

Los Alamos Branch AAUW October 2007

General Meeting
Thursday, October 25, 7pm
Mesa Public Library

Judith Van Gieson

Collaboration with the Mesa Public Library Authors Speak program.

Judith Van Gieson is the author of thirteen mystery novels set in NM. Her first series featured Albuquerque lawyer/sleuth Neil Hamel. The protagonist of the second series, Claire Teynier, is an archivist and librarian at UNM. Books in both series have been regional and IMBA (Independent Mystery Booksellers Association) bestsellers. The *Shadow of Venus*, the fifth book in the Reynier series, was given the Zia Award from New Mexico Press Women for the best work of fiction by a New Mexico woman and was nominated for the Barry Award for the best paperback original of 2004. Van Gieson was awarded the Spirit of Magnifico Literary Award in 1996 and the Bravos Excellence in Literary Arts Award in 2002. After graduation from Northwestern University, Judith worked in publishing in NY then lived in Vermont before deciding to devote herself full time to writing. She first came to NM in 1981 and now lives in Albuquerque's North Valley. She has taught creative writing at UNM and at the Taos Summer Writers Conference. In 2007 she will teach a master class in the crime novel at the Taos Conference.

Branch News

November 6, Tuesday 7:30pm, Bethlehem Lutheran Church: Workshop entitled *Let's Read Math*, a program created by the Makefield, PA branch. It is aimed at children in grades K-4 to overcome a child's fear of math. We learned about this program at the National Convention. We hope is this program will attract parents, grandparents and educators. A planning meeting will take place Oct. 11 at 7:15 PM at Natalie Markin's home. Contact Natalie or Helena Whyte to help. At the AAUW-NM leadership team meeting, our branch was awarded a \$100 mini grant to purchase the materials needed for the presentation of this workshop. Learn more about the program by visiting the website at: <http://www.letsreadmath.com>
The kids and tutor read a children's book and then do related math activities. For example, in the book *A Quarter from the Tooth Fairy* by Caren Holtzman, the boy in the book gets a

quarter from the tooth fairy, but be prepared—kids today will tell you this is a rip off! Teeth are worth a lot more these days. This is a simple story about how the boy spends his quarter, changes his mind, and gets his money back...over and over again. It is really a book about "How many ways can you make 25 cents."

Suggested Math Activities: Discuss coin combinations to make 10 cents, 25 cents, 50 cents, and \$1.00. How many quarters in a roll of quarters?

Take Home Activity: Collecting state quarters.

December 9, Sunday, 4-7pm: EF Fund raiser/Holiday Party at the home of Nina and Gary Thayer featuring sangria, tapas, and musical entertainment. The Gourmet study group and other branch members will research and prepare the tapas recipes. A major benefit is that the entire price of your ticket will be donated to the EF Corinne Wolfe fellowship. A second benefit

is that we all get to see Nina and Gary's new home. Tickets will go on sale November 1 at these 3 levels; please be as generous as your budget allows. New Mexico is working hard to complete endowment of this EF fellowship.

\$20 Corinne Wolfe Tutor

\$35 Corinne Wolfe Educator

\$50 Corinne Wolfe Scholar

January 10, 2008, Thursday, Fuller Lodge:

The branch will co-sponsor the Legislative Preview Session with the League of Woman Voters.

March 4, Tuesday, 7:30pm, Bethlehem

Lutheran Church: An International Relations event about Iran arranged by our International Chair, Cas Mason. Cas has contacted two Iranian women who will discuss the history of Iran and the situation of women in Iran.

April 24, Thursday, 7:30pm, Bethlehem

Lutheran Church: Program on pay equity.

May 9, Friday Bethlehem Lutheran Church :

Spring Membership Tea.

Study Group Schedules are posted at:

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

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

AAUW Non-Fiction Book Group:

The next meeting will be at Harriet Dodder's, 149 El Gancho on Monday, November 12 at 7:30 pm. The book is *The Freedom Writers Diary* by the freedom writers with Ziata Filipovic.

The World Cultures through Foods: The contact is Marilyn Minshall. (672-3499). The November event is a tapas class – contact Marilyn for more information.

Book Group: The next meeting will be Monday, October 1, 7:30, at the home of Mary Ann Lindahl, 201 San Juan Road. The book is *Sufficient Grace* by Darnell Arnoult.

The Mystery Book Club meets 6:30pm at Film

Festival. On Thursday, October 11 the book is *The Spirit Woman* by Margaret Coel.

On November 8 the book is *The Romeo Flag* by Carolyn Hougan.

Carroll Thomas is the coordinator of the day-time *Great Decisions* group. Helena Whyte is the coordinator of the evening group. Meetings begin after the first of the year.

Bridge: Brigitta Dobratz was chair of the bridge group for many years; she is dearly missed. This group routinely brought in about \$300 a year for the AAUW Educational Foundation. The bridge group did not meet last year. However, Jane Sherwood (662-3194) would like to see it resurrected this year (07-08). More partnerships are needed, and if someone would like to step forward and be chair, free advice is available! Many thanks to all who played over the years.

Fall Luncheon: Kudos to Natalie for arranging the lunch and speaker and to LANB for offering the venue. Jill Cook inspired us all with her leadership advice and by sharing with us her personal experiences in climbing the corporate ladder. Plus we had good food and none of us had to cook!

State News

The fall [Roadrunner](#) has information on the Fall Workshop (Oct 26, 27) and on nomination process for the Terry Sleight Memorial Award. Natalie Markin and Helena Whyte will be attending the fall workshop; contact them if you are interested in carpooling.

Undervalued woman of the month: Rosalind Franklin

In 1962, Maurice Wilkins, Francis Crick and James Watson received the Noble Prize, but it was Rosalind Franklin's data and photographs of DNA that led to their discovery. She was born in London in 1920 and died in 1958 of ovarian cancer 4 years before the Nobel prize was awarded.

After obtaining her doctorate from Cambridge in physical chemistry, Franklin worked in Paris

where she learned X-ray diffraction techniques. She then returned to England and worked in a lab with Wilkins. The leader of the team assigned her to work on DNA with a graduate student. Franklin's assumption was that it was her own project. The laboratory's second-in-command, Wilkins, was on vacation at the time, and when he returned, their relationship was muddled. He assumed she was to assist his work; she assumed she'd be the only one working on DNA.

By modifying equipment to produce an extremely fine X-ray beam, Franklin made marked advances in X-ray diffraction techniques. Between 1951 and 1953 Rosalind Franklin came very close to solving the DNA structure. She was beaten to publication by Crick and Watson in part because of the friction between Wilkins and herself. At one point, Wilkins showed Watson, without Franklin's permission or knowledge, one of her crystallographic portraits of DNA. When Watson saw the picture, the solution became apparent to him, and the results went into an article in Nature almost immediately.

Franklin's work did appear as a supporting article in the same issue of the journal.

A debate about the amount of credit due to Franklin continues. What is clear is that she did have a meaningful role in learning the structure of DNA and that she was a scientist of the first rank. Franklin later did very fruitful work on the tobacco mosaic virus and the polio virus.



Branch Calendar

Oct	1	Book Group, 7:30, Mary Ann Lindahl's, 201 San Juan, <u>Sufficient Grace</u> by Darnell Arnoult
Oct	11	<i>Let's Read Math</i> planning meeting, 7:30pm, Natalie Markin's, 505 Oppenheimer, #419
Oct	25	General meeting, 7pm, Mesa Public Library
Nov	4	World Culture through Food tapas class
Nov	5	Book Group, 7:30, Carroll Thomas's, 115 La Senda, <u>Snow Flower and the Secret Fan</u> by Lisa See
Nov	6	General Meeting, 7:30pm, Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Nov	8	Council meeting, 7:15, Pat Mendius, 124 Rover
Nov	12	Non-fiction books, 7:30pm, Harriet Dodder's, 149 El Gancho, <u>The Freedom Writers Diary</u>

Coordinating Council for 2007-2008

Helena Whyte	Facilitator	672-9153
Rozelle Wright	Treasurer	662-5490
Bev Cooper	Secretary	672-9696
Alahna Weller	Membership	672-9539
Carroll Thomas	EF/LAF	672-1937
Denise George	Newsletter	672-9688
Susan Oldham	Communications	672-0778
Mona Wecksung	Diversity	662-7084
Cas Mason	International Affairs	672-1938
Rosmarie Frederickson	Public Policy	662-5915
Natalie Markin	Program	662-9399