

Los Alamos Branch AAUW NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006

Notes from the Fall Leadership Team Meeting

Please allow us to use this format to thank everyone who helped in planning and executing the AAUW Fall Workshop and Leadership Team Meeting - "Lifelong Learning at the Top of the Hill." Registration went smoothly. The panel on Are Boys Really Falling Behind or Are Girls Just Doing Better (the answer to both is yes) was outstanding and drew much lively discussion. "Financial Facts of Retirement" was very well received. Lunch was healthy and delicious. The 125th AAUW Birthday celebration and tributes to Marjorie Bell Chambers were fun and festive. All the breaks and refreshments were presented with grace and flair. Dinner and socializing at the Central Avenue Grill were great. The Santa Fe Trail presentation with Inez Ross and Caroline Robinson was really good!! The Sunday morning Leadership Team Meeting led by Nina Thayer and Nancy Scheer was masterful.

Bill Chambers was moved at our acceptance of the Los Alamos County Council Proclamation making November 2006 in Los Alamos County American Association of University Women month and November 28 as Marjorie Bell Chambers Day. Bill said that this was "a fitting memorial".

We apologize if we left anyone out; it certainly was unintentional.

Planning:

Natalie Markin
Rosemarie Frederickson
Alahna Weller
Marilyn Minshall
Helena Whyte
Nina Thayer
Susan Oldham
Pat Mendius
Jane Sherwood
Beverly Cooper
Doris Lodwig
Gloria Cordova
Cas Mason

Workshop/Leadership Meeting Help:

Natalie Markin/Shila Marek
Rosemarie Frederickson and Paul and Jim
Alahna Weller and John Lilley
Marilyn Minshall
Helena Whyte
Nina Thayer and Gary
Susan Oldham
Jane Sherwood
Doris Lodwig
Stacey Castro
Jill Forman
Denise George
Mary Jane Giesler
Angela Coop
Karin Roberts
Nancy Scheer
Rozelle Wright
Anjie Muir
Mary Sandford
Carol Ann Council
Conrad Council

Caterer: Denise Obermayer

Helena Whyte, Los Alamos Branch Facilitator
Natalie Markin, AAUW-NM Co-Program Chair

The Panelists were Scott Johnson, 3rd grade teacher at Barranca School; Dr. Paul Golding, Economist and Editor of [Santa Fe Boys Newsletter](#); Dr. Jim Anderson, Superintendent of Los Alamos Schools; and Rebecca Belletto, Educational Policy and Program Analyst for the State of New Mexico Higher Education Department.

Mr. Johnson has done a lot of reading and research into teaching boys. He has applied the things that he has learned to his classroom. He stated that boy's fine motor control is 9 months delayed from girls and they have

different learning styles. He recommended four books on the subject: Boys and Girls Learn Differently, Real Boys Workbook, Raising Cain-Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys, and Coloring Outside The Lines.

Dr. Anderson referred to an article in his school magazine, Is the Boy Crisis Real?. He stated that it is valuable to look at gender differences in how boys learn differently than girls. Boys need things to be relevant and need more hands on work. He felt that the more male teachers schools can have would probably be better for the male students. Statistics show that girls are doing better on test scores. There are 89 school districts in NM. Twenty-one of these districts made their Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) under the No Child Left Behind program. The LA Schools have met their goals in this program.

Dr. Golding stated that boys have less success in reading than girls. They are equal in math but neither does very well in this subject. Boys are falling behind girls and girls are doing better in regards to high school graduation rates in NM and nationally. Male graduation rates are 6% lower than females. He said that we are not adequately preparing our children for college. This is a wide societal problem. He recommends educating teachers in how to teach boys as they need to be taught differently. He feels that public schools should be looking at ways to teach boys in separate classrooms without having to pay for private schools.

Ms. Beletto is involved with the Pre-K to College Policy and Programs. The NM report card on post secondary education is as follows: Preparation-F, Participation-A, Affordability-F, Completion-D, Benefits-C, and Learning-Incomplete. 6% of college students graduate with a BA in six years. The average length of time to get a BA has gone from 4 to 6 years. More middle class families are taking advantage of the Lottery Scholarships. NM high school graduation rates are among the lowest in the nation. Anglos are 3 times as likely to have a BA as other groups. In '04-'05, 5,970 Bachelor's degrees were awarded. Of these 59% were female and 41% were male. The dropout rate is high after the 1st semester of college and between the 9th and 10th grades in high school. 61% of high school students graduate. 41% of high school graduates have to take remedial math in college. Her department is pushing for a 4th year of required high school math to improve this problem.

After lunch Megan Gutierrez, Second Vice President-Wealth Management and Financial Planning Specialist with Smith Barney spoke about Financial Facts of Retirement: What Every Woman Should Know. Working people should be saving at least 10% of their salary for retirement. There are catch-up plans for people who are still working. At age 70 1/2 you are required to take distributions from your tax-deferred retirement account based on your age and your life expectancy. NM 529 educational accounts are tax free. Municipal bonds are tax free. Roth IRA money is taxed before investment and all earnings are tax free. You can always convert your regular IRAs to Roth IRAs. She stated that we need to remember that money is a tool and we need not be afraid to invest. She recommended the book A Random Walk Down Wall street by Malkiel.

Branch News

November Meeting:

Please mark your calendars for either Thursday, November 30th or Wednesday, December 6th for the meeting at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 7:30 pm. A speaker has yet to be decided upon. As soon as we know the details we will notify the members.

Los Alamos Branch member Thelma Hahn was honored as a Living Treasure of Los Alamos on September 17th. She taught art in the LA public schools from 1970 to 1996. She was named Art Teacher of the Year in 1981. She served on the National Art Education Association board. She is a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church where she delivers the children's sermon once a month, among other tasks. She is involved with the Los Alamos Empty bowl Project, has participated as an artist in the Los Alamos Studio Tour from 1994-1999, is a founder of and teaches art at the Art Camp. She was a Fulbright scholar in 1995, traveling to Japan. She was a Los Alamos school board member from 1997-2001, a member of the Art Center at Fuller Lodge Board, and a member of the Art in Public Places Board. She was recently appointed to the Mesa Public Library Board. Congratulations Thelma!

Mona Wecksung, our AAUW representative to Mana Del Norte, has again made the arrangements for our branch to sponsor a college student for this school year. Our branch is providing \$500 of a \$1000 scholarship. The \$162 that was raised from the sale of opera tickets in '05 and several member donations has left an unmet balance of \$108. Donations are being solicited from the membership. Please make out your checks to Mana Del Norte and put AAUW scholarship on the memo line. Send them to Mona at 161 El Corto. Thank you.

Our scholarship recipient is Erica Velarde. Below are some excerpts from her personal statement submitted with her Mana Del Norte scholarship application.

"I am a 28 year old single mother of a 6-year-old daughter and a 3-year-old daughter. I live in Santa Fe, yet I attend UNM in Albuquerque full-time. I commute 130 miles round trip on a daily basis, even weekends. I will graduate in December 2007 with my Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering. I have received two scholarships from your organization throughout the years and as you can see I have put them to good use. With all the activities I am involved in, I don't have time to work. I am currently living solely on my Pell Grant and scholarships."

"I am a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. I have been on the NNMCC Dean's list several semesters, and was on the National Dean's list in 2001 and 2002. I was also honored that my name was mentioned in the Who's Who amongst Americas Junior Colleges in 2002 and 2004. I was a senator and treasurer for both NNMCC and UNM-LA Student Government."

"After receiving my Bachelors degree, my goal is to attend The University of California at Berkley and obtain my Masters degree."

Cas Mason has agreed to chair the chemistry judging at the International Science Fair in Albuquerque in May of '07. The branch is requesting a state AAUW mini grant in conjunction with this activity.

Does anybody recognize these two characters from the Wizard of Oz on the next page that appeared at the September branch meeting? They were drawn by Rozelle Wright.



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 and Alahna Weller at acweller@comcast.net

Non-Fiction Book Group: The November 20th meeting will be at the home of Rosmarie Fredrickson, 1372 47th, at 7:30 PM. Susan Oldham will be reviewing the book Tyrannosaurus Sue by Steve Fiffer. Please add Lynn Jones to the Non-fiction membership list. Her e-mail is: jonesmml@comcast.net. Their next meeting will be in January.

The World Cultures through Foods: The contact is Marilyn Minshall. (672-3499), 536 Brighton Dr. November 18th will be a Sicilian dinner at 6 PM at the home of Marilyn Minshall.

Fiction Book Group: The December 4th meeting will be at the home of Carroll Thomas, 115 La Senda Rd., at 7:30. Susan Oldham will be reviewing the book Small Island by Andrea Levy.

The Mystery Book Club : www.lamountain.ws/mystery.html The Club will meet Wednesday, November 15 at 6:30 PM at The Coffee Booth. The book is The Butcher's Boy by Thomas Perry. The December book is The Black Silk Handkerchief by D.L. Birchfield.

Great Decisions Groups:

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Los Alamos Branch AAUW

November/December 2006
aauw-nm.org

Carroll Thomas is the coordinator of the day-time *Great Decisions* group. All meetings are at 10 AM, starting in January or February.

Helena Whyte is the coordinator of the evening *Great Decisions* group. All meetings are at 7:30, starting in January or February.

National News:

The National AAUW 125th birthday celebration will be on Tuesday, November 25.

Educational Foundation report by Nancy Scheer, Co-President of AAUWNM, from the AAUW Rocky Mountain Regional Conference held in Casper, Wyoming

Since its inception EF has funded more than 8,000 fellowships, grants and awards. Presently 3-4 million dollars are awarded each year. The first award went to Ida Street in 1888 and the first international fellowship went to Virginia Alvarez Hussey of Venezuela in 1917. Marie Curie received \$156,413 from AAUW to purchase 1 gram of radium. Her daughter returned the unused amount which was used to create the endowment funding the Marie Curie Post Doctoral Fellowship.

EF incorporated as a non-profit in 1958. It is now the largest foundation of its type in the world. 85% of the money raised comes from AAUW members. Only 1% is used for administrative expenses. EF has \$130 million in assets, \$80 million in endowed funds and \$16 million in their building, computers, furniture, etc.

EF fellowships are not available to AAUW members. It is a public charity and as such we cannot raise funds for ourselves. However, Research and Project grants may be awarded to AAUW members as those funds (\$30 Million) are in a different category. The discontinued E. Roosevelt Teacher Fellowship is now used to finance research reports such as Hostile Hallways.

The AAUW achievement award was established in 1943 to honor a woman of outstanding achievement with a national or international prominence. Madeline Albright was one of the most recent awardees. EF's greatest need is in unrestricted gifts but Nancy Scheer suggests that NM AAUW work to complete the Corrine Wolf International Endowment first. We have raised a little over \$33,000. We need \$100,000 to complete it.

In case you haven't guessed the Wizard of Oz characters are: Nina Thayer on the left and Nancy Scheer on the right!

Branch Calendar

November	15	Mystery Book Club, 6:30, at The Coffee Booth
November	16	LA Branch Coordinating Council meeting, 7:15, at Pat Mendius's home
November	18	World Culture Through Foods Group, 6 PM, at Marilyn Minshall's home
November	20	Non-Fiction Book Group, 7:30, at Rosmarie Frederickson's home
November	30	(or December 6)—Next general meeting. Date and speaker to be announced later
December	4	Fiction Book Group, 7:30, at Carroll Thomas's home
January	?	Joint Legislative review with LALWV
January	?	AAUW Choice Rally in Santa Fe
February	11	Winter State Leadership Team meeting, hosted by the Santa Fe Branch
February	12	A Day at the Legislature, in Santa Fe
February	20	General meeting at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7:30 PM. Cas Mason, presenting "Thoughts on Contemporary Russia"
March	22	General Meeting at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7:30. Mary Greene presenting "Studies of 1.4 million year old Skulls in Africa"
April	12 or 17	General Meeting at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7:30. Possible program on the history of teaching evolution in NM and NM standing on such teaching
April	24	Equal Pay Day
April	27-29	Spring State Leadership Team meeting and AAUW State Convention, hosted by the Las Cruces branch
May	4	Spring Tea at the Unitarian Church. Speaker is Sharon Mulrey, presenting "American Revolution Clothing"
June	29-July 2	AAUW National Association convention in Phoenix, AZ.
June	30	Association/State/Branch dues deadline

Coordinating Council for 2006-2007

Helena Whyte	Facilitator	672-9153
Gloria Cordova	Membership/Diversity	672-3721
Rosmarie Frederickson	Treasurer	662-5915
Bev Cooper	Secretary	672-9696
Pat Mendius	Nominating Chair	672-3222
Alahna Weller	Newsletter Editor	672-9539
Natalie Markin	EF	662-9399
Susan Oldham	Publicity Chair	672-0778
Cas Mason	International Affairs	672-1938
Marilyn Minshall	Historian	672-3499
Jane Sherwood	Hospitality	662-3194

The January/February newsletter deadline is December 15th. Please send news to Alahna Weller and Denise George

