

Did you know that in 1920, AAUW-NM gave famed scientist Marie Curie a \$150,000 grant which she used "toward the purchase of one gram of radium."

State News:

High points of the recent [state convention](#) in Rio Rancho were the two presentation by Catherine Hill, PhD, AAUW-EF Director of Research. Catherine Hill tells us that choices women make account for some of the pay gap, but that there is no explanation for the remaining 5% difference in pay one year after graduation and 12% ten years later. "The pay gap between female and male college graduates cannot be fully accounted for by factors known to affect wages, such as experience (including work hours), training, education, and personal characteristics. Gender pay discrimination can be overt or it can be subtle. It is difficult to document because someone's gender is usually easily identified by name, voice, or appearance. The only way to discover discrimination is to eliminate the other possible explanations. These unexplained gaps are evidence of discrimination, which remains a serious problem for women in the work force."

[Read more on the AAUW national site.](#)

Her second presentation dismisses the myth that paying attention to girls has harmed boys. A report will be released soon that shows that although more women than men are now receiving 4-year college degrees, this increase is due to more minority women entering and finishing college. Looking at 30 years of test scores shows that where women are doing better so are men.

Catherine reminded us that her research is funded by the Eleanor Roosevelt fund.

Our lunch speaker, Christine Getrich, recipient of an AAUW-EF fellowship presented her dissertation research titled "[American by Birth, Mexican by Blood](#)"; during lunch \$186 was raised for EF.

National News:

The Rocky Mountain Regional Conference will be held June 20 – 22 in Salt Lake City. Helena Whyte has offered her time share. If you would like to attend the conference contact Helena.

Sadly, the Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act (S. 1843) was killed in the senate.

Biography of the Month:



Beverly Sills, born Belle Miriam Silverman in 1929, debuted at the age of three as Bubbles Silverman on Uncle Bob's Rainbow House radio show. At the age of 10 she sang Verdi's, *Caro Nome* from *Rigoletto* on Major Bowes Amateur Hour. When

interviewed at the time she said, "And I can sing 22 arias. I sing old songs too, like *The Last Rose of summer*. My singing teacher tells everyone but me that I have an extraordinary voice for my age."

A member of the New York City Opera from 1955 to 1980, she performed in the world's leading opera houses, recorded 18 full-length operas and numerous solo collections, and appeared in

hundreds of television programs. In addition to the many awards for her albums, Sills received four Emmys for her weekly television program, *Lifestyles with Beverly Sills*.

She introduced to American audiences the use of subtitles for all foreign language productions -- a method soon adopted in opera houses around the world (including the Santa Fe opera).

After retirement from performing, Sills served as General Director and then President of the New York City Opera. In 1993, she became the first woman, the first performing artist and the first former head of an arts company to become chair of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, which encompasses 11 world-renowned institutions, including the Metropolitan Opera, the New York Philharmonic and the New York City Ballet.

Beverly faced challenges when her daughter was born profoundly deaf and her son was born severely retarded. In the 70's she became a cancer survivor.

Here are some of my favorite quotes: "They call me iron lungs". "The only thing that seems to function when everything else goes to pot is my voice". To Johnny Carson, "I think you have a nice voice it's just not suitable for singing".

Sources for this article are:

<http://www.beverlysillsonline.com>

<mailto:http://www.greatwomen.org/>

Branch Calendar

May	1	Evening Great Decisions, 7:30pm, Private Philanthropy, at Kathy Dimmerling's, Los Cerros Apartments #34
May	5	Book Group, <u>Water for Elephants</u> by Sara Gruen, 7:30pm, at Veronica Encinas, 416 Cheryl
May	9	Spring Tea, Unitarian Church, 4:30-6:30
May	12	Great Decisions, Blacklisting the Enemy, 10am, pot-luck at Marilyn Doolen's, 713 Meadow Lane
May	12	Council Pot-luck, 6:30pm, Pat Mendius's, 124 Rover
May	15	Evening Great Decisions, 7:30pm, US Defense & Security Policy, at Mona Wecksung's 161 El Corto
May	19	Non-fiction book group, 7:30pm, <u>Endangered Species</u> , by Steven Younger, at Nina Thayer's 1707 Solano
June	20-22	Regional Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah
July	14	Non-fiction book group, 7:30pm, <u>A Long Way Gone</u> , by Ishmael Beah, at Deepa Nadiga's, 5525 Quemazon
July	21	Let's Read Math Workshop, Mesa Public Library