



What is PEEC?

**Find out: Thursday, March 31, 6-8 pm
At the Los Alamos Nature Center**

Our next branch program will be a tour of the brand new Los Alamos Nature Center led by Becky Shankland, a member of their Board of Directors and one of our Los Alamos Living Treasures. The tour will start at 6 pm, so we can enjoy the incredible view, followed by a light sandwich supper served in the education room. Next Ms. Shankland will make a short presentation about the history of PEEC and the building of this beautiful facility.

Supper will consist of a variety of subway sandwiches from Quiznos, beverages and cookies at a cost of \$5.00 per person. RSVP to Mary Ann Lindahl before noon on March 30 to ensure your reservation. (663-0995; moonbeamx@comcast.net)

The Nature Center is located at 2600 Canyon Road immediately across from the United Church of Los Alamos. (hint: Pajarito Environmental Education Center)

Branch News



What a Valentine's Gift for Tech Trek!

Our Einstein performance fundraiser for Tech Trek was successful beyond our wildest dreams.

With large crowds both Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, we collected \$5740 from ticket sales and donations. After covering expenses related to hosting and publicizing the event, we will clear \$4500 for Tech Trek NM.

Enthusiastic audiences enjoyed Tom Schuch's humorous and insightful portrayal of Einstein, the dedicated and creative "Mr. Relativity himself." At the end of the second act they enjoyed a lively Q&A session with Tom Schuch and Emil Mottola, a general relativity and black hole expert from LANL, who answered questions that ranged from recent data confirming Einstein's gravitational wave theory to the makeup of Schuch's signature Einstein wig (it combines human and yak hair). The audience also learned a little more about Tech Trek NM from Helena Whyte, who spoke at intermission.

The play's success was due to the contributions of many branch members. Special thanks go to Nina Thayer, who after meeting Schuch in the Dallas airport sixteen months ago, championed hosting his play here in Los Alamos and ably led her Einstein committee (Ginny White, Mona Wecksung, Terry Marzili, Nancy Nunnelley, Marilyn Doolen, Judy Prono) to make it happen. Thanks also go to the many members who brought the delicious treats which were served at intermission and to our branch Hospitality Chair, Nancy Nunnelley, and her crew of kitchen volunteers who set up and then cleaned up after the refreshment breaks. A lot of folks helped to make the play a successful fundraiser, including the many members who spread word of it to other organizations, attended the performances, and brought guests. So again, kudos to Nina for her vision and leadership—and to members for their enthusiastic support.

Upcoming Programs

Equal Pay Day Event in April at Unquarked.
Spring Tea, May 13 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Science Fair Report

Our branch continued our tradition of judging elementary-grade entries at the Los Alamos **Science Fair** on January 23, 2016. There were approximately 158 individual entries at the 4th and 5th grade level and 10 class projects to review. The team members were: Betsy Comly, Marilyn Doolen, Rosmarie Frederickson, Cas Mason, Terry Marzili, Jeannette Mortenson and guest Maryann Hohenner (Rosmarie's sister-in-law). Four class projects were awarded with \$20.00 each:

Kindergarten Barranca, Heidi Schembri, teacher;
2nd grade Chamisa, Susan Hettinga, teacher;
3rd grade Barranca, Dawn Shipley, teacher;
4th grade Mountain, Donna Shaefer, teacher.
Ten individual awards to 4th or 5th grade students were awarded with \$10.00 each, to the following: Evia Alexander, Chantel Bibeault, Sonja Ebey, Tina Fanetti, Jodie Green, Lawrence Lancellotti, Alexander Livescu, Marina Naranjo, Rebeca Nocha, Ian Swift. A personal note along with the cash award was given to each student or classroom teacher acknowledging creativity, or a good presentation, or encouragement to continue a curiosity and interest in

the sciences. We received additional donations from Tinka Gamel and an AAUW member. Consequently, we were able to spend \$180.00 total. This is an important community outreach, and I encourage all interested members to consider being on the 2017 team.

Marilyn Doolen, 2016 team leader

Caring for Los Alamos with LA Cares

Thanks to our members' generosity, we were able to provide a second round of fruit for the February LA Cares food distribution. Feedback from the families was extremely positive from our holiday distribution – they loved receiving the fresh fruit and appreciated the effort involved in the attractive presentation! Please read the thank you note from LA Cares at the end of this newsletter.

Book Group

The March book is The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown; Marilyn Minshall will lead the discussions. On Monday, March 7th, 7:30pm, readers will gather at Karin Robert's, 415 Cheryl. Please let Karin know if you are coming (672-9625, Karinroberts875@icloud.com).

On Tuesday, March 8th, 1:00pm, Jill Forman, 2246 34th St, will host. Please let Jill know if you are coming (jowilla.f@gmail.com, 662-2047).

Non-fiction Book Group

The next meeting will be on March 14th at 7:30 pm. Helena Whyte will lead the discussion on the book, Capital Dames: The Civil War and the Women of Washington by Cokie Roberts. Judy Prono will host, 670 Totavi St, (662-2691, djprono@msn.com).

Great Decisions

The Morning Great Decisions group meets on the second and fourth Mondays at Mesa Public library at 10:00am. Carroll Thomas (672-1937, ctgb@earthlink.net) is the group coordinator.

Date	Leader	Topic
Mar 14	Karin Roberts	Korean choices
Mar 28	Ginnie Tan	Kurdistan
Apr 11	Carroll Thomas	The rise of ISIS
Apr 25	Jill Forman	Cuba and the U.S.
May 9	?	Geopolitics: The road to Paris and beyond

Evening Great Decision 2016 Schedule

Date/Time	Topic	Hostess	Leader
3/10/16 7 p.m.	Shifting Alliances in the Middle East	Marilyn Thayer 505 Oppenheimer #820 662-9785	Marilyn Thayer
3/17/16 7 p.m.	The Rise of ISIS	Judy Prono 670 Totavi 662-2691	Judy
4/7/16 7 p.m.	International Migration	Marilyn Minshall 536 Brighton 672-3499	
4/28/16 7 p.m.	The Future of Kurdistan	Marilyn Doolen 713 Meadow Lane 672-3571	Marilyn Doolen
5/19/16 7 p.m.	Korean Choices	Natalie Markin 505 Oppenheimer # 419 662-9399	Natalie
6/9/16	Climate Geopolitics: The Road to Paris and Beyond		

Helena Whyte (672-9153, mozden08@aol.com) leads the evening group. All discussions begin at 7pm and end at 9pm.

Out ‘n About

Send suggestions for our next outing to Nina Thayer (662-6835, gnthayer@cybermesa.com).

Biography of the Girl who Loved to Count

<http://www.nasa.gov/feature/katherine-johnson-the-girl-who-loved-to-count>

“I counted everything. I counted the steps to the road, the steps up to church, the number of dishes and silverware I washed ... anything that could be counted, I did.” So said **Katherine Johnson**, recipient of the 2015 National Medal of Freedom. Her father, Joshua, was determined that his bright little girl would have a chance to meet her potential. He drove his family 120 miles to Institute, West Virginia, where she could continue her education through high school. Johnson's academic performance proved her father's decision was the right one: Katherine skipped though grades to graduate from high school at 14, from college at 18.

In 1953, after years as a teacher and later as a stay-at-home mom, she began working for NASA's predecessor, that had taken the unusual step of hiring women for the tedious and precise work of measuring and calculating the results of wind tunnel tests. In a time before the electronic computers we know today, these women had the job title of “computer.” During World War II this effort expanded to include African-American women. Pleased with the results, the women computers were kept at work after the war. By 1953 the growing demands of early space research meant there were openings for African-American computers at Langley Research Center’s Guidance and Navigation Department – and Katherine Johnson found the perfect place to put her extraordinary mathematical skills to work.



As a computer, she calculated the trajectory for Alan Shepard, the first American in space. Even after NASA began using electronic computers, John Glenn requested that she personally recheck the calculations made by the new electronic computers before his flight aboard Friendship 7 – the mission on which he became the first American to orbit the Earth. She continued to work at NASA until 1986. Her calculations proved critical to the success of the Apollo Moon landing program and the start of the Space Shuttle program.

From honorary doctorates to the 1967 NASA Lunar Orbiter Spacecraft and Operations team award (for pioneering work in the field of navigation problems supporting the five spacecraft that orbited and mapped the moon in preparation for the Apollo program) Katherine Johnson has led a life positively littered with honors.

Not bad, for a little girl from West Virginia, who coincidentally (or maybe not) was born on August 26: Women's Equality Day.

Panel on Women in Leadership



March 30, 2016

Time: 3:30–5:30 p.m. ET (1:30-3:30 local time)

Location: Online

Cost: Free

[Register now](#)

Women have been leaders throughout history, and today the tradition of volunteer female leadership continues to flourish. Yet in terms of paid leadership, women's elevation to top positions is relatively rare. Why do men still vastly outnumber women in these positions?

AAUW's newest research report, *Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership*, explores this question, drawing from scholarly research and paying special attention to stereotypes and biases. The report provides recommendations for individuals and those in the education, corporate, and political sectors to contribute to an environment in which gender is no longer a barrier to leadership.

Live from the Newseum in Washington, D.C., a panel of experts from industry, politics, and academia, moderated by journalist and author [Cokie Roberts](#), will discuss the report's findings, what they mean for women in leadership, and how these industries — and our society as a whole — can benefit from more women leaders.

Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

International Women's Day (IWD) first emerged from the activities of labor movements at the turn of the 20th century in North America and Europe. IWD has taken on a global dimension for women in both developed and developing countries. The growing international women's movement has helped make the commemoration a rallying point to build support for women's rights and participation in the political and economic arenas.

The United Nations began celebrating IWD on March 8th during International Women's Year 1975. In December 1977, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed on any day of the year by Member States, in accordance with their historical and national traditions.

Worldwide, women continue to contribute to social, economic, cultural and political achievement. And today there is much to celebrate. But progress toward gender parity has slowed in many places. The world Economic Forum *predicted in 2014 that it would take until 2095 to achieve global gender parity*. Then one year later in 2015, it was estimated that a slowdown in the already slow pace of progress meant the gender gap would not close completely until 2133.

So how do we celebrate International Women's Day 2016? Everyone, men and women, can pledge to take a concrete step to achieve gender parity more quickly - whether to help women and girls achieve their ambitions, call for gender balanced leadership, respect and value difference, develop more inclusive and flexible cultures or root out workplace bias. Each of us can be a leader within our own spheres of influence.

And !! Check out the way cool IWD2016 website at www.internationalwomensday.com where you can participate with your global friends to Pledge for Parity. Everyone - men and women - can pledge to take a concrete step to help achieve gender parity more quickly, whether to help women and girls achieve their ambitions, call for gender-balanced leadership, respect and value difference, develop more inclusive and flexible cultures or root out workplace bias. This is what AAUW members do every time we write to the editor about gender pay equity or bake cookies to support Tech Trek or scholarship a non-traditional student. Take the pledge and join the world-wide effort to accelerate global progress towards social, economic, cultural and political equality for women.

LA Cares

**PO Box 248
Los Alamos, NM 87544
(505) 661-8015**

December 30, 2015

AAUW
PO Box 272
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Dear Friends,

We have no new and novel way to say thank you for the wonderful gift of fresh fruit you prepared once again for the December Food Distribution. We are very grateful, as were our clients, for your generosity, and we appreciate all the time and effort that went into the purchase, sorting, packaging and delivery of such a special treat. Thank you to the many who gave so much to make it all possible. Thank you for sharing the love and joy of the season.

Sincerely,



Linda F. Burns
Secretary

Late Breaking News:

Nina Thayter, Jill Forman, Natalie Markin, and Helena Whyte volunteered at Discover E on February 25.



Branch Calendar

March	7,8	Book Group
March	10	Evening Great Decisions
March	14	Morning Great Decisions
March	14	Non-fiction Book Group
March	17	Evening Great Decisions
March	28	Morning Great Decisions
March	30	Web Panel on Women in Leadership
March	31	General Meeting at PEEC

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
Mary Ann Lindahl	Secretary	663-0995	moonbeamx@comcast.net
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
Nancy Nunnelley	Hospitality	662-4950	nrn1063@msn.com