

Los Alamos Branch AAUW November 2010

Branch Events:

Gwen Southgate
Author of Coin Street Chronicles
Monday, November 8, 2 p.m.
At the home of Nina Thayer
1707 Solana, Quemazon

Gwen is a personal AAUW friend of Nina's, and Nina is graciously offering to introduce her to the branch. Chris Sierk and Nina will be serving traditional fall holiday pies.

The book relates the experiences of the author's poor London family living through both the depression of the 1930's and the subsequent years of WWII during which Gwen was sent to a long line of different homes outside London for safety.

In the author's words: "It was a casual kitchen conversation with my son, then about nine or ten, that sowed the seed from which this chronicle grew. An incident from my childhood had figured in that conversation, and afterwards, he stared at me as if I were a stranger and said, "I never knew any of that stuff about you!" And I realized, for the first time, that my children knew me only as I was then: a mother of four, living a comfortable, privileged existence. The seed lay dormant for a very long time. And then, as my story unfolded, so did others: my mother's story, and the story of a place, a time, and a way of life, all of which have virtually vanished. As a result, although this chronicle can be read as a personal memoir that ends at the point where my life became something that my children would recognize as "normal", it is also a portrait of Britain and of those among her people that I knew during eighteen eventful years in the 1930' and 1940's."

There is also a no-host lunch with the author at Tea World at 11:30 am and signing at Otowi Station at 1 p.m. for the public.

Joint meeting with the Friends of Mesa Library's Author Speaks
T. Jackson King
Thursday, November 18, 7 p.m.
Library Rotunda

Tom King is a professional archaeologist and graduate of UCLA (M.A. 1976) and the University of Tennessee (B.S. 1971). He has published Science Fiction novels and short stories. In his works, he explores questions of culture, adaptation, archetypes and individual choice. He has worked as an archaeologist in the American Southwest and has traveled widely in Europe, Russia, Japan and the United States. Within the Science Fiction community, he has appeared at many conventions, served as SFWA Elections Chair in 1990 and was chair of the Philip K. Dick Award jury in 1996.

Branch News:

Nina Thayer has agreed to be the branch Public Policy chair. Thank you Nina.

The branch is still in need of a Nominations Chair. It entails contacting AAUW- Los Alamos Branch members to ask them if they would be willing to serve on the Coordinating Council for a 2 year term. Please contact Natalie Markin (natalie@lanb.com) if you are at all interested and want to know more. You can help support this branch with a relatively short-term commitment. We very much welcome new members as well as long-term members to help us fill this position.

National News:

National has compiled the voting record of all senators and representative on issues important to AAUW members. To find out how your senators and representative voted and to read about the issues check this link:

<http://aauwaction.org/VoterEd/CVR/VotingRecord111.pdf>

Study Groups:

Book Group:

The November book is [Into the Beautiful North](#) by Luis Albert Urrea. The November 1st meeting will be held at 7:30p.m. at Els Hoffer's home 505 Grand Canyon home. The reviewer is Doris Lodwig. Marilyn Doolan, 713 Meadow, is hosting the November 2nd, 1p.m. meeting. The reviewer is Sue Watts.

Non-Fiction Book Group: The November book is [From Berkeley to Beijing](#) by Karin Kendall. We will meet on Monday, November 15, at 7:30 p.m. at Margo Batha's, 4753 Sandia. The author will be present and will show us a video made in China.

World Cultures through Foods: Contact Marilyn Minshall (672-3499) for more information.

Great Decisions:

This group meets after the first of the year. Books are ordered in advance. Contact the coordinator if you wish to participate this year.

The day-time group is coordinated by Carroll Thomas (672-1937).

The evening group is coordinated by Helena Whyte (672-9153).

Study Group Schedules are posted at:

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

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

Biography of the Month:



Virginia McClurg

Raised in New York City and educated in Virginia, McClurg became a well-known writer and traveled west in 1877, to improve her health. McClurg's acceptance of a writing assignment for the *New York Daily Graphic* resulted in her becoming one of the first white women to view the prehistoric cliff dwellings near Mesa Verde. This experience transformed McClurg and began her lifelong interest in preserving Colorado's Native American sites.

McClurg published sketches and lectured widely on the ruins and gained support from the 5,000 member Colorado State Federation of Women's Clubs which created the Colorado Cliff Dwellings Association (CCDA). This organization surveyed the ruins and paid for an accurate map and a road into the site. Unfortunately, infighting between

McClurg, the CCDA's regent for over thirty years, and her vice-regent, Lucy Peabody, nearly side-tracked her hard fought preservation efforts. A disagreement over whether Mesa Verde would be better served as a national park or a state park, under control of the CCDA, divided supporters. On June 29, 1906, Peabody prevailed, and Mesa Verde was officially designated a national park. In the bill establishing the national park, the Hogg bill, the boundaries of the park excluded all major ruins. Fortunately two weeks later the bill was amended to state that all ruins within five miles of the park

boundary would be administered as part of the park.

While McClurg lost the battle to keep control of the park in state hands, she succeeded in having the area preserved for future generations. Until her death in 1931, she continued to raise money to support restoration work in the park and to write about the beauty of Mesa Verde's landscape.

(sources: Women of the West Museum and The Magnificent Mountain Women, by Janet Robertson)

Branch Calendar

Nov	1	Book Group, 7:00 p.m., Els Hoffer, 505 Grand Canyon
Nov	2	Book Group, 1:00 p.m., Marilyn Doolan, 713 Meadow
Nov	8	Nina Thayer hosts Gwen Southwell, 2 p.m., 1707 Solana
Nov	15	Non-fiction book group, 7:30 p.m., Margo Batha, 4753 Sandia
Nov	18	General Branch meeting, Rotunda, Mesa Library, 7 p.m.

Coordinating Council for 2009-2010

Rozelle Wright	Treasurer	662-5490	rozelle@losalamos.com
Mary Ann Lindahl	Publicity	663-0995	moonbeamx@comcast.net
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Non-council positions			
Jane Sherwood	Hospitality	662-3194	jane.sherwood@att.net
Denise George	Newsletter	672-9688	mozden08@aol.com
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