

**“Our Woman in Havana”
Ambassador Vicki Huddleston**

**Mesa Public Library Conference rooms
Tuesday, March 7, 7-8 pm**



Ambassador Vicki Huddleston’s talk is based on her years as one of America’s top Cuba hands. Huddleston has been an eyewitness to key moments of history as well as to backroom policy debate, in her roles as a principal policy maker on Cuba at the State Department and as the Chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana. She will provide a behind-the-curtain view of such controversial episodes as the Elián González custody saga and the post-9/11 decision to use Guantanamo as a prison for terror suspects.



Vicki’s anecdotes of her life in Havana—everything from spy stories to an argument with Fidel Castro she had at a cocktail party—are sometimes poignant, at other times hilarious, and always delightfully candid. She will wind up her talk with some thoughts on whether President Trump will continue the historic diplomatic shift engineered by Presidents Obama and Raul Castro.

Huddleston managed American policy toward Cuba as the Coordinator of Cuban Affairs at the State Department in Washington, DC, under Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton from 1989 to 1993. Six years later she led our diplomatic mission to Havana from 1999 to 2002, under Clinton and George W. Bush.

Her diplomatic career has spanned two continents and two government agencies. She was Ambassador to Mali and to Madagascar and acting Ambassador to Ethiopia. During the Obama administration, she served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, where she was responsible for policy guidance to the Secretary of Defense and the African Command.

Now living in Santa Fe, Huddleston provides media commentary on both Cuba and Africa, with her appearing in *The New York Times*, *Miami Herald*, and *Washington Post*.

This branch program will be a Shape the Future membership drive. New members who join at the talk will get half-off on national dues (paying only \$24.50), and their memberships will extend through June 2018 (15 months). Join us for an informative and entertaining talk—and **bring a friend!**

Branch News

Tech Trek Fundraiser

Hope you enjoyed your cup of tea. The numbers are in: Middle school math and science teachers have nominated 193 girls from 62 schools across our state for Tech Trek. Not all will apply, but the goal is to invite 60 to NM Tech in June. That means AAUW-NM needs to raise \$60,000 to cover camp costs. Branch and member donations are a major source of funding for Tech Trek. Help support this innovative math and science camp by writing a tax-deductible check to AAUW, with NM Tech Trek in the memo line. Then mail it in the stamped addressed envelope we provided. You'll help expand the STEM horizons for 60 more middle school girls in our state. Thanks to those who have already contributed.

LA Cares Fruit Project

We purchased three boxes of oranges and one box of peaches for the February LA Cares food distribution using up the \$57 remaining from our holiday collection. Thanks are extended to all who contributed.

Book Group

The March book is Finding Nouf by Zoe Ferraris. Doris Lodwig will review the book at both meetings.

On Monday March 6, 7:30 pm, readers will meet at Karin Roberts, 415 Cheryl. Let Karin know if you are coming (karinroberts875@icloud.com, 672-9625).

On Tuesday, March 7, 1:00 pm, Carol Neal, 3451 Urban will host. Please let Carol know if you are coming (662-7256, the_neals@prodigy.com).

Nonfiction Book Group

The next meeting will be on March 20, at 7:30 pm. We will discuss Sisters in Law by Linda Hirshman; Nina Thayer will review. Rosmarie Frederickson, 1372 47th, will host; let Rosmarie know if you will be there (662-5915, frederrh@yahoo.com).

Great Decisions

The Morning Great Decisions group meets on the second and fourth Mondays at 10 am at Mesa

Public Library. Check the branch [website](#) for the latest information

The Evening Great Decisions schedule is also posted on the [website](#).

Out 'n About at Meow Wolf in Santa Fe

Saturday, March 4, 9:30 am

“Meow Wolf is an arts production company that creates immersive multimedia experiences that transport audience of all ages into fantastic realms of storytelling.” Heard about it? Want to see it? Let's go!

We will meet at 9:30 am at the United Church parking lot, 9:40 am at the White Rock “Y”, arriving about 10:30 am. Cost for NM citizens 65 and over is \$13 (under 65, \$15). We will select a nearby restaurant for lunch. All members and guests are welcome! Contact Nina, 662-6835, gnthayer@cybermesa.com, for more details and to plan carpools.

Los Alamos County Science Fair

We continued our AAUW tradition of judging 4th and 5th grade student entries on Saturday, February 4, 2017. The team members were: Betsy Comly, Marilyn Doolen (leader), Mary Ann Lindahl, Terry Marzili, and Nancy Nunnelley.

There were 173 individual and class projects in the three categories of Life Science, Physical Science and Earth Science. AAUW Los Alamos awarded two school projects; each received \$20.00 accompanied by a personal note of congratulations and encouragement to remain curious and creative:

Barranca, Kristi Carr, teacher,
Aspen, Stacy Martens, teacher.

Twelve students were each awarded \$5.00 accompanied by a personal note of congratulations and encouragement to continue to be curious and creative: Mikey Bane, Samantha Brown, Wyatt Bullion-Braithwaite, John Cawkwell, Minhtet Htoon, Matthew Nowell, Timothy Rousculp, Angelique Schappert, Sasha Simakov, Katelyn Tapia, Aleah Wheat, and John Worley.

As in previous years, many projects this year were imaginative, unique, and visually well presented. Hopefully AAUW has encouraged these young minds to be aware of their environment, and think about how to solve problems scientifically.

Public Policy



Nina Thayer and Nancy Scheer at the Women's March in Santa Fe on Jan. 12.

When members attended legislative day on Feb. 6, we visited our legislators' chambers to lobby for legislation vetted by national AAUW.

However, you do not have to travel to the roundhouse; your legislators are available via e-mail and welcome your input:

Representative Stephanie Garcia Richard
stephanie.garciarichard@nmlegis.gov

Senator Carlos Cisneros (for White Rock)
carlos.cisneros@nmlegis.gov

Richard Martinez (for Los Alamos)
richard.martinez@nmlegis.gov

Here is a short list of legislation AAUW recommends for passage:

HJR 8 State Ethics Commission

HB 211 School Next Generation Science Standards

HJR 3 Independent Redistricting Commission

SB 115 Safe Schools for All Students (Bullying Prevention)

To look up a bill go to nmlegis.gov. Remember the abbreviations: H for house, S for senate, B for bill, J for joint, R for resolution.

Make Your Voice Heard on Capitol Hill!

Now, more than ever, our voices need to be heard in Washington. And AAUW makes that easy with its Two-Minute Activist Tool. In the world of Washington politics, numbers count, and you can make AAUW count more by becoming a Two-Minute Activist.

When AAUW identifies an opportunity for members to weigh-in on legislation that affects our priorities—such as pay equity, Title IX rights, or freedom from bullying and sexual harassment—it alerts all Two-Minute Activists via email, providing links to a message for us to send to our members of Congress. You can send the message as drafted, tailor it to your specific views, or write a message from scratch. But the means to send your message immediately to Rep. Lujan and/or Sens. Heinrich and Udall is at your fingertips. In two minutes, or less, you've made your voice heard in Washington. And you've made AAUW's voice more powerful.

Sign up to become a Two-Minute Activist (<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>). Or go to AAUW's website (www.aauw.org) and search on Two-Minute Activist. Support AAUW's grassroots political advocacy work. You provide the voice—AAUW provides the megaphone!

E-mail address change

Marilyn Minshall has a new e-mail. Please change your directory: mjbminshall237@q.com



Hilltop Views: Advancing Innovation and Gender Equality

2017 AAUW-NM State Convention April 21-23, 2017

We are hosting the 2017 AAUW-New Mexico State Convention in April. We have planned a variety of activities that draw on the science our community is known for, showcase local attractions like our new PEEC planetarium, and feature the work AAUW is doing to promote gender equality.

Friday, April 21

- We will meet in the lower-level meeting rooms of the Oppenheimer Place Condos. Registration starts at 2 pm, and the Leadership Team Meeting will run from 2:30 to 4:30. After dinner at local restaurants, we'll gather at the Los Alamos Nature Center for a planetarium show. And before leaving, we'll enjoy tempting desserts from The Pig & Fig Café.

Saturday, April 22

- Registration starts at 8 am, with the convention opening at 9 am in the main meeting room of the Holiday Inn Express. Anne Hedgepeth, Senior Government Relations Manager for AAUW, will talk about AAUW's involvement in international collaborations to promote gender equality and educational opportunities for women, provide insights into AAUW's latest research report, *Higher Ed, Higher Debt*, and share news from national.
- After lunch catered by Ruby K's, Fattaneh Behdani, an AAUW International Fellowship recipient, will talk about her engineering studies at NMSU and plans to promote STEM studies to women when she returns home to Iran.
- At 1:30 pm, we'll tour the New Mexico Consortium's Biological Laboratory and learn about its unique research. Formed by UNM, New Mexico Tech, and NMSU, the consortium collaborates with LANL and industry in research that ranges from improving algae as a feedstock for biofuels to extending the shelf life of cassava roots, benefiting women farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. (Note: you'll need closed-toe shoes and long pants for the tour.)
- Back at the hotel, the AAUW-NM business meeting will run from 3 to 4:30 pm. That evening, we'll dine at Cottonwood on the Greens for our banquet.

Sunday, April 23

- We will return to the Oppenheimer Place Condos for Sunday's meetings, which start at 8:30 am and will include discussions of public policy and officer training, a diversity workshop led by Julia Brown, and a Town Hall Meeting. The convention will adjourn at noon.

On Saturday and Sunday, we are offering to lead early morning (7 am) exercise walks on the Canyon Rim Trail, conveniently located near the Holiday Inn Express.

Please note the **April 7 deadline** for Early Bird registration (\$45) and planetarium show tickets (\$10).

To make this convention a success, we will need many helping hands. We need volunteers to

- Staff registration tables both Friday afternoon and Saturday morning
- Assemble convention binders
- Stuff the goodie bags
- Provide munchies for the Friday and Sunday meetings at the Oppenheimer Place Condos
- Help with setup and cleanup on Friday and Sunday

Contact Betsy Comly (jack_comly@msn.com, 672-1574) or Marilyn Doolen (mtdoolen@aol.com, 672-3571) to sign up for one of these tasks. Or respond cheerfully when called on to help!

2017 AAUW-NM STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM
April 21-23, 2017

Name: _____ E-mail: _____
Address: _____ Phone (Home): _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone (Work): _____ Phone (Cell): _____
Branch: _____ Delegates check one: State _____ or Branch _____
Current Positions:
Branch _____ State _____
Association _____
Special Needs: _____

Registration Fee (includes Saturday lunch):

Early Bird (postmarked by April 7)	\$45.00	\$ _____
Late Registration (postmarked after April 7)	\$55.00	\$ _____
Saturday, April 22 only (postmarked by April 17)	\$40.00	\$ _____

Saturday Night Banquet, Cottonwood on the Greens, 4244 Diamond Dr., Los Alamos, NM
(Includes hors d'oeuvres, choice of 3 entrees, vegetables, dessert, non-alcoholic beverage, tax and gratuity. A cash bar is also available.)

Please choose your entree(s)

_____ Salmon
_____ Prime Rib (Circle one: rare, medium rare, medium, medium well done, well done)
_____ Vegetarian dish

Spouses or guests are welcome to attend the banquet for the cost of the meal.

\$40.00 x No. People _____ \$ _____

Planetarium Show & Desserts at PEEC on 4/21 \$10.00 x No. of Tickets _____ \$ _____
(After April 07, tickets will be available only at the door on a first come, first serve basis.)

TOTAL enclosed \$ _____

Send your registration form and check made payable to AAUW-Los Alamos (no credit cards) to:

AAUW-Los Alamos
Mona Wecksung
PO Box 272
Los Alamos, NM 87544-0272

On the memo line please indicate 2017 AAUW-NM Convention
If you have any questions, please contact Mona at 505-662-7084

The official **hotel is Holiday Inn Express**, 60 Entrada, Los Alamos, NM 87544. Please call the desk at 505-661-2646 by **March 21, 2017** to receive the special AAUW convention rate for the rooms, (\$109.99 + tax for 2 queen size beds, with full breakfast included). Reservations for dates earlier than April 21 or remaining later than April 23 will be charged the normal rate of \$123.53 for those days.

Branch Calendar

Mar	4	Out 'n About
Mar	6,7	Book Group
Mar	7	"Our Woman in Havana"
Mar	20	Nonfiction Book Group

Coordinating Council for 2016-17

Marilyn Doolen	Co-Facilitator/Publicity	672-3571	mtdoolen@aol.com
Betsy Comly	Co-Facilitator/Publicity	672-1574	jack_comly@msn.com
Mona Wecksung	Treasurer	662-7084	wecksung2005@msn.com
Maryjane Giesler	University Representative	662-5574	mgiesler@unm.edu
Cas Mason	Secretary	672-1938	casmason01@msn.com
Judy Prono	Program/Public Policy	662-2691	djprono@msn.com
Denise George	Newsletter/Webmaster	672-9688	denisegeorge@icloud.com
Mary Ann Lindahl	Membership	663-0995	moonbeamx@comcast.net
Roz Newmyer	At-large	672-1994	for1994@msn.com
Appointed positions			
Helena Whyte	STEM	672-9153	mozden08@aol.com
Marilyn Minshall	Historian	672-3499	mjminshall@q.com
Nancy Nunnelley	Hospitality	662-4950	nrn1063@msn.com
Harriet Dodder	Nominating Chair	662-7473	harrietdodder@comcast.net