



## AAUW Hilltopics May 2013

### Spring Tea

Friday, May 10, 4:00 p.m.  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Gathering Place

We recall that Virginia Woolf requires *A Room of One's Own*. Do other authors agree? Come to our spring tea and enjoy tasty treats and a program assembled by our own members: Marilyn Thayer, Angela Coop, Margo Batha and Betsy Comly.

Santana Garcia-Chang, from UNM-LA, won one of the AAUW-NM Scholarships to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) and so will attend the Conference in Baltimore at University of Maryland in June. Room and board comes with the scholarship, but she needs help with airfare to Maryland. This will be around \$400. She will be coming to the tea in May to tell the membership her background and explain why she applied for this experience. She is a civil engineering major who is an honors student and hopes to transfer to the main campus in the fall. She has a three year-old son as well. We are happy to help this deserving student and need donations to help her get to Maryland. If you are not able to come to the tea, but would like to help, please make out your check to Santana Garcia-Chang and mail it to Maryjane Giesler at 660 Navajo.

#### Branch News

**The slate for 2013-2014 coordinating council** is as follows:

Re-electing members: Natalie Markin, Maryjane Giesler, Judy Prono

New members: Ginny White, Marilyn Doolen

Continuing members: Nina Thayer, Mona Wecksung.

The election will be held at the spring tea.

Dues will be collected at the spring tea, or see page 3 below for instructions on mailing in your dues.

**Los Alamos branch won three awards** at the AAUW-NM state convention. We won second place for total contribution made to AAUW Funds in 2012. We came in first for contributions to AAUW Funds on a per capita basis. We won an Ingenious Idea award for our holiday lunch fund raisers at Rancho de Chimayo that benefit women and families in Northern New Mexico.

#### Helena Whyte received the Grace Barker Wilson

**Award**, awarded annually at NM State Convention to the AAUW member in New Mexico who has done the most to challenge the status quo for women or to initiate positive societal change through contributions to women's equity, women's education, or women's self-esteem. It is the highest state award that AAUW-NM confers.

#### State News

Come to Santa Fe on Saturday, May 18, for a special treat at the Institute of American Indian Art campus. This five-branch joint meeting will feature the dynamic **Mary Carter, Executive Director of the Women's Intercultural Center** in Anthony, New Mexico, as speaker. The center has been educating and empowering women by providing them the tools and resources to thrive, and Mary Carter will share its story with us. It is guaranteed that you will be inspired and energized.

We'll meet on the campus of the Institute of American Indian Art at 10:00 a.m. IAIA's cafeteria

will prepare a tasty lunch for us. We will have a short tour of the facilities after our meeting.

Please send a check for **\$16.50** payable to “Santa Fe AAUW” to Nickola Rubow at 105 Sol y Lomas, Santa Fe, NM. 87505. Indicate your choice of a *Vegetarian Wrap* (fresh herb cream cheese, sprouts, tomato, avocado, roasted peppers rolled in a tortilla) or *Santa Fe Club* (grilled breast of chicken, romaine, sharp white cheddar, tomato, crisp bacon and chive aioli on harvest wheat bread). Beverages will be lemonade or iced tea.

Directions: From Rodeo Road, turn south onto Richards Ave. and go 2.8 miles, continuing straight through the traffic circles and past the Santa Fe Community College. Turn right onto Avenida Del Sur and go 1.5 miles. Turn left onto A Van Nu Po and proceed .6 miles to the campus on the right.

### Book group

The May book is *In the Shade of the Banyan* by Vadday Ratner. Mary Ann Lindahl, 201 San Juan will host on Monday, May 6th at 7:30 p.m.; let her know if you will come ([moonbeamx@comcast.net](mailto:moonbeamx@comcast.net) or 663-0995). Maryjane Giesler will review. Christine Cloyd, 1853 Mountain View Place will host the meeting on Tuesday, May 7th at 1:00 p.m.; let her know if you will come ([danielc857@aol.com](mailto:danielc857@aol.com) or 500-8192). Rozelle Wright and Marilyn Thayer will review on Tuesday.

### Non-fiction Book Group

The May book is *On Thin Ice, the Changing World of the Polar Bear* by Richard Ellis. Helena Whyte will be reviewing. Lynn Jones will host the meeting on May 20 at 7:30 at 520 Navajo. Let Lynn know if you will attend [jonesmml@comcast.net](mailto:jonesmml@comcast.net) or 662-9443).

### Great Decisions

Carroll Thomas leads 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 remaining schedule for the morning group is:

Topic	Date	Leader
5 Humanitarian Intervention	May 13	Group

Helena Whyte leads 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
Thurs. May 2	China in Africa	Natalie Markin 505 Oppenheimer	Natalie
Wed. May 8	NATO	Judy Prono 670 Totavi	Judy
Thurs. May 23	Iran	Beverly Cooper 521 Ridgecrest	Beverly
Thurs. June 6	Threat Assess.	Local Restaurant	Group

### Out 'n About

Alahna Weller is organizing an Out 'n About visit to the Forked Lightning Ranch, home of Greer Garson, in the Pecos National Monument Ruins for Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. She has reserved a nine-passenger van for a 2 p.m. tour of the Ranch (the only way one can visit the ranch). The tour lasts 1 ½ hours. The plan is to have lunch in Pecos before the tour. This would leave time for a brief visit to the ruins after the tour -- the park closes at 5:00 and the visitor center at 4:30.

There is a \$2 tour fee and a \$3 entrance fee.

As the number of seats on the van is limited, the park will open the remaining seats to the public at the beginning of June. Please let Alahna (672-9539) know if you are interested in attending; you may cancel until June 1.

Car pools will be arranged.

### National News

Voting is now underway for the AAUW Board of Directors, one proposed Bylaw amendment, and proposed changes to the AAUW Public Policy Program. To vote you need your member ID number and the PIN assigned to you for voting. Both numbers are on the mailing label of the Spring/Summer issue of AAUW's *Outlook* magazine. They were also emailed to members by Linda Hallman, AAUW Exec. Director, on April 8.

Information on candidates and ballot issues is available both online ([www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)) and in the Spring/Summer issue of *Outlook*.

the VOTE button. Enter your member ID number and click SEARCH. Then enter your voter PIN. The deadline for online voting is June 10.

If you want a paper ballot, you must request one by May 2; e-mail your name, address, and member ID number to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) or call 1-800-326-2289. Paper ballots must be postmarked by May 17.

If you can't find your voter PIN, call 1-800-326-2289 for help. All AAUW members are eligible to vote in the 2013 AAUW election. I just did this – it's easy, especially if you can find your spring/summer Outlook!

To vote online, go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) and click on

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

This is a friendly reminder that membership dues for the 2013-2014 year are due to national by July 1, 2013. You may pay these dues at the Spring Tea. For your convenience you will find a list of the membership categories, and dues for each category listed below. Please use the payment coupon below and **make your check payable to AAUW, Los Alamos Branch**. Then please mail the coupon and your check to:

**AAUW  
Los Alamos Branch Treasurer  
PO Box 272  
Los Alamos, NM 87544**

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	NATIONAL DUES	STATE DUES	LOCAL DUES
Regular Member	<b>\$71.00</b>	\$49.00	\$12.00	\$10.00
Paid Life Member	<b>\$22.00</b>	\$0.00	\$12.00	\$10.00
Dual Member not NM	\$22.00	\$0.00	\$12.00	\$10.00
Dual Member NM	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.00
Honorary Life Member	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

If you would like to purchase a **life membership, the cost is \$980.00**. Each year you will then only have to pay the assessment for state and local dues. Since dues have a tendency to increase, this is an option that is worth considering. Also please note that of the \$49.00 National Dues, \$46.00 is tax deductible. The other \$3.00 is used to support the AAUW Action Fund's Section 501(c) (4) activities, (Lobby Corps and election related activities), so it is not tax deductible.

PAYMENT COUPON	
Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$	
My membership category is Regular/ Life /Dual NM/Dual not NM (Please circle one category)	
Name:	
Address:	
City:	State: Zip Code:
Daytime Phone Number:	Evening Phone Number:
E-Mail:	Mobile Phone:

Alternatively, to renew your membership online go to the AAUW homepage then click on the login link at <https://www.aauw.org/login/>. Once you are logged in, please follow the steps below.

After logging in, scroll all the way down to the bottom of the page then click on “**Member Tools.**” From the Member Tools page, scroll down that page then click on the link for the **Member Services Database.** Next, enter the database. From the MSD, look for the link that reads **Renew My Membership** to renew.



## **Biography of the Month** **Mary Teresa Norton (1875-1959)**

“I’m no lady; I’m a member of congress, and I’ll proceed on that basis.”

Norton was born in Jersey City in 1875, the eldest daughter of Irish immigrants Thomas Hopkins, a construction worker, and Maria Shea Hopkins, a homemaker. She attended a local parochial school, but did not complete her elementary education in consideration of her family's financial situation, a fact not revealed during her lifetime. She pursued an informal education at home with the assistance of her brother James. The family resources instead were reserved for James to be educated for the priesthood--not an uncommon sacrifice for daughters in Roman Catholic families of the times. James Hopkins did not become a priest after all, but he became Superintendent of Schools in Jersey City.

Norton's mother died when she was seventeen. When her father remarried, Norton and her two sisters, Anne and Loretta, moved to an apartment in New York City, attended Packard Business College for secretarial training, and worked in clerical positions to support themselves. In 1909, Norton married Robert Francis Norton, a widower with two children who managed a cooperage firm in Jersey City. Their only son, Robert, died in infancy the following year. To adjust to the fact that she could have no more children, she turned to public service and volunteer work. She helped launch in 1912 the "Queen's Daughter's Day Nursery," a nonsectarian day-care center that operated out of St. Joseph's R.C. Church basement. From her years in the work force, she knew of the concerns of working women. During the World War I years, she also organized a Red Cross workroom for women in the parish hall basement. Norton's social activism at St. Joseph's ran parallel to the national suffrage movement in which she was not involved. She was not opposed to suffrage for women but at the time did not see politics as her sphere of interest. Mayor Frank Hague would soon dispel that notion.

In 1920, the suffrage amendment was passed and Hague was determined to recruit women to the Democratic Party. Hague had met Norton years earlier when she made a request for funds for the day-care center--and he was impressed. If she could translate that drive from her social work to the political organization of women in the Democratic Party, his future in Jersey City, Hudson County, and even the state, would be assured. Norton was overwhelmed by the offer but humbly recommended that a woman identified with the suffrage movement might better serve in the role. Norton eventually accepted the challenge and organized women to participate actively in the Democratic Party.

In 1924, with Hague's encouragement, Norton became a candidate for the House of Representative from the New Jersey's Twelfth Congressional District (Bayonne and Jersey City). The elections that year were slated to be a Republican sweep nationally, but Norton believed that the women she had met throughout the community would come out to support her. She won the election by a plurality of 17,000 votes over her opponent, an astonishing victory for the time, even in a Democratic stronghold. She was the first woman Democrat elected to Congress from an eastern state and represented her district from 1925 to 1951 or thirteen successive terms. During her tenure she served her constituents well, becoming the chair of three Congressional Committees: Veterans Affairs, the District of Columbia, and Labor. She obtained funds for the construction of the first veterans' hospital in New Jersey and championed home rule for the District of Columbia and the Fair Labor Standards Act, which established minimum wage rates for workers of firms engaged in interstate

commerce. In 1932, Norton led the Democrats in Congress for the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment instituting Prohibition and called the "Noble Experiment" a mistake.

Norton was a good role model for women in politics. She advocated the full participation by women as voters, party members, and candidates for office, and at all levels of government. For Norton, women's political activism was not an issue of women's rights but of women's rightful place in American democracy. True to her Roman Catholic background and constituency, however, she voted against the Gillett Bill that proposed federal funding for the dissemination of birth control information.

During World War II, she sought federal funds for day-care centers for working women. She never forgot her volunteer work in Jersey City and the problems of working women with children. She identified the issues of maternity leave, child care, "latch key" children, displaced homemakers, and equal pay for equal work among her legislative concerns. Consistent with this position, Norton opposed the proposal by feminist Alice Paul for an Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution on grounds that it would mean the loss of protective work laws for women.

In 1951, at the age seventy-five, Norton retired from the House of Representatives. Upon her retirement, she moved to Greenwich, Connecticut, where she died at age eighty-four on August 2, 1959. (source: New Jersey City University web site)

### Branch Calendar

May	2	Evening Great Decisions
May	6,7	Book Group
May	8	Evening Great Decisions
May	10	Spring Tea
May	13	Great Decisions
May	18	Institute of American Indian Arts Outing
May	23	Out'n About
May	23	Evening 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>