



AAUW Hilltopics Summer 2013

Save the date, September 21, for our fall luncheon. We will be enjoying a catered lunch while hearing about fundraising for the Jean Nereson Books Memorial. Also, we hope to have a return visit from Santana Garcia-Chang, who will share her experiences at NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders).

Branch News

The **council positions** for 2013-14 are:

Judy Prono, Facilitator & Public Policy
Mona Wecksung, Treasurer/Membership
Natalie Markin, International Affairs & co-Treasurer
Ginny White, Secretary
Nina Thayer, Programs
Marilyn Doolen, Publicity
Maryjane Giesler, College & University Rep.
Nominating Comm. Chair: Rosmarie Frederickson

Unfilled positions:

AAUW Funds, Diversity

Appointed positions:

Jane Sherwood, Hospitality
Denise George, newsletter editor (*Hilltopics*)
Marilyn Minshall, Historian

The branch policies and procedures have been updated and are available at:

http://aauw-nm.org/Los_Alamos/POLICIES_AND_PROCEDURES.pdf

Please consider contributing to the MANA del Norte scholarship. Mona has received \$630 so far and requires another \$370 to fund the scholarship. Make out your check to MANA del Norte and mail it to Mona Wecksung, 161 El Corto.

Book Group

The Book Choosing Meeting will be held on Monday, August 19, 7:30 p.m. at Chris Sierk's home, 4640 Ridgeway Dr. Let Chris know if you will be at the meeting, (<mailto:acsierk@hotmail.com>, 662-3894).

If you have a book to suggest, e-mail Denise (<mailto:denisegeorge@icloud.com>) with the title,

author and reasons why you recommend the book. I'll compile a list to circulate to the group. The September 2nd, 3rd book is Ella Minnow Pea by Mark Dunn.

Rozelle Wright, who has competently and graciously managed our group for many years, would like to retire.

Please consider taking on this responsibility. The duties include keeping track of the membership and reminding members of the meetings.

Non-fiction Book Group

The August book is the Rachel Carson biography On a Farther Shore by William Souder. We will meet August 26, 7:30 p.m. at Denise George's, 411 Cheryl. Let Denise know if you are coming (672-9688, <mailto:denisegeorge@icloud.com>).

We could not decide on a book for October; please come to the August meeting with suggestions.

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

Join the group for a guided bus tour of four fabulous Santa Fe homes including an Italian villa and the previous home of a New Mexico governor. The tour takes place on Tuesday, July 23 from 12:30 to 4:45, and the cost is \$75. An optional lunch preceding the tour at the Hotel Santa Fe is an additional \$20.

Make reservations at West Wind Travel at 800-283-0122; ask for Sharon. Maryjane Giesler is organizing carpools and has more information. She can be reached at 662-5574. The tour is expected to fill up quickly, so make your reservations soon.

Membership News

This is a friendly reminder that membership dues for the 2013-2014 year were due to national by July 1, 2013. For your convenience you will find a list of the membership categories, and dues for each category listed below. Please use the payment coupon below and **make your check payable to AAUW, Los Alamos Branch**. Then please mail the coupon and your check to:

AAUW
Los Alamos Branch Treasurer
PO Box 272
Los Alamos, NM 87544

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	NATIONAL DUES	STATE DUES	LOCAL DUES
Regular Member	\$71.00	\$49.00	\$12.00	\$10.00
Paid Life Member	\$22.00	\$0.00	\$12.00	\$10.00
Dual Member not NM	\$22.00	\$0.00	\$12.00	\$10.00
Dual Member NM	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.00
Honorary Life Member	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

If you would like to purchase a **life membership, the cost is \$980.00**. Each year you will then only have to pay the assessment for state and local dues. Since dues have a tendency to increase, this is an option that is worth considering. Also please note that of the \$49.00 National Dues, \$46.00 is tax deductible. The other \$3.00 is used to support the AAUW Action Fund's Section 501(c) (4) activities, (Lobby Corps and election related activities), so it is not tax deductible.

PAYMENT COUPON	
Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$	
My membership category is Regular/ Life /Dual NM/Dual not NM (Please circle one category)	
Name:	
Address:	
City:	State: Zip Code:
Daytime Phone Number:	Evening Phone Number:
E-Mail:	Mobile Phone:

Alternatively, to renew your membership online go to the AAUW homepage then click on the login link at <https://www.aauw.org/login/>. Once you are logged in, please follow the steps below. After logging in, scroll all the way down to the bottom of the page then click on "**Member Tools**." From the Member Tools page, scroll down that page then click on the link for the **Member Services Database**. Next, enter the database. From the MSD, look for the link that reads **Renew My Membership** to renew.

“Gap and Gown”

Our facilitator, Judy Prono, authored the following op-ed on the gender pay gap at the request of national. AAUW worked with Media Forum, a consultancy, to get such op-eds published in papers across the country around June 10, the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act. It is part of national's effort get Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would close loopholes in the Equal Pay Act and give employers and employees the tools they need to end unequal pay practices. Judy's op-ed ran in the Albuquerque Journal on Sunday, June 9, under the title, *It's time to eliminate the 'gap and gown' disparity.*

June is a time for graduations, for celebrating the achievement of a college diploma and donning cap and gown amid all the pomp and ceremony of stadiums filled with faculty, graduates, and cheering family and friends. But for women graduates entering the workforce, it is also a time for "gap and gown": a gender pay gap confronts them immediately after graduation. *Graduating to a Pay Gap*, a recent research report by the American Association of University Women (AAUW), found that just one year out of college, women working full time earn only 82% of what college-educated men earn. Even after controlling for factors known to affect earnings—such as college major, GPA, occupation, and employment sector—women still earned 7% less than their male peers.

And the pay gap increases for women who've been in the workforce longer. Nationally, women working full-time and year-round earned only 77% of what their male peers earned in 2011, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau. That's a 23% pay gap. Add race/ethnicity to gender, and the gap widens still more. African American women earned just 68%, and Hispanic or Latina women just 59%, of their white male peers (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). Lower wages mean fewer choices, from the educational opportunities women can offer their children to the food they can put on their tables. By some estimates, women could lose up to \$1 million over a 40-year career because of the gender pay gap. In my opinion, that's more pay gulf than gap.

June also marks the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act, passed back in 1963 and intended to ensure equal pay for equal work. Clearly, those intentions have yet to be realized. Although landmark legislation at the time, the law has never been updated and has too many loopholes. It hinders employees' ability to learn about wage disparities and evaluate whether they are experiencing wage discrimination. It doesn't protect employees from retaliation when they share salary information. And it hasn't enforced pay equity. Although the gender pay gap has narrowed since the 1970s, it hasn't budged in the last ten years.

Legislative measures that have been pending in Congress for several years could improve enforcement of pay equity. Key among these measures is the Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 84/H.R. 377). This act would empower women to negotiate for equal pay, prohibit retaliation against workers who inquire about employers' wage practices or disclose their own wages to coworkers, and strengthen deterrents to stop pay discrimination. Women play a large role in the American workforce today: in fact, a majority of women work outside the home. In six out of ten families, they are either the primary or co-breadwinners. It is time their pay is based on skills and performance, not on gender.

This past spring, Gov. Susana Martinez signed into law the Fair Pay for Women Act, putting us in the vanguard of states backing pay equity. Now we need to tell our Congressional delegation to support the Paycheck Fairness Act, which will mandate pay equity nationwide. Legislative action is needed to enable women to bring home the pay they have rightfully earned. It's time we end pay discrimination and eliminate "Gap and Gown." I urge all New Mexicans to contact our members of Congress, senators and representatives alike, and to tell them that passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act must be a top priority for the 113th Congress.

AAUW 2013 Convention in New Orleans

Our Los Alamos branch gave small stipends to help two of our council members, Nina Thayer and Helena Whyte, attend the AAUW 2013 national convention in New Orleans. The big local news is that a New Mexican was elected AAUW Vice President. Julia Brown of Las Cruces, will backup our new president, Patricia Ho, resident of Massachusetts. Patricia is a petite dynamo and Julia is an articulate organizer. They will make a great team.

Nina Thayer shares her experiences with us in this report:

“My favorite event was former Senator Olympia Snowe’s acceptance speech after receiving AAUW’s Achievement Award at the convention banquet. Senator Snowe is a moderate Republican from Maine who built a reputation for bipartisan consensus on key issues and as an effective advocate for women’s health. Senator Snowe has been a mentor to many and an inspiration to all of us who have worked so long for women’s equity. I was very pleased to see her receive AAUW’s highest award.

The controversies over structural reform and membership criteria that dominated recent conventions were entirely absent. The workshops were packed with mission-based programming ideas and ways to move our public policy forward. I spoke for 40 minutes with Kathy Kelm, the chair of AAUW’s Capitol Hill Lobby Corp in Washington, DC. This small group of volunteer members lobbies our Congressmen and women every Thursday year-round on key AAUW issues. The lobbyists provide accurate information and have become well-trusted among staffers and members of Congress alike as they seek support and cosponsors for AAUW-backed bills.

Kathy told me that her credibility and clout when she walks into a senator or representative’s office depend on two things. The first is the quality of AAUW’s research and the second is the number of constituents who have contacted that particular office concerning that issue. Have you ever tried the **Two-Minute Activist**? Every time you send an email message to one of our members of Congress, it is recorded both by AAUW and by the congressional office. When Ms. Kelm enters a Congressional office and is able to say, ‘Over 100 AAUW members and friends in your district have sent messages or phone calls of support for this issue,’ that catches their attention. Politicians look at the numbers. She emphasized that calling or sending an email message is the very best way AAUW members can show their strength and affect legislation. Sign onto aauw.org, click on **Take Action** and give the Two Minute Activist a try. Really, it only takes two minutes!”

Helena Whyte shares her experiences with us in this report:

“AAUW convention 2013 organizers implemented author and motivational speaker Cynthia D’Amour’s message from convention 2011 to make meetings fun. Participants in plenary sessions were treated to Louisiana style dancing through the aisles, an all female jazz band the Evening Stars, a new logo colors fashion show, and the presidential entrance on a Mardi Gras float. My favorite Plenary Event was author Robin Gerber’s keynote on Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way. My Aunt Grace Louise, who just celebrated her 100th birthday, met Eleanor Roosevelt when she was a young nurse at an orphanage and experienced Eleanor’s quiet method of creating positive change.

Skill building workshops were more plentiful than in previous conventions I attended. I was workshop assistant for Sally Goodson, president of AAUW NJ, Lisa Maatz, AAUW VP of government relations, and Catherine Hill, AAUW director of research, and As Easy as the Chicken Dance: Ways to Move Pay Equity in Your State. NM governor Susana Martinez signed the NM Pay Equity legislation into law earlier this year so NM is considered a model state. Our phone calls during the convention may have influenced Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal to sign the LA Pay Equity Act. Workshop participants were also given updates on current efforts

to get three more states to ratify the Equal Rights amendment and of federal legislation to eliminate the deadline to ratify the amendment. Get in the know at www.2PassERA.org.

Conventioneers were given copies of the new research report *Women in Community Colleges: Access to Success* and *My Greek Drama* by Gianna Angelopoulos. We heard from Andresse St. Rose, AAUW senior researcher, and Elizabeth Bolton, AAUW managing editor, on two key issues in the Women in Community Colleges report responding to the limited availability of on-campus child care and women's segregation in fields such as nursing and teaching that limit their economic opportunities. Gianna was the Olympic organizer of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, ambassador of the Greek state, lawyer, and former Parliamentarian. More time was built into the program for networking and shopping at the AAUW Marketplace. Jean Lotz, AAUW Social Media Chair, and Amy Blackwell, Colorado Branch, visited with the NM delegation to tutor us on making better use of our New Mexico Facebook page."

Branch Calendar

Aug	19	Book Choosing Meeting
Aug	26	Non-fiction Book Group
Sept	2, 3	Book Group
Sept	21	Fall Lunch

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