

## Los Alamos Branch AAUW October 2009

### Jorg Jansen And New Life Blossoms from the Ruins Tuesday, October 20, 7:30pm Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Mr Jansen, author of And New Life Blossoms from the Ruins, will share his memories of growing up in World War II Germany during the turbulent years 1939 to 1949. He will describe his war experiences as an 8 to 14 year old. Later as a teenager, he witnessed the change from dictatorship to democracy.

Jorg Jansen was born 1930 in Mulheim on the southern flank of the Ruhr Basin. To escape wartime aerial bombardments, he and his family relocated from his still-intact hometown to Waldenburg in Silesia, a region situated in parts of present-day Poland, the Czech Republic, and Germany. When the Soviet army marched on Silesia, Jansen made his way back to his hometown only to find that much of it had been destroyed by bombs. Only after the Marshall Plan was implemented did the region's economy improve and new life begin to blossom, he said, adding, "Very gradually, the hope for a better future began to replace the despair of mere survival."

He studied electrical engineering in Aachen, and taught in Aachen, in Loughborough (UK) and later in Santiago (Chile). In 1960 he went to America for one or two years to explore the then far advanced solid state technologies. He joined the Laboratory in 1975, where he headed the Laser Fusion project "Antares," the Laser Isotope Separation project "Phoenix," and the Strategic Defense (Star Wars) project "GTA." Forty eight years later and still in the US after an exciting career in engineering research and development, he lives now with his wife Brigit in retirement in Los Alamos.

He wrote his book to remind his family and friends that war knows no mercy. In its blindness it destroys the lives of civilians and soldiers alike.

#### Branch News:

**New members:** The branch has two new members. Please welcome Susan Watts, 4861 Yucca St, 505-709-0005, [swattsw64@yahoo.com](mailto:swattsw64@yahoo.com) and Els Hoffer, 505 Grand Canyon, [jimmelshoffer@msn.com](mailto:jimmelshoffer@msn.com).

**Volunteers Needed:** The council is looking for a public policy chair. The duties of this position are to are to follow state and national legislation that relates to AAUW public policy and to inform the branch members of opportunities to contact our legislators about these

issues. Our state public policy chair is an excellent resource.

We are also looking for a volunteer to sell our stationary at branch meetings. Alahna Weller has been our successful vendor for several years and would like to hand over the responsibility.

**Mana Scholarship:** Once again we have remained faithful to our support of a MANA del Norte scholarship recipient. We have reached our \$1,000 goal and will be able to help Mabel Arellanas continue her education during her senior year. Many, many thanks for your generous donations.

**Books Needed:** Branch member and LAHS English teacher, Margo Batha, is looking for donations of non-fiction books appropriate for and of interest to high school students. She is especially in need of copies of A Long Way Gone, a book that was read by the non-fiction book group. If you can help, contact Margo at 661-8746 or <mailto:atomicbathas@me.com>

**Study Group Schedules** are posted at: [http://aauw-nm.org/los\\_amos\\_study\\_groups.html](http://aauw-nm.org/los_amos_study_groups.html)

*Book Group:* The October book is The Hearts of Horses by Molly Gloss. The reviewer is Rozelle Wright. The Oct. 5 meeting will be held at 7:30pm at Aspen Ridge. This location is tentative; the backup location is Nina Thayer's, 1707 Solana. Watch for e-mail closer to meeting time to confirm the location. The Oct. 6 meeting will be held at 2pm, Marilyn Minshall's, 536 Brighton.  
*Non-Fiction Book Group:* The next meeting will be Monday October 19 at 7:30pm. The book is Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver.

The reviewer is Rozelle Wright. The meeting is at Peggy Lazarus's, 2539 35th.

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

*Great Decisions:* Carroll Thomas (672-1937) is the coordinator of the day-time group. The evening group is coordinated by Helena Whyte (672-9153). Great Decisions meetings will begin after the first of the year. Books must be purchased in advance; the coordinator will place a group book order.

*Bridge:* Contact Jane Sherwood if you would like to play this year.

Study group chairs are asked to send schedules and any changes to Denise at [georgeje@acm.org](mailto:georgeje@acm.org). Changes will be posted at: [http://aauw-nm.org/los\\_amos\\_study\\_groups.html](http://aauw-nm.org/los_amos_study_groups.html)

### Branch Calendar

Oct	5	Book Group, 7:30pm, Aspen Ridge or Nina Thayer's, 1707 Solana
Oct	6	Book Group, 2pm, Marilyn Minshall, 536 Brighton
Oct	19	Non-fiction book group, 7:30pm, Peggy Lazarus, 2529 35th
Oct	20	General Meeting, 7:30pm, Jorg Jansen, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7:30pm
Oct	27	Council meeting, 7:15pm, Pat Mendius, 124 Rover
Nov	17	General Meeting, UNM-LA, topic on Cyber-bullying
Jan		Joint meeting with LWV – legislative preview
Feb/Mar		General Meeting – panel on Women's Issues in India
May	7	Spring Tea – speaker is Lucy Moore

### Coordinating Council for 2008-2009

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