

## *How LA Cares cares for LA*

Benefit Holiday Luncheon  
Rancho de Chimayo  
Saturday, December 7, 2013  
11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Rancho Chimayo will be decorated for the holidays, and, for the third year, AAUW will meet there for our holiday luncheon and service project. This year the Coordinating Council asks each member to bring CASH or sturdy fresh fruit that does not require refrigeration, such as apples, oranges, clementines or pears. A committee will use cash donations to purchase additional fresh fruit and will prepare festive bags to be placed in each box distributed by LA Cares during their monthly food distribution on December 13th. LA Cares normally prepares about ninety individualized boxes of staples, which include very little fresh fruit or vegetables. We are asking for CASH not checks so that the money can be spent on fruit to provide a holiday treat for the recipients. Checks would have to be turned over to the LA Cares board, and AAUW would have no control over what is purchased with our donation.

A representative from the LA Cares Board of Directors will talk to us about the services they provide county residents and will answer questions. When you hear about the hundreds of hours donated each month by LA Cares volunteers, the Council is sure you will be glad to help.

Lunch is \$15 per person; please bring cash or a check. To make reservations please call or email Marilyn Doolen ([mtdoolen@aol.com](mailto:mtdoolen@aol.com)), 672-3571 on or before Wednesday December 4th. She will gladly let you know others attending who live close by, with whom you may carpool. Please join the party and ask a friend or neighbor to come as your guest.

## Branch News

We have a brand new branch web site that conforms to national standards. All the information on the old site is available in this new format. Plus we have the added feature of a members-only page. Access to this page requires a password that I have distributed via e-mail. The current membership directory is posted on this page and will not be mailed out to members who have e-mail unless you request it. Please bookmark the new site <http://losalamos-nm.aauw.net>; suggestions welcome.

## Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to serve as **judges in the Los Alamos County Science Fair** to be held Saturday, January 25, 2014. We will evaluate elementary school projects and award \$125 in prizes. To volunteer or for more information, call Denise George at 672-9688. Our students will amaze you with their creativity and scientific minds. Come join the fun!

AAUW-NM is looking for volunteers to serve as **Lobby Corp members** during the upcoming legislative session in Santa Fe. The Lobby Corp will work with Public Policy co-chairs Sonya Berg and Jan Bray in attending committee meetings on issues of interest to AAUW and organizing AAUW-NM events related to the legislative session. To volunteer or for more information, call Judy Prono at 662-2691.

## Results of Our Program Survey

We received 28 completed surveys, which is one less than 50% of our current membership. It is interesting that having programs on Saturday with lunch was chosen by more than 70% of respondents. Thursday evening was next most popular.

Local Authors ranked as the number one program choice with Entertainment and International Issues tying for second. Third place was shared by Black/Native/Hispanic speakers and Women's Health Issues.

No proposed branch activity received half or more of respondents' support. Surprisingly, Women's

History Month Activity and Volunteer Opportunities in the Schools received the most support, even though we have not held either activity in recent years.

Our branch membership supports AAUW's Pro-Choice position by an overwhelming 85%. See page 4 of this newsletter for full survey results.

Ginny White and Alahna Weller volunteered to be on a Program Committee, which is very good news. The Council and new Program Committee will take all of this information into consideration as we plan branch programs for the remainder of the year. A big thanks to each of you who took time to fill out the survey.

Nina Thayer, Program Chair

## January Program

Legislative Preview co-sponsored with League of Women Voters, January 8: 6:30 p.m. refreshments, 7:00 p.m. program.

## Great Decisions

Carroll Thomas is organizing the morning group for 2013-14 Great Decisions. Please contact her at [ctgb@earthlink.net](mailto:ctgb@earthlink.net), 672-1937 if you are interested. The meetings will begin after the first of the year. Helena Whyte, [mozden08@aol.com](mailto:mozden08@aol.com), 672-9153, is organizing the evening group. The organizational meeting for the evening group will be January 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at Helena's house, 100 El Morro St. in White Rock; please contact her if you are interested.

## Non-fiction Book Group

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

## Book Group

The December book is Barchester Towers by Anthony Trollope. On December 2 at 7:30 p.m. Mary Ann Lindahl, 201 San Juan, will host the meeting. RSVP to [moonbeamx@comcast.net](mailto:moonbeamx@comcast.net) or 663-0995. On December 3 at 1:00 p.m., Carol Neal, 3451 Urban St, will host. RSVP to [the\\_neals@prodigy.net](mailto:the_neals@prodigy.net) or 662-7256. Marilyn Thayer will review at both meetings.

## **Title IX, Supporting Girls' Sports**

Friday, Dec. 20: girls' basketball Los Alamos High School, Griffith Gym, 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 10: girls' basketball Los Alamos High School, Griffith Gym, 7 p.m.

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

Contact Helena Whyte 672-9153(h), 690-7824(cell) for details.

## **Out n'About**

Linda McLellan organized the October outing to Taos. Fourteen members lunched at Doc Martins, then were amazed by the wondrous exhibit of Maria Martinez pottery at the Millicent Rogers museum, not to mention her fabulous collection of turquoise jewelry. Our last stop was at the Mabel Dodge Lujan house with its D.H. Lawrence windows, now operated as a B&B. We heard stories of both women who were not friends at all, and of the

artists, writers and thinkers who were their contemporaries. To end a perfect day, the drive home along the Rio Grande captured the cottonwoods in their full fall glory.



## **Jean Nereson Books Memorial Report**

The current total in the memorial fund is \$6264 plus \$10,000 given by the Nereson family. Plans are to make the first distribution to our elementary school libraries this December or January. Also Selvi Viswanathan, a friend of Jean who spoke at the Fall Luncheon, has generously donated 10 beautiful new children's books written and illustrated by her daughter, Divya Srinivasan. It is very exciting to see our efforts begin to produce tangible results, and we plan to continue fund raising through the end of May 2014. Updates will be included in every newsletter.

The JNBM Committee

Nancy Scheer, Mary Ann Lindahl, Judy Crocker, Nina Thayer

## **AAUW Brings Tech Trek to New Mexico**

AAUW Las Cruces was recently honored to win one of three grants given by AAUW to hold a Tech Trek Summer Camp for 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls during the summer of 2014. The camp will be planned in conjunction with the Young Women in Computing (YWiC) program at NMSU and will, therefore, have an emphasis on technology as well as the other STEM fields. The camp will be open to girls rising into 8<sup>th</sup> grade from throughout New Mexico. Throughout the week, girls will attend a daily math or science core class, participate in focused workshops, perform hands-on activities, attend a field trip to a STEM work environment and meet female STEM role models.

Tech Trek NM will be held July 13-19 on the NMSU campus. Outreach to New Mexico middle school principals and science/math teachers is underway. The recruitment process requires that students are first nominated by their science or math teacher. The nominations are due by February 14. Seventh grade science and math teachers throughout New Mexico will be sent nomination materials or they can be requested at

[techtreklc@gmail.com](mailto:techtreklc@gmail.com). Students nominated will then be invited to fill out an application, including an essay, which is due by March 7. The Selection Committee will conduct an initial selection process, and designate potential participants who will then be interviewed along with their family. As much as possible, the interviews are to be conducted in person, so AAUW branches throughout the state will assist with this crucial aspect of the process. There is a very specific set of interview questions, along with a recommended Scoring Rubric. The final selection process will take place in early April, with selected campers being notified by April 11. More information on the interview committee and how you can participate will be coming in a few months. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions you might have about the Tech Trek program by contacting us at [techtreklc@gmail.com](mailto:techtreklc@gmail.com) Visit the Tech Trek New Mexico website at: <http://techtrek-NM.aauw.net> Contributions to the New Mexico Tech Trek should be made out to AAUW with Tech Trek LC in the memo line. Send contributions to AAUW @ PO Box 6572, Las Cruces, NM 88006. Individual and corporate contributions are tax deductible as all money will be handled by AAUW, which is a 501/C (3).

### **AAUW Los Alamos Branch Program Survey Results (28 replies) September/October 2013**

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

- |                                 |                                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tuesday evening (11)            | Saturday with lunch (20)              |
| Wednesday evening (10)          | Saturday morning, no lunch (2)        |
| Thursday evening (13)           | Saturday afternoon, no lunch (5)      |
| Friday afternoon after 3 pm (8) | Other option, "daytime is good" _____ |

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Local authors (22)   | Entertainment/Social/Holiday (20)         |
| Education issues (17)  | Fund raising events for scholarships (13) |
| Legislative & public policy issues (15)  | Black/Native/Hispanic speakers (18)       |
| International speaker & issues (20)  |   |
| Women's issues: pay equity (15), human trafficking (15), women's health (18)                     |   |
| Suggestions, general or specific, "speakers are more interesting than videos from national AAUW" |   |

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Judge at elementary Science Fair in January (11)                                  | Women's History activity in March (12)      |
| Help with fund raising for Mana del Norte, AAUW Funds, or NCCWSL scholarships (5) |   |
| Participate in STEM activities for students (9)                                   | Equal Pay Day event in April (7)            |
| Participate in holiday service project (11)                                       | Volunteer opportunities at the schools (12) |
| Suggestions, specific or general  |   |

4. The national AAUW organization has supported women's reproductive rights for more than 100 years...

Do you want this Branch to take an active Pro Choice position? Yes (24) No (2)  
No answer (2)

4. Want to plan the fun and serve on the Program Committee? Alahna Weller & Ginny White volunteered.

#### **Branch Calendar**

Dec	2,3	Book group
Dec	7	Branch program at Rancho de Chimayo

## Coordinating Council for 2013-14

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