

## *Caring for Los Alamos with LA Cares*

Benefit Holiday Luncheon and Service Project  
Rancho de Chimayo  
Saturday, December 6, 2014  
11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Rancho de Chimayo will be decorated for the holidays, and, for the fourth year, AAUW will meet there for our holiday luncheon and service project. This year the Coordinating Council asks each member to bring a CASH contribution. A committee will purchase fresh fruit, such as apples and clementines, and will prepare festive bags to be placed in each box distributed by LA Cares during their monthly food distribution on December 11th. LA Cares normally prepares about ninety individualized boxes of non-perishables, which include very little fresh fruit or vegetables. Last year we were able to purchase over 300 pounds of fruit, that when distributed into 93 bags, brought pleasure to over 200 LA Cares clients. We are asking for CASH or checks made out to a council member so that the money can be spent on fruit to provide this holiday treat for the recipients. Checks made out to LA Cares 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 \$16 per person and includes main course, beverage, tax and tip; 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 3rd. 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.

If you are not able to attend and would like to make a contribution, please make out a check to Denise George and mail it to her at 411 Cheryl Ave, or give your cash or check donation to any council member. Thanks are extended to all who have already contributed.

Andrea Tuero, our AAUW/Mana del Norte scholarship recipient, will attend and update us on her nursing studies.

## Book Group

The December book is Frog Music by Emma Donoghue. On December 1st at 7:30 p.m. Els Hoffer, 505 Grand Canyon, WR, will host the meeting. RSVP to [jimmelshoffer@icloud.com](mailto:jimmelshoffer@icloud.com) or 672-3245. On December 2nd at 1:00 p.m., Bev Cooper, 521 Ridgecrest, WR, will host. RSVP to [mcooper@cybermesa.com](mailto:mcooper@cybermesa.com) or 672-9696. Mary Jane Giesler will review at both meetings.

## Title IX, Supporting Girls' Sports

The next outing is Dec. 13, 2014, at 3 pm, women's basketball at Northern New Mexico College in Espanola. Helena Whyte is the organizer; contact her for more information: 672-9153, [mozden08@aol.com](mailto:mozden08@aol.com).

## Non-fiction Book Group

On January 19, 2014, we will meet at Denise George's, 411 Cheryl Ave, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss The First Salute by Barbara Tuchman.

## Great Decisions

Carroll Thomas is organizing the morning group for 2014-15 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; please contact her if you are interested.

## 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. Our students will amaze you with their creativity and scientific curiosity. Come join the fun! Marilyn Doolen (672-3571, [mtdoolen@aol.com](mailto:mtdoolen@aol.com)) will be the chief judge; she needs helpers; let her know if you are interested.

## January Program

Legislative Preview, co-sponsored with League of Women Voters will be January 8, 7-9 p.m at Fuller Lodge.

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Out 'n About  
**Los Alamos County Smart House Tour Report**  
Nov. 12, 2014  
by Nina Thayer

Fourteen Branch members and guests spent an interesting hour last Wednesday morning learning all about the electrical research conducted by Los Alamos County in partnership with the Japanese energy department (NEDO) from LAC Utilities Public Relations Manager Julie Williams-Hill.

There are two sides to approach electrical energy efficiency and grid stability. The first is from the side of the utility providers. The problem here is how does the utility use renewable sources like wind and solar when the electricity they produce is so variable over time and often not produced at time of peak customer demand. Los Alamos County addressed this with the help of the Japanese by building a large array of solar photovoltaic panels on the site of the old county dump. This array produces up to 1 Megawatt, which can then be used immediately or stored in a 90 ton sodium-sulfur battery to be used during each day's peak demand and controlled by a micro-energy management system. This allows our utilities department to purchase less power during high-cost peak hours. The two-year research study was completed in March of this year; however, Los Alamos County continues to have use of all the electricity produced and stored by this system.

The second side of this problem of efficient production and stable usage is from the customer's side called demand-response. Currently the County is completing a three-year demand-response study. Different approaches are being studied and customers on Barranca and North Mesas were selected to participate in the study. Smart meters were installed at each participating home. Some residents were offered an incentive (a "carrot") to try to lower power usage and/or change time of usage, some residents were offered a penalty (a "stick") to lower and change usage, and a third group was used as controls. Each participate could either opt-in

or opt-out of the study. Each home was given a 24-hour warning, by email or text, that a “high-usage event” is expected and they should try to cut and/or change the time of power usage. Residents in the volunteer “carrot” group were able to reduce their power usage by 10%.

The third component of this research is the four-bedroom Smart House itself, built by Los Alamos County. The Japanese equipped the house with all its smart appliances and three different home energy management systems for comparison. Communication with all appliances is wireless and has allowed the management systems to collect data over a wide variety of variables. No one lives in the house and currently the County is writing grants to continue the studies. It is now used for meetings, demonstrations, and tours. We can be proud that our local county-owned utility department is participating in cutting-edge electrical power research that will influence our life style and national economy for the next 50 years.

### Branch Calendar

Dec	1,2	Book group
Dec	6	Branch program at Rancho de Chimayo
Dec	13	Title IX

### Coordinating Council for 2014-15

Marilyn Doolen	Co-Facilitator/Publicity	672-3571	<a href="mailto:mtdoolen@aol.com">mtdoolen@aol.com</a>
Judy Prono	Co-Facilitator/Public Policy	662-2691	<a href="mailto:djprono@msn.com">djprono@msn.com</a>
Natalie Markin	Membership/Backup-Treasurer	662-9399	<a href="mailto:natalie@lanb.com">natalie@lanb.com</a>
Mona Wecksung	Treasurer	662-7084	<a href="mailto:wecksung2005@msn.com">wecksung2005@msn.com</a>
Jill Forman	International Affairs	662-2407	<a href="mailto:jowilla.f@gmail.com">jowilla.f@gmail.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>
Margo Batha	At large	661-8746	<a href="mailto:atomicbathas@me.com">atomicbathas@me.com</a>
Nina Thayer	AAUW Funds	662-6835	<a href="mailto:gnthayer@cybermesa.com">gnthayer@cybermesa.com</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:denisegeorge@icloud.com">denisegeorge@icloud.com</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>