



## **AAUW Hill Topics**

### **November, December 2011**

Saturday Dec. 3, 2011, 11:30 am  
Rancho de Chimayo

### Solutions to Domestic Violence

Rancho Chimayo will be decorated for the holidays and our branch will meet there Saturday, Dec. 3 at 11:30 for lunch. Our speakers will be Carol Merriweather, Executive Director and Ramon Garcia, Director of Marketing for the Espanola-based Crisis Center of Northern New Mexico. Director Merriweather and Mr. Garcia will describe the crisis intervention and innovative outreach programs provided by CCNNM to the families of northern New Mexico including Los Alamos. The Council hopes that lunch at Rancho will become a branch holiday tradition.

December is the season of giving and the Branch Council is asking every member of AAUW-Los Alamos to give a gift, small or large, to this organization. CCNNM is just starting construction on a new facility that will provide four apartments to be used for families in transition from crisis to independent living. The Branch Council is asking every member to join in a kitchen and linen shower for these apartments, which are scheduled to open next spring. Please bring UNWRAPPED, NEW, items to the holiday lunch meeting at Rancho de Chimayo, or drop gifts by Natalie Markin's office at LANB before Dec. 3. A list of needed items is included below. You may wish to go together with a friend and split the expense of an item. We are sure once you learn about the wide range of valuable services that this organization provides the men, women and children of northern New Mexico you will be glad to help out.

The Council will arrange carpools from White Rock and from the Hill. Please let Nina Thayer (662-6835) know 48 hours in advance if you plan to attend and if you want to join a carpool.

#### Suggested Gifts for the Kitchen & Linen Shower for CCNNM

- Non-stick frying pan
- Small & large heavy-duty pans
- Baking pans, pie, muffin, 8 x 8 or 9 x 13
- Mixing bowls
- Electric mixer, blender, toaster or coffee maker
- Dishes, set of four place settings (dinner plate, salad plate, cup/mug and bowl)
- Tableware, set of four place settings (knife, fork(s) spoon)
- Cooking utensils, spatula, spoons, can opener
- Measuring cups, measuring spoons
- Package of kitchen towels
- Towel and washcloth
- Twin bed sheet set
- Pillow, regular size
- Blanket, twin size

## AAUW Earns Four-Star Rating!

AAUW has [received a four-star rating](#) from independent charity evaluator Charity Navigator. This rating is the highest the organization bestows on nonprofits.

### Branch News:

There is no November branch meeting.

Our dear friend and long time AAUW member, ELIZABETH A. AIELLO, passed away on Sunday morning, October 16, 2011.

### Start Smart at UNM-LA

Our branch will partner with AAUW-NM, UNM-Los Alamos and Phi Theta Kappa to bring a salary negotiation workshop, called Start Smart, to the local campus of UNM Friday morning, November 4. The branch and state officers are excited to make this announcement as this will be the first Start Smart Workshop in New Mexico.

These 3-hour workshops are designed to provide college and university students with the knowledge and skills to negotiate salaries and benefits so that they receive fair and realistic compensation when they enter the job market. Although both men and women may attend, the material is directed at women, since research has shown that men are **four times** more likely to ask for what they want than women. And, we know that women make **only 77%** of what men make (on average). Failing to negotiate properly on her very first job out of college can cost a woman over **a million dollars** over the course of her lifetime. The Start Smart program is jointly sponsored by AAUW ([www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)) and The WAGE Project ([www.wageproject.org](http://www.wageproject.org)) on the national level. Our own AAUW-NM Co-President Shelly Rossback is the trainer. The community college honorary fraternity, Phi Theta Kappa, has agreed to be the campus sponsor. Their faculty liaison is our branch member Maryjane Giesler.

Snacks are needed: fruit, cheese, sweets. Natalie Markin (662-9399, [natalie@lanb.com](mailto:natalie@lanb.com)) is

coordinating this effort; food is to be delivered by 8:30 to the student center at UNM-LA on Nov 4. Items not requiring refrigeration may be delivered to UNM-LA main office in Bldg 1 on the preceding afternoon. Let Natalie know if you can help.

### Study Group Dates:

#### Non-fiction Book group:

November 14 , 7:30 p.m. meeting will discuss The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson at Angela Coop's, 332 Aragon. Please let her know if you will attend, 672-1073, [acwalkercoop@yahoo.com](mailto:acwalkercoop@yahoo.com). The reviewer is Margo Batha.

#### Book group:

The November book is Winter Garden by Kristen Hannah. The reviewer is Jill Forman. On Nov 7 at 7:30 p.m., the hostess is Marilyn Minshall, 536 Brighton . Please let her know if you will attend, 672-3499, [mjminshall@q.com](mailto:mjminshall@q.com) On Nov 8, 1:00 p.m., the hostess is Pat Mendius, 124 Rover. Please let her know if you will attend, 672-3222, [pmendius@cybermesa.com](mailto:pmendius@cybermesa.com).

The December book is Mudbound by Hilary Jordan. On Dec 5 at 7:30, the hostess is Karin Roberts, 415 Cheryl. RSVP to 672-9625 or [rjkarin@qwest.net](mailto:rjkarin@qwest.net). The reviewer is Margo Batha. On Dec 6 at 1:00 pm, the hostess is Deepa Nadiga, 5525 Quemazon. RSVP to 661-2461 or [dnadiga@yahoo.com](mailto:dnadiga@yahoo.com). The reviewer is Mary Ann Lindahl.

#### Out 'n About

Eleven branch members enjoyed a perfect, cool fall day in Abiquiu, Oct. 19 visiting Georgia O'Keeffe's home followed by lunch at Abiquiu Inn.

The next Out-n-About trip is to the **International Folk Art Museum in Santa Fe**, Saturday morning, **Nov. 19**. We will meet at the United Church parking lot at 9 am, and at the White Rock "Y" at 9:15 am. We will take the scheduled 10:15 docent tour. Lunch will be at the Museum Café followed by 60 minutes to visit the extensive displays on your own.

Three special exhibitions include: *Young Brides*, *Old Treasures: Macedonian Embroidered Dress*, *The Arts of Survival: Folk Expression in the Face of Natural Disaster and Folk Art of the Andes*

The International Folk Art Museum is the largest collection of folk art in the world. Entrance fee is \$6.00 for NM residents. Please let Nina know 48 hours in advance, if you plan to attend, advance reservations and/or payment are not necessary. (contact Nina at 662-6835, or [gnthayer@cybermesa.com](mailto:gnthayer@cybermesa.com)).

## Great Decisions

Carroll Thomas is organizing the morning Great Decisions group that will meet after the first of the year on Mondays at Mesa Public Library. Contact her if you wish her to order a book for you. (672-1937, [ctgb@earthlink.net](mailto:ctgb@earthlink.net)).

## Good News from NSF

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Director Subra Suresh announced the “NSF Career-Life Balance Initiative,” a 10-year plan to provide greater work-related flexibility to women and men in research careers. Among the best practices that NSF will expand Foundation-wide, are ones that will allow researchers to delay or suspend their grants for up to one year in order to care for a newborn or newly adopted child or fulfill other family obligations. — maximizing current policy to facilitate scientists’ reentry into their professions with minimal loss of momentum.

OP/ED from Nina Thayer –the following are her opinions and do not represent any official AAUW position on the topic of  
New Mexico Drivers' Licenses and Immigrant Civil Liberties

New Mexico has a long history of tolerance toward undocumented immigrants, also called unauthorized immigrants and often simply illegals. Entering the US illegally is a violation of US civil code and not of the criminal statutes. With this in mind the 2003 NM Legislature passed a bill allowing undocumented residents to obtain a drivers license after passing the written, driving and vision tests. This made sense in many ways, because undocumented residents are now tested for their knowledge of basic traffic safety rules. With a driver license an undocumented NM resident can now obtain car insurance. This gives the state a measure of control over who is driving and who is not and gives all drivers responsibility for his/her driving. Without a license, most, if not all, undocumented residents would continue to drive but none of them could purchase car insurance. Auto insurance rates would increase for all of us as the number of uninsured drivers increases. Without a license, undocumented immigrants involved in accidents are more difficult to track and be held accountable.

We need a system of issuing drivers' licenses that is sensible and fair. We need a system that does not allow New Mexico to become a magnet for 200+ aliens applying for a drivers' license using the same phone number or ~50 using the same Albuquerque street address. New Mexico's tolerance towards illegal immigrants again manifested itself when the legislature voted to allow undocumented students to pay in-state tuition at public community colleges and universities and be eligible for state financial aid, including the lottery scholarships. New Mexico passed legislation in 2009 to ban bias-based policing and a Wage Theft law that requires undocumented immigrants to be given the same wages and benefits as legal workers. New Mexico has long been proud of our status as a sanctuary state, where the police enforce the criminal code but not administrative infractions, such as immigration status. A month after taking office Governor Martinez abolished by executive order New Mexico’s sanctuary status for arrested criminals, directing police officers to inquire about

immigration status of anyone arrested. New Mexico continues to be a state where all law-abiding residents are respected for the income, sales and property taxes they pay as well as auto registration and license fees.

The policy initiated by our new Governor to restrict drivers' licenses to legal residents of New Mexico will decrease public safety, will likely increase insurance rates for everyone and would offer a very tempting business opportunity in fraudulent driver licenses. However, this battle is not about the right to drive an automobile in New Mexico. This is a major policy change aimed toward reducing the civil rights of undocumented immigrants. When an illegal is asked why he or she immigrated to the US, the most common answer is, "to find work and provide for my family". Surprisingly, only 2% of people living in New Mexico are estimated to be undocumented and New Mexico ranks 39th in number of undocumented residents. New Mexico's lack of agricultural and manufacturing jobs means that relatively few undocumented immigrants entering New Mexico choose to stay. Clearly we need to plug the loopholes that have allowed Chinese immigrants residing in New York City to carry New Mexico drivers' licenses. But that does not mean that we should end our sensible, compassionate and moral position of respecting the civil rights of undocumented immigrants.

Information disseminated at the Border Conference, Oct. 1, 2011 in Las Vegas, NM.

### Branch Calendar

Nov	4	Start Smart Workshop
Nov	7,8	Book Group
Nov	9	Council Meeting, Pat Mendius, 7:15
Nov	14	Non fiction book group
Nov	19	Out'n About
Dec	3	General Meeting, Rancho de Chimayo
Dec	5,6	Book Group

### Coordinating Council for 2011-2012

Rozelle Wright	Treasurer/Membership	662-5490	<a href="mailto:rozelle@losalamos.com">rozelle@losalamos.com</a>
Mary Ann Lindahl	Publicity	663-0995	<a href="mailto:moonbeamx@comcast.net">moonbeamx@comcast.net</a>
Judy Prono	AAUF Funds	662-2691	<a href="mailto:djprono@msn.com">djprono@msn.com</a>
Bev Cooper	Secretary	672-9696	<a href="mailto:mcooper@cybermesa.com">mcooper@cybermesa.com</a>
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Nina Thayer	Public Policy	662-6835	<a href="mailto:gnthayer@cybermesa.com">gnthayer@cybermesa.com</a>
Dorothy Donnelly-Shaner	International Affairs	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>
<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:mozden08@aol.com">mozden08@aol.com</a>
Marilyn Minshall	Historian	672-3499	<a href="mailto:fsminc@losalamos-nm.com">fsminc@losalamos-nm.com</a>
Helena Whyte	Nominating Chair	672-9153	<a href="mailto:mozden08@aol.com">mozden08@aol.com</a>