

Los Alamos Branch AAUW November 2008

Water and Ambulances in Guatemala

Tuesday, November 18, 7:30pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Rosemarie Frederickson traveled to Guatemala with Rotary. She will share with us a slide presentation from the Rotary trip to Uspantan, Guatemala with Deborah Simon and the 2006 team of Rotarians. The team was selected by their club to choose the next project and celebrate projects completed in previous years. Rosmarie will share with us some of the projects in the Uspantan area and will show lovely slides of the celebration of a water project finished during 2005. Rotary always follows up on the finished projects. We will also view slides of visits made to schools to decide on the next 2006-2007 projects.

Branch News:

State Convention Planning: The New Mexico AAUW convention will be held in Los Alamos on the weekend of April 24-26. Watch the newsletter for summaries of decisions and progress made by the convention planning committee. Please call Helena Whyte (672-9153) or Natalie Markin (662-9399) if you would like to join us. Plans are to meet once a month on a Monday evening at the library for 90 minutes (only if needed). Next meetings: Oct. 27 and Nov. 24, 7 – 8:30 pm.

In September six branch and state officers met and talked about possible location, hotels and banquet facilities. Alahna Weller, Rosmarie Frederickson and Nina Thayer researched possibilities and chose the Best Western as the convention hotel and the Bethlehem Lutheran Church for the Friday and Saturday meetings. We have obtained a quote from the Best Western for a banquet and will continue searching as their bid is rather high. Suggestions for banquet facilities would be appreciated.

The convention theme is the environment and living green. We would like suggestions for speakers in the LA/SF area who have expertise in these areas. Based on the environmental theme, the next two meetings will brainstorm program, keynote speaker, panels, etc. We are planning a convention that every member will find inspirational and mission-based. Put the dates of April 24-26, 2009 on your

calendar, because the branch will need every member's hands, heads and hearts to make this a success!

We would like to make sure that all AAUW members are able to attend our events. If you can provide a ride to AAUW events call or e-mail Helena.

If you need a ride (long term or short term) to an AAUW event call or e-mail Helena. (672-9153, or <mailto:mozden08@aol.com>)

Study Group Schedules are posted at:

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

Book Group: New this year. We will meet at 7:30 PM on a Monday, but we will also have a discussion of the same book later in the week in the afternoon, so that people can come to whichever meeting is most convenient.

The November 3rd evening meeting will be held at 7:30pm at the home of Doris Lodwig, 79 Mesa Verde. The book is Loving Frank, by Nancy Horan.

The November 4th day-time meeting will be held at 2pm at the home of Jenny Bishop, 114 Alhambra.

Non-Fiction Book Group: There will be no November meeting. The next meeting will be Monday, January 19, 2009. The book is Blood and Thunder by Hampton Sides. The reviewer is Denise George. Pat Mendius, 124 Rover, will host the meeting.

The World Cultures through Foods: All dinners are at 6pm. Contact Marilyn Minshall (672-3499) for more information. The October 25th Old Mexico dinner will be hosted by Alahna Weller, 2 Cherokee Lane. The January 24th Dinner From Thailand will be hosted by Marilyn Minshall.

Great Decisions: Carroll Thomas (672-1937) is the coordinator of the day-time group. The evening group is coordinated by Helena Whyte (672-9153). The Great Decisions groups meet after the first of the year. Leaders order books for the group; contact the leader if you are interested.

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

Future Branch Events:

Thursday, Dec. 18, at 7pm, at Mesa Public Library, AAUW will join with MPL Author Speak series, to host Doris Francis, PhD, a social-cultural anthropologist/gerontologist who will talk about her book, Faith and Transformation.

February 3 at 7 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church Our general meeting will feature Dr Lee speaking on Women in China.

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

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

State News: Leadership Opportunities Aplenty

AAUW offers members many opportunities to strengthen their leadership skills and the most valuable of these is to serve as an officer on the branch or state level. Next June three elected officers will retire from the Leadership Team because they hit the 3-term limit, leaving vacancies for Finance Chair, Program/Issues Coordinator and Public Policy Coordinator. We can't divine your

interest and availability, so if you are seeking leadership opportunities, please contact Carol Ann Council, Nominating Chair, (KK-CA_Council@msn.com) for job descriptions. Similarly, the branch will have places available next spring to replace several long-serving members of the Coordinating Council. Jill Foreman is Nominating Chair for our branch.

Clearly we must be having a great deal of fun on the Leadership Team, because our branch has three elected and two appointed state officers! While I'm not sure all of them would confess to having fun, I do know that every Los Alamos member serving at the state level feels pride for what AAUW-NM has accomplished to support equity for all women and girls. They enjoy the rewards of a mission-driven organization and the friendship of like-minded women. Consider joining our AAUW-New Mexico Leadership Team and check out for yourself the fun and satisfaction we are having!

EF/LAF raffle:

This beautiful quilt is being raffled to benefit EF/LAF. Buy tickets at branch meetings or from Rosmarie Frederickson.



National News:

The National Science Foundation awarded AAUW a two-year grant to research, write, and disseminate a report on recent key findings on girls and women in science, technology, engineering, and math. We are proud of this second NSF STEM grant, and the AAUW Research Department is excited to get to work on this new project!

Nobel Prize Winner of the Month:



Baroness **Bertha Felicie Sophie von Suttner**

was awarded the Nobel Prize for peace in 1905. She was born on June 9, 1843 as Countess Kinsky in Prague, Her father who died before her birth was a field marshal and her grandfather on her mother's side a cavalry captain. She was the

product of an aristocratic society whose militaristic traditions she accepted without question for the first half of her life. That would change.

As a girl and young adult, Bertha studied languages and music (at one time aspiring to an operatic career), read voraciously, and enjoyed an active social life and travel. At thirty, feeling she could no longer impose on her mother's dwindling funds, she took a position in Vienna as teacher-companion to the four daughters of the Suttner household. Here she met her future husband, the youngest son of the family. In 1876 she left for Paris to become Alfred Nobel's secretary but returned, after only a brief stay, to marry Baron Arthur Gundaccar von Suttner. Because of the inlaws' strong disapproval of the marriage, the young couple left immediately for the Caucasus where for nine years they earned a precarious living by giving lessons in languages and

music and eventually, and more successfully, by writing.

In 1885 the Suttners returned to Austria where Bertha von Suttner wrote most of her books including her many novels. Their literary life gained focus when they learned about the International Arbitration and Peace Association in London and similar groups on the Continent, organizations that had as an actual working objective what they had now both accepted as an ideal: arbitration and peace in place of armed force.

Bertha von Suttner went to work at once on a novel whose heroine suffers all the horrors of war; the wars involved were those of the author's own day on which she did careful research. *Die Waffen nieder* [*Lay Down Your Arms*], published late in 1889, was so real that the impact made on the reading public was tremendous. From this time on, its author became an active leader in the peace movement, devoting a great part of her time, her energy, and her writing to the cause of peace. She attended peace meetings and international congresses, helped to establish peace groups, recruited members, lectured, and corresponded with people all over the world to promote peace projects. She continued working for peace even after her husband's death in 1902. She was awarded the Nobel peace prize in 1905. She warned of the dangers of increasing militarization and died on June 21, 1914, two months before the start of the world war she had warned and struggled against.

Extracted from:

http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1905/suttner-bio.html

Branch Calendar

Oct	25	World Culture through Foods, Old Mexico dinner, 6pm, Alahna Weller, 2 Cherokee
Oct	27	Convention planning meeting, MPLibrary, 7pm, tentative
Nov	3	Book Group, 7:30pm, <u>Loving Frank</u> , by Nancy Horan, Doris Ludwig, 79 Mesa Verde
Nov	4	Book Group, 2:00pm, <u>Loving Frank</u> , by Nancy Horan, Marilyn Minshall, 536 Brighton
Nov	18	General Meeting, 7:30pm, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Rotary in Guatemala
Nov	24	Convention planning meeting, MPLibrary, 7pm, tentative

Coordinating Council for 2008-2009

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