



AAUW Hilltopics November 2013

AAUW: The Value Promise

Julia Brown, AAUW Vice President

Saturday, November 2nd, 11 a.m.

Joint luncheon meeting with AAUW-Santa Fe
Gabriel's Restaurant, Pojoaque (on US 84/285)

Our Branch will hold a joint luncheon meeting with the Santa Fe Branch to hear this charming and knowledgeable AAUW leader. This is a wonderful opportunity to increase our understanding of AAUW at the national level, to learn about new initiatives, and to ask questions. A Council member will contact you about making a reservation, and Nina Thayer will arrange carpools from both the Hill and White Rock as needed. We will order off the menu as soon as we arrive. Ms. Brown will speak, followed by lunch.

Julia Brown J.D. was elected AAUW national vice president last June in New Orleans and serves on the Board of Directors and Audit Committee. She has a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University, a law degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, and a master of laws in military justice from the Judge Advocate General's School. She has done further studies in public policy and public administration. Ms. Brown is an AAUW life member and of particular interest locally, as she is a member of the Las Cruces, New Mexico AAUW Branch.

Jean Nereson Books Memorial Report



Our goal to raise \$20,000 to match the Nereson Family donation received a big boost from the Fall Luncheon. We collected \$2740 cash and checks that day. The Los Alamos Public Schools Foundation reports that they have received a total of \$5,985. We are 30% of the way to our \$20,000 goal!

The committee has sent donation requests to all of the members of the Los Alamos Retired Teachers Association as well as all local Delta Kappa Gamma members. A feature article is planned for the Monitor and the LA Daily Post ran an article. Please help get the word out and ask friends and neighbors to contribute in Jean's memory. If you are aware of former students, please send names and postal or email addresses to the committee chair, Nina

Thayer, gnthayer@cybermesa.com. Complete information on the Jean Nereson Books Memorial is available at the end of this newsletter; print out a copy to share with a friend.

We thank everyone who has been so very generous. Checks made out to "Los Alamos Public Schools Foundation" with "Jean Nereson Books Memorial" in the memo line may be mailed to: LAPS Foundation, 1900 Diamond Dr., Suite 1, Los Alamos, NM 87544. **All donations are tax deductible.**

Branch News

Fall Luncheon Update

Our Fall Luncheon was a very successful kickoff to a new year of Branch activities. The 39 members and guests who attended were inspired by the drive and goals of our two AAUW scholarship recipients, Santana Garcia-Chang and Andrea Tuero, and were treated to light-hearted personal recollections from Jean Nereson's family and close friends. The latter's stories offered telling insight into her career as an educator and the ways in which she touched so many lives in our community. "Remembering Jeanie" was itself a touching memorial to her life.

Due to an excellent turnout, luncheon proceeds (\$620) exceeded costs. The luncheon charge of \$20 was set to cover catering costs plus lunch for the eight Branch guests who spoke to us. Catering expenses were \$473.86. At their September 24 meeting, therefore, the Coordinating Council voted to give \$100 from the luncheon proceeds to the Jean Nereson Books Memorial and to use the remainder of the surplus to defray printing and postage expenses for advertising the Memorial.

Future Programs

December 7, Saturday: Holiday Luncheon at Rancho de Chimayo.

MANA del Norte Scholarship Fund. This year twenty Los Alamos branch members contributed a total of \$1,250 to the scholarship fund. This allowed us to award a \$1,000 scholarship to Andrea Tuero, a single mother of three, who is pursuing a nursing degree at Northern New Mexico College. Those of you who attended our Fall Luncheon heard Andrea speak of her educational goals and express her deep appreciation of our financial and emotional support. We plan to continue our support of Andrea's education as long as she continues to meet MANA's scholarship requirements.

The extra \$250 we have collected above the \$1,000 scholarship amount will be applied to next year's scholarship fund.

Great Decisions

Carroll Thomas will be ordering books for 2013-14 Great Decisions. The order must be in by October 20 to receive the discount. Please contact her at ctgb@earthlink.net if you are interested in a book. The meetings will begin after the first of the year.

Non-fiction Book Group

On October 21, 7:30 p.m., we will meet at Rozelle Wright's, 213 Barranca Road, to discuss My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor. Harriet Dodder is the reviewer.

On January 20, 2014, we will meet at Marilyn Doolen's, 713 Meadow, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss A Cooked Seed by Anchee Min.

Out n'About

October 24, Thursday: Taos. Linda McLellan has arranged this outing (lindamclellan@msn.com or 672-9602). Linda will be arranging carpools from White Rock and Los Alamos: please contact Linda to reserve a place.

Book Group

Karin Roberts will coordinate the group this year.

The November book is The Light in the Ruins by Christopher Bohjalian. On November 4 at 7:30 p.m. Els Hoffer, 505 Grand Canyon, will host the meeting. RSVP to: jimnelshoffer@msn.com or 672-3245. On November 5 at 1:00 p.m., Mona Wecksung, 161 El Corto, will host. Maryjane Giesler will review at both meetings. RSVP to wecksung2005@msn.com or 662-7084.

Title IX, Supporting Girls' Sports

Saturday, Oct. 26: Topper Volleyball, 6 p.m., Griffith Gym.

Saturday, Nov. 9: Lady Lobo Volleyball, Noon, Johnson Gym, Albuquerque campus.

Friday, Feb. 7: girls' basketball game, 5 p.m. at Northern New Mexico College in Espanola.

Contact: *Helen Whyte*
home phone 672-9153, cell 690-7824

Council Supports Mesa Public Library

Mesa Public Library asked us to support its application to host the American Library Association's traveling exhibit on the 1930's Dust Bowl: "Dust, Drought, and Dreams Gone By." Carol Meine noted in her request that the exhibit will emphasize women's voices and eloquence about their experiences living through this epic drought. The ALA will select 25 sites to host the exhibit based on a competitive process that includes partnering with local organizations to promote the exhibit and reach the widest possible public audience. As resources for local programming, Oklahoma State University Library's "Women in the Dust Bowl" online oral history archives and Mount Holyoke College Library's collection of the papers of Caroline Henderson, who farmed throughout the period, will be made available.

By way of support, the Coordinating Council offered to facilitate community discussions of *The Worst Hard Time*, an award-winning history of the Dust Bowl by Timothy Egan. We noted our Branch's experience in researching and critiquing books through our fiction and nonfiction interest groups, and expressed interest in accessing the two university archives to gain insights for discussing Egan's book. We also promised to promote the exhibit to nearby AAUW branches.

In a complementary letter of support from Los Alamos High School, Margo Batha proposed that students in AP English and History classes would participate with us in the community-wide readings of *The Worst Hard Time*, and that as Mount Holyoke College alumnae, she and her LAHS colleague Cecily Merrill would be thrilled to work with Caroline Henderson's letters.

Mesa Library is also partnering with the Bradbury Science Museum and PEEC in their application. If selected, Meine said she would most likely request the exhibit for Jan./Feb. 2015 or 2016. Selected sites will be announced in April 2014. So keep your fingers crossed that we will have the opportunity to work with the library and LAHS students in support of this timely traveling exhibit.

Non-fiction book club members will recall that our group read Timothy Egan's well-written and moving book that contained personal stories of families living through the era. Many of us viewed the PBS series on the dust bowl. Some of our members lived through the dust bowl. If the library is successful in winning the opportunity to host this exhibit, the community will benefit by exposure to an era of our country's history that should not be forgotten.

Please return this survey (or just your responses) to Nina Thayer, Program Chair, on or before the Nov. 2 Branch meeting. (Nina Thayer, 1707 Solana, Los Alamos)

AAUW Los Alamos Branch Program Survey 2013

1. Check which day and time you prefer for Branch meetings. Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday evening | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday with lunch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday evening | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday morning, no lunch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday evening | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday afternoon, no lunch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday afternoon after 3 pm | Other option _____ |

2. What kind of programs are you likely to attend? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local authors | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Social/Holiday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising events for scholarships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative & public policy issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/Native/Hispanic speakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International speaker & issues | |

Women's issues: pay equity, human trafficking, women's health

Suggestions, general or specific

3. What AAUW Branch activities would you actively support if organized by the Council?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judge at elementary Science Fair in January | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's History activity in March |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with fundraising for Mana del Norte, AAUW Funds, or NCCWSL scholarships | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in STEM activities for students | <input type="checkbox"/> Equal Pay Day event in April |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in holiday service project | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer opportunities at the schools |

Suggestions, specific or general

4. The national AAUW organization has supported women's reproductive rights for more than 100 years. "Choice in the determination of one's reproductive life" is priority #4 in AAUW-New Mexico's Public Policy Program. The Pro Choice/Pro Life debate is heating up in New Mexico. Circle your answer.

Do you want this Branch to take an active Pro Choice position? Yes No

5. Want to plan the fun and serve on the Program Committee? _____

_____ Name (optional)

Branch Calendar

Oct	21	Non-fiction book group
Oct	24	Out'n About
Oct	26	Title IX, Topper Volleyball
Nov	2	Joint Branch program at Gabriels
Nov	4, 5	Book Group
Nov	9	Title IX, Lady Lobo Volleyball

Coordinating Council for 2013-14

Mona Wecksung	Co-Treasurer/Membership	662-7084	wecksung2005@msn.com
Judy Prono	Facilitator/Public Policy	662-2691	djprono@msn.com
Natalie Markin	Co-Treasurer/International Affairs	662-9399	natalie@lanb.com natgmark@aol.com
Nina Thayer	Program	662-6835	gnthayer@cybermesa.com
Marilyn Doolen	Publicity	672-3571	mtdoolen@aol.com
Maryjane Giesler	University Representative	662-5574	mgiesler@unm.edu
Ginny White	Secretary	500-8009, 695-2072	ginny@atomicski.org
Non-council positions			
Jane Sherwood	Hospitality	662-3194	jane.sherwood@att.net
Denise George	Newsletter	672-9688	georgeje@acm.org
Marilyn Minshall	Historian	672-3499	mjminshall@q.com
Rosmarie Frederickson	Nominating Chair	662-5915	frederrh@yahoo.com

Jean Nereson Books Memorial



Los Alamos Branch of AAUW and the Nereson Family are offering an opportunity to honor Jean Nereson, an elementary school teacher for fifty years in Los Alamos County Public Schools and active AAUW member. Jean was respected and loved by her students, and she dedicated her 50+ year career to their education and well-being. To honor Jean a memorial fund has been established through the Los Alamos Public Schools Foundation, which will collect and administer the fund at no cost. The Foundation is a 529A organization and **all donations are tax deductible**. The Nereson Family will match up to \$20,000. The money will be given to purchase books for each of the Los Alamos elementary school libraries. We hope the response will allow the fund to purchase books for up to five years.

Checks should be made out to the Los Alamos Schools Foundation with "Jean Nereson Books Memorial" in the memo line and mailed to:

Los Alamos Schools Foundation
1900 Diamond Dr., Suite 1
Los Alamos, NM 87544

AAUW and the Nereson Family deeply appreciate your generosity