



AAUW Hilltopics January 2012

Legislative Preview Wednesday, January 11, 7 to 9 p.m. Fuller Lodge

This is our annual joint meeting co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters. Come early at 6:30 for refreshments. Jim Hall and Carlos Cisneros are coming. Senator Griego has been invited but has not yet responded. Senator Martinez has a conflict and can't come.

Our Deputy County Clerk, Sheryl Nichols will discuss voter verification from the perspective of the County Clerks. A representative of Free Speech for People has been invited to discuss the move to amend the U.S. Constitution to negate the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision (the decision that removed bans on corporate political contributions). A memorial in support of the amendment will be introduced at the Legislature.

Branch News:

The AAUW Coordinating Council recommends that an appropriate way to remember the many contributions to AAUW made by Elizabeth Aiello, would be for branch members to make personal donations to AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) in her memory. Donation checks should be made payable to AAUW Funds, with LAF #3999 noted on the For/memo line, and sent to:

Los Alamos AAUW

P. O. Box 272

Los Alamos, NM 87544

Donations to AAUW Funds are tax-deductible.

February Program: On Tuesday, February 21st, AAUW will host a presentation at Bethlehem Lutheran Church by Deborah Simon of the Espanola Rotary Chapter. AAUW is indebted to Bev Cooper for the initial idea for this talk and initial contact. Here is how Deborah describes her presentation: In many developing countries, including the Guatemalan highlands, girls are denied an education because they are expected to spend much time each day hauling water from distant rivers or springs to their homes. Rotary is partnering with United by

Friendship, a New Mexico-based nonprofit organization, to remedy this situation by working with communities to construct potable water systems as well as additional classrooms.

Deborah Simon is the coordinator of the Guatemalan Rotary projects and the founder of United by Friendship. We hope that many of you will be able to come.

Welcome returning member Jean Moses: "I retired in June 2010 from 22 plus years at the public library. For the last 10 years I was manager of the Circulation department. I continue to volunteer at the library helping with selecting and weeding the collection. My interests include of course reading along with quilting and knitting, traveling, and visiting family. I am a former member of AAUW having been very active during the years that the current Little Forest Playschool was AAUW Playschool."

Holiday Party and Prevention of Domestic Violence Go Hand in Hand

On December 3, more than twenty members enjoyed a lovely holiday lunch at Rancho de Chimayo. We tiptoed between snow flurries and roads were dry almost the entire way. The program was arranged by Nina Thayer and this is her report:

Our speakers were Executive Director Carol Merriweather and Marketing Director Ramon Garcia of the Crisis Center of Northern New Mexico, a state-funded organization providing domestic violence services to the families of Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos counties. Their presentation focused on prevention.

Several years ago CCNNM received a federal grant, which has allowed them to make a 20-minute movie, "Through Their Eyes", which shows the effect of domestic violence on children and teens. We viewed the movie. It was produced by Mr. Garcia in Spanish and English and uses local talent as actors and director. The movie was distributed as a DVD to every household in the Espanola School District last spring, beginning an important conversation about the effect of domestic violence on children. We learned that often the children from homes experiencing domestic violence begin to do poorly in school and then repeat the cycle by becoming the bullies and harassers at middle and high schools. This was the topic of our most recent AAUW research, "Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment in School" in real life. The statistics of the report became the faces of friends and neighbors.

Our branch members donated dozens and dozens of household items for four transitional apartments that CCNNM expects to build this spring on land they own in Espanola. These apartments will be available to families as they transition out of the crisis center, find work and reintegrate into the community. They provide an affordable alternative to returning to the partner causing the violence.

The Branch Council extends our thank you to our members for their wonderful response to support the prevention of domestic violence in Northern New Mexico.

Study Group Dates:

Non-fiction Book group:

On January 30, at 7:30 p.m. the group will discuss Citizens of London by Lynn Olson at Rosmarie Fredrickson's, 1372 47th. Please let her know if you will attend, frederrh@yahoo.com, 662-5915. The reviewer is Denise George.

Book group:

There is no January meeting. The February book is North and South by Elizabeth Gaskell. The reviewer is Angela Coop. On Feb 6 at 7:30 p.m., the hostess is Angela Coop, 332 Aragon. Please let her know if you will attend, 672-1073, acwalkercoop@yahoo.com. On Feb 7, 1:00 p.m., the hostess is Marilyn Doolen, 713 Meadow Lane. Please let her know if you will attend, 672-3571, mtdoolen@aol.com

Out 'n About

Out-n-About Planning Meeting, 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 4 at Nina's home, 1707 Solana.

What would you like to do next year with Out-n-About? Think up an idea, then research it. Find out the days and hours it is open or available, how much it costs and other particulars. Then come to the Out-n-About planning meeting 7 pm, Jan. 4, at my house. Rather like the book group planning meeting, each member will have the chance to present their idea(s). Then we will vote for our 2012 activities. Whoever makes the original suggestion will be asked to follow through with the planning. It's really not hard, I've planned four already! If you are unable to come, but have an idea, please email me with details including the best month(s) for your activity. The bigger variety the better our choices will be. Please consider both indoor and outdoor activities. Let me know if you plan to attend.

Nina Thayer
662-6835, gnthayer@cybermesa.com).

Great Decisions

Carroll Thomas is organizing the morning Great Decisions group. The organizational meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, from 10 a.m. until noon. The meeting will be at Carroll's home, 115 La Senda, Carroll's contact information is 672-1937, ctgb@earthlink.net).

Helena Whyte will host the organizational meeting for the evening great decisions group on Thursday, January 26, 7:30 p.m. at 100 El Morro St. Helena's contact information is 672-9153, mozden08@aol.com

Message from our facilitator:

I personally want to wish each and every one of you a most happy holiday season. I also want you to please consider serving on the AAUW Los Alamos Coordinating Council next year. Four of the current council members are retiring. Some of them have served on the council for many years. That means that there are only four council members returning. For this branch to continue to be a viable and energetic group we need people to volunteer for the council. If you have questions please call me. My home number is 662-9399 and my work number is 663-3874. You may also contact our nominations chair, and past facilitator, Helena Whyte. Her home number is 672-9153. Best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Natalie Markin

Branch Calendar

Jan	4	Out'n about planning meeting
Jan	9	Great Decisions organizational meeting, 10 a.m., Carroll Thomas's
Jan	9	Council meeting 7:15, Pat Mendius's
Jan	11	Legislative preview
Jan	23	Great Decisions
Jan	30	Non-fiction book group
Feb	6,7	Book group
Feb	21	Branch meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Coordinating Council for 2011-2012

Rozelle Wright	Treasurer/Membership	662-5490	rozelle@losalamos.com
Mary Ann Lindahl	Publicity	663-0995	moonbeamx@comcast.net
Judy Prono	AAUF Funds	662-2691	djprono@msn.com
Bev Cooper	Secretary	672-9696	mcooper@cybermesa.com
Natalie Markin	Facilitator	662-9399	natalie@lanb.com
Nina Thayer	Public Policy	662-6835	gnthayer@cybermesa.com
Dorothy Donnelly-Shaner	International Affairs	672-2224	fivesigma@comcast.net
Maryjane Giesler	University Representative	662-5574	mgiesler@unm.edu
Non-council positions			
Jane Sherwood	Hospitality	662-3194	jane.sherwood@att.net
Denise George	Newsletter	672-9688	mozden08@aol.com
Marilyn Minshall	Historian	672-3499	fsminc@losalamos-nm.com
Helena Whyte	Nominating Chair	672-9153	mozden08@aol.com