



Delivering fruit bags for LA Cares: 97 bags to feed more than 200 residents with over 600 pounds of pears, apples, clementines and grapes.

Our branch members should be proud of the support they gave to our annual project to supplement the monthly LA Cares food distribution. We raised over \$700 that provided a nice selection of fresh fruit for Los Alamos residents to brighten their holiday meals.

Thanks are due to all who contributed and to the shoppers, packers and delivery crew. We had a great bunch of efficient and enthusiastic workers!

At our Rancho de Chimayo lunch, June Gladney explained how LA Cares works. It is an entirely volunteer organization and 97% of the funds it receives go directly to providing food and other help to Los Alamos residents, primarily the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. The number of families helped as of early December in 2014 is 126.

As a result of careful shopping and some serendipity, we have \$55 left in the fruit fund. I intend to buy a case or two of fruit for the January distribution.

p.s. Remember to save your holiday bags for next year's project.

Legislative Preview

Fuller Lodge

Thursday, January 8, 2015

6:30 refreshments, 7:00 program

This annual program is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters

Representative Stephanie Garcia Richard and Senators Carlos Cisneros and Richard Martinez will share their views on the upcoming session. Also, State Rep. Jim Smith (R-Bernalillo), a member of the Legislative Education Study Committee, will speak about education. Viki Harrison, Executive Director of Common Cause New Mexico, will discuss campaign financing and ethics in government.

Dust, Drought, and Dreams Gone Dry

Our **February branch meeting** comes with some homework. On **Tuesday, Feb. 10**, we will facilitate two community-wide discussions of Timothy Egan's award-winning history of the Dust Bowl, *The Worst Hard Time*. We hope you will read—or reread—Egan's book and join us either **at 1:00 or 6:30 pm** in Mesa Public Library's upstairs conference rooms to discuss it.

Our branch agreed to facilitate these book discussions in support of the library's application to host a traveling exhibit—**Dust, Drought, and Dreams Gone Dry**—about the epic drought that devastated the Great Plains in the 1930s. Mesa Library is one of only 25 libraries nationwide chosen by the American Library Association for the exhibit, which combines letters, oral histories, photos, maps, and individual voices to tell the story of the human and environmental impact of the Dust Bowl.

Both book discussion meetings will begin with a tour of the exhibit. Then we will return to the conference room to discuss what impressed us from Egan's telling chronicle of those who survived the Dust Bowl.

As part of the ALA exhibit, we also have access to informative online resources:

- Oklahoma State University's "Women in the Dust Bowl": oral history archives of interviews with people who lived through the Dust Bowl. The website provides both transcripts and recordings of the interviews, so you can either read or listen to their stories.
<http://dc.library.okstate.edu/cdm/search/collection/Dustbowl>
- Mount Holyoke College Library's collection of the papers of Caroline Henderson, who farmed in the Oklahoma Panhandle throughout the Dust Bowl period and wrote many letters, essays, and articles about her experiences. https://www.mtholyoke.edu/resources/daps/asc_dc/henderson/

So check out *The Worst Hard Time* from the library or pick it up as an e-book. And delve into the online resources available to us. Then come to Mesa Public Library on Feb. 10 and share what you've learned about, and from, the Dust Bowl.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to serve as **judges in the Los Alamos County Science Fair** to be held Saturday, January 24, 2015. 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) will be the chief judge; she needs helpers; let her know if you are interested.

State Events:

January 11: Lobby Corps Meeting – 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Placitas Library in Bernalillo. Robert Pearson, state legislative coordinator for Amnesty International NM, and Sonya Berg, AAUW-NM Public Policy co-chair, will present *Lobbying 101*:

the nuts and bolts of lobbying. Dede Feldman, former NM Senator, will talk about advocacy in the Roundhouse.

Directions: Heading south on I-25, take exit 242 (Bernalillo/Placitas) and go east on Hwy 165 about 4.5 miles. The library will be on your left.

Sunday, February 8: Winter Leadership Team Meeting in Santa Fe with Lisa Maatz, Vice President of Government Relations.

Monday, February 9: AAUW Day at the Legislature.

More information on these events will appear in the state newsletter, *The Roadrunner*.

Book Group

There is no January book group meeting.

Great Decisions

Carroll Thomas is organizing the morning group for 2014-15 Great Decisions. Please contact her at ctgb@earthlink.net, 672-1937 if you are interested. The organizational meeting will be Monday, January 12 at 10:00 a.m. at Mesa Public Library upstairs conference room. Our schedule for the remaining meetings will be Monday January 26th, and the 2nd and 4th Mondays of February, March, April and May 11th.

Helena Whyte, mozden08@aol.com, 672-9153, is organizing the evening group. The organizational meeting for the evening group will be January 29th 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 19, 2015, we will meet at Denise George's, 411 Cheryl Ave, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss The First Salute by Barbara Tuchman. Let Denise know if you will attend (672-9688, denisegeorge@icloud.com)

Title IX, Supporting Girls' Sports

Title IX Supporters will go to the Los Alamos High School basketball game at Griffith Gym on Jan. 17 at 5 p.m.

New Mexico Highlands Women's basketball game in Las Vegas, NM Feb. 6 at 5 p.m.

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

Branch Calendar

Jan	8	Legislative Preview
Jan	11	Lobby Corp
Jan	12	Morning Great Decisions
Jan	17	Title IX, girls basketball game
Jan	19	Non-fiction book group
Jan	26	Morning Great Decisions
Jan	29	Evening Great Decisions
Jan	24	Science Fair

Coordinating Council for 2014-15

Marilyn Doolen	Co-Facilitator/Publicity	672-3571	mtdoolen@aol.com
Judy Prono	Co-Facilitator/Public Policy	662-2691	djprono@msn.com
Natalie Markin	Membership/Backup-Treasurer	662-9399	natalie@lanb.com
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Margo Batha	At large	661-8746	atomicbathas@me.com
Nina Thayer	AAUW Funds	662-6835	gnthayer@cybermesa.com
Non-council positions			
Jane Sherwood	Hospitality	662-3194	jane.sherwood@att.net
Denise George	Newsletter	672-9688	denisegeorge@icloud.com
Marilyn Minshall	Historian	672-3499	mjminshall@q.com
Rosmarie Frederickson	Nominating Chair	662-5915	frederrh@yahoo.com