



Caring for Los Alamos with LA Cares

Benefit Holiday Luncheon and Service Project
Rancho de Chimayo
Saturday, December 5, 2014
11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Rancho de Chimayo will be decorated for the holidays, and, for the fifth year, AAUW will meet there for our holiday luncheon. Our service project will again benefit LA Cares. A committee will purchase fresh fruit, such as apples, pears, and clementines, and will prepare festive bags to be placed in each box distributed by LA Cares during its monthly food distribution on December 10th. LA Cares normally prepares about ninety individualized boxes of non-perishables, which include very little fresh fruit or vegetables. Last year we purchased hundreds of pounds of pears, apples and clementines, filled over 90 bags, and 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.

This year we have reserved a larger room; no more crowding! Lunch is \$16.50 per person and includes main course, beverage, tax and tip; please bring cash or a check. To **make reservations** please call or email Mary Ann Lindahl, (663-0995, moonbeamx@comcast.net) by **Thursday, 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 but would like to make a contribution, please make out a check to Mary Ann Lindahl and mail it to her at 201 San Juan St., or give your cash or check donation to any council member. We will also be collecting gift bags. Bring them to the luncheon or give them to Mary Ann.

Our speaker will be Neil Heighberger from Renesan, Institute of Life Long Learning in Santa Fe, an independent, volunteer-supported, nonprofit organization that provides affordable, academically-oriented classes, lectures, and local trips for adults in Northern New Mexico. Dr. Heighberger is Professor Emeritus at Xavier University, and has taught courses on political parties, public opinion, and pressure groups. He will talk about classes offered by Renesan.

Branch News

Future programs include the Legislative preview on January 7th. On February 13 and 14 we will be sponsoring an Einstein one-man play at the Los Alamos Little Theater as a fundraiser for AAUW-NM Tech Trek.

We have two new branch members:

Mary Burns tasgrl@vla.com, 662-4254

Jeannette Mortensen jj.mortensen@gmail.com, 672-1115.

Please add them to your membership roster and welcome them to our branch.

National News

Title IX is not just about equality in sports. Title IX is about equal opportunity to attend classes (honors classes and STEM classes) and about sexual assault prevention. The Department of Education is currently investigating over 100 college campuses for their response/lack of response to campus sexual assaults. A new documentary, "The Hunting Ground", is currently showing in theaters and exposes the "rape culture" on college campuses.

CNN will show this documentary November 22 at 8 pm ET. Watch it or tape it for future viewing.

Book Group

The December book is The Children Act by Ian McEwan. The Monday, December 7th, 7:30 pm meeting will be at Chris Sierk's, 4640 Ridgeway. Let Chris know if you are coming, 662-3894, acsierk@hotmail.com. Denise George will lead the discussion.

The Tuesday, December 8th, 1:00 pm meeting will be at Christine Cloyd's, 1841 Cooper Place. Let Christine know if you are coming, 500-8192, danielc857@aol.com. Sue Watts will lead the discussion.

Visitors welcome.

Non-fiction Book Group

The next non-fiction book group meeting will be on January 11th at Betsy Comly's, 235 Kimberly. We will be discussing Timothy Egan's book, Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher about the

photographer Edward Curtis. Please let Betsy know if you are coming (672-1574, jack_comly@msn.com).

Out 'n About

Out 'n About at Mesa Prieta in October



Tuesday, January 5 -- An Artful Day

The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum and the New Mexico Museum of Art have joined forces to explore American Modernism, which is defined as art created at the beginning of the 20th century, the most creative and exciting seen up to that time. Before these exhibits leave, let's go see them! We'll begin at 10:30 am on Tuesday, January 5, at the O'Keeffe with a docent's remarks about the remarkable collection of paintings owned by the Vilcek Foundation, works by some of America's most original abstract painters. After a lunch break at Terra Cotta, we'll continue with our Santa Fe AAUW friend Kay Dorko as our docent at the Museum of Art's exhibit, highlighting photographs, watercolors, oils, and prints that attempt to establish a recognizable "American style" as well as with highlights of "O'Keeffe in Process." Admission to both exhibits is \$12, but will be less if anyone is a member of either museum.

If interested, please contact Ginny White at gabby@atomicski.org, who will send out more information in December to everyone on the list. After the excitement of the holidays, enjoying an artful adventure sounds delightful to me! I hope it does to you, too.

Science Fair 2016

Saturday, January 23rd is the date of the Los Alamos Science Fair. We continue our decades old tradition of recognizing worthy elementary students with a small cash award and a personal note from our team. The judges have \$150.00 to distribute to either individual or class projects at their discretion. Judges will meet at 9:00am and

will finish by noon.

If you have had a career in the sciences or have taught elementary students, please consider joining our 2016 judging team. To join the team, contact Marilyn Doolen at 672-3571, mtdoolen@aol.com.

Thanks to Alahna Weller for this interesting historical story -- be sure to read to the end!

Western stagecoach companies were big business in the latter half of the 19th century. In addition to passengers and freight, stages hauled gold and silver bullion as well as mining company payrolls. Stage robbery was a constant danger and bandits employed many strategies. During the 1850s, bands of surly highwaymen stalked the roads. One of the most famous drivers was Charles Darkey Parkhurst, who had come west from New England in 1852 seeking his fortune in the Gold Rush. The most notorious road agent was nicknamed "Sugarfoot." When he and his gang accosted Charley's stage, it was the last robbery the thief ever attempted. Charley cracked his whip defiantly, and when his horses bolted, he turned around and fired his revolver at the crooks. Sugarfoot was later found dead with a fatal bullet wound in his stomach.

The years slipped by and Charley died on Dec. 29, 1879, at the age of 67. A few days later, the Sacramento Daily Bee published his obituary. It read; "On Sunday last, there died a person known as Charley Parkhurst, aged 67, who was well-known to old residents as a stage driver. He was in early days accounted one of the most expert manipulators of the reins who ever sat on the box of a coach. It was discovered when friendly hands were preparing him for his final rest, that Charley Parkhurst was unmistakably a well-developed woman!" It turns out that Charley's real name was Charlotte Parkhurst. Abandoned as a child, she was raised in a New Hampshire orphanage unloved and surrounded by poverty. Charlotte ran away when she was 15 years old and soon discovered that life in the working world was easier for men. So she decided to masquerade as one for the rest of her life.

The rest is history. Well, almost. There is one last thing. On November 3, 1868, Charlotte Parkhurst cast her vote in the national election, dressed as a man. She became the first woman to vote in the United States, 52 years before Congress passed the 19th amendment giving American women the right to vote.

Branch Calendar

Dec	5	Branch program at Rancho de Chimayo
Dec	7,8	Book Group
Jan	5	Out 'n About
Jan	7	Legislative Preview
Jan	14	Coordinating Council Meeting, 7:00 United Church
Jan	23	Science Fair

Coordinating Council for 2015-16

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
Mona Wecksung	Treasurer	662-7084	wecksung2005@msn.com
Jill Forman	At large	662-2407	jowilla.f@gmail.com
Maryjane Giesler	University Representative	662-5574	mgiesler@unm.edu
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Margo Batha	At large	661-8746	atomicbathas@me.com
Nina Thayer	AAUW Fund	662-6835	gnthayer@cybermesa.com
Non-council positions			
Denise George	Newsletter	672-9688	denisegeorge@icloud.com
Marilyn Minshall	Historian	672-3499	mjminshall@q.com
Harriet Dodder	Nominating Chair	662-7473	harrietdodder@comcast.net