

Tech Trek Un-Tea

Our February event is a fund raiser for Tech Trek 2018. Watch your mailbox for an invitation to join our Un-Tea; your contribution is tax exempt. If you prefer not to wait, make your check out to:

AAUW Tech Trek NM
and mail to:
Tech Trek NM
P.O. Box 251
Placitas, NM 87043

I wish all of you could have heard and met Natalie Carmona at our December meeting so that you would understand what a powerful and possibly life-changing experience Tech Trek is for young girls.



Tech Trek is looking for volunteers to interview girls who have applied to attend the 2018 camp. There is also a need for volunteers to read the essays that the girls have submitted. Please let Helena Whyte know if you are available to help in either capacity. (672-9153, mozden08@aol.com)

Book Group

The February book is The Chilbury Ladies' Choir by Jennifer Ryan. Christine Cloyd will review at both meetings. On Monday, February 5, 7:00 pm, the group will meet at Mary Ann Lindahl's, 201 San Juan (660-2259, moonbeamx@comcast.net). On Tuesday, February 6, 1:00 pm, the group will meet at Carol Neal's, 3451 Urban St. (662-7256, the_neals@prodigy.com). Let the host know if you will be coming.

Out 'n About

Got a great idea? Set up an outing and send information to your newsletter editor -- that's me, Denise George, denisegeorge@icloud.com.

Non-fiction Book Group

The next meeting will be on March 19 at 7:30 pm. We will discuss Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo. Rozelle Wright, 213 Barranca, will host and Denise George will review. Let Rozelle know if you will be there (662-5490, rozelle@losalamos.com).

Branch Needs

Our branch needs the contribution of time and energy of its members to continue to function. We need help with hospitality and with the nominating committee. If you are called, please consider how you might assist the branch to continue its work for members and community. Better yet don't wait for a call; contact a board member and volunteer.

Women's March 2018

Three members braved the cold and snow to march on January 21. See their smiling faces!



Caring for Los Alamos with LA Cares

In addition to the December fruit distribution, a second fruit purchase will be distributed in February. The remaining funds were given to La Cares to be used where most needed. Our membership was very generous and the committee thanks all who worked on the project and who contributed. See Thank you from La Cares at the end of the newsletter.

Great Decisions

The **Morning Great Decisions** group meets on the second and fourth Mondays beginning in January at Mesa Public Library at 10:00 am. The remaining meeting dates are:

Feb 12: Topic 7: South Africa's fragile democracy: Linda McLellan

Feb 29: Topic 8: Global health: progress and challenges: Denise George

Mar 12: Topic 2: Russia's foreign policy: Mona Wecksung

Mar 26: China and America: the new geopolitical equation: Karin Roberts

Apr 9: Topic 5: Turkey: a partner in crisis: Nancy Nunnolley

Apr 23: Topic 6: U.S. global engagement and the military:

The **Evening Great Decision** group is led by Helena Whyte (672-9153, mozden08@aol.com); The remaining meetings beginning at 7:15 pm are:

Feb 8; Topic 4: Media and foreign policy: Natalie Markin's at 505 Oppenheimer Dr. #419

Feb. 22: Topic 8: Global Health Issues: Marilyn Doolen's at 713 Meadow Lane.

Mar 8; Russia's Foreign Policy. Marilyn Thayer, 505 Oppenheimer Dr. #820, 662-9785

Mar 22; US Global Engagement & the Military, Helena Whyte, 100 El Morro St. 672-9153

Apr 5; Turkey: Partner in Crisis, Judy Prono, 670 Totavi, 662-2691

Apr 26; China's Geopolitics, Betsy Comly, 255 Kimberly, 672-1574

May 10; South Africa's fragile democracy, Marilyn Minshall, 536 Brighton, 672-3499

Science Fair 2018

There were 211 4th and 5th grade student entries and 6 class projects. A note to each awardee recognized good hypotheses, explanations, data, and gave encouragement to remain curious and creative. Marilyn Doolen, Betsy Comly, Bev Cooper, Mary Ann Lindahl, Carol Neal, Judy Prono, and Nina Thayer were on the judging team for the LA-AAUW elementary division awards.

Three classes were awarded \$15.00.

* **Aspen Kindergarten**, Hannah Waldschmidt teacher, *The Watermelon Crack*;

* **Aspen 5th grade**, Stacy Martens, teacher, *Rusting Out*

* **Chamisa 2nd grade**, Laura Parker, teacher, *Sparkling Star Dip* (crystals)

Twenty-one individuals were awarded \$5.00.

* **Ashley Casados**, Which Vein Pumps Faster?

* **Gala Nelson**, Guinea Pig Intelligence

* **Peak Rugpor**, Red or Green, Mr. Turkey?

* **Maya Snowden**, What Did the Cat Drag In?

* **Carson Ulrich**, **Just Dance, Dance, Dance**

* **Sarah Bernina**, Do Dogs Have a Dominant Paw?:

* **Rhys Anderson**, Hot Air Balloons

* **William Borovina**, What Gloves should a Goal Keeper Keep?

* **J.J. Chrobocinski**, Magnetic Forces

* **Micah Finstad**, Strongest Bridge

* **Jamie Grow**, The Effect of Dandruff Shampoos on Fungus

***Madelynn Hammer**, Liquid Agents
***Aaron Jerkatis**, What Liquid Works Best at Cleaning Pennies?
***Sabrina Kelley**, Hot Air Balloons
***Ethan Martinez**, Electricity and Magnetism
***Nishta Mukundan**, Love or Hate?

***Samson O' Sullivan**, Battle of the Blocks/Legos
***Carson Poole**, Paper Airplanes
***Zachary Sheats**, RFID Security
***Cody Thomas**, Cold Puck and Warm Puck
***Brandon Walker**, Temperature vs Magnet

AAUW-NM Lobby Corps Report 1/30/18

Nina Thayer has compiled a list of bills to which the national AAUW Public Policy Department has approved our support or **opposition**. If you would like to exercise your right to express your opinion by contacting your senator or representative about these issues, here are their e-mail addresses: stephanie.garcia@nmlegis.gov (representative)

carlos.cisneros@nmlegis.gov (senator for White Rock)

richard.martinez@nmlegis.gov (senator for Los Alamos)

Key to abbreviations: SJR (senate joint resolution), SB (senate bill), HB (house bill), HJR (house joint resolution), either form of joint resolution proposes a Constitutional Amendment to appear on the next ballot to be voted up or down by the electorate.)

Check on the Legislative Web Site, <https://www.nmlegis.gov/>, for the full text of the bill or resolution, information about sponsors, committee assignments and vote status or email Nina Thayer, gnthayer@cybermesa.com.

SJR 5 REGISTER ALL QUALIFIED ELECTORS TO VOTE, CA

A constitutional amendment that all qualified electors be registered to vote under any registration system except for those who affirmatively choose not to be registered.

SB 19 UNIFORM GUARDIANSHIP & OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

Relating to protective Arrangements; Enacting Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship and other protective arrangements, repealing and enacting sections of the NMSA 1978. 187 pages.

SB 31 SCHOOL SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTING TRAINING

Making an appropriation (\$100K) to the Public Education Department for training on reporting of allegations of sexual assault.

SB 36 PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING SUFFICIENCY.

Making an appropriation (\$374.9M) from the General Fund to address sufficiency of public school funding.

SB 83 SUNSHINE PORTAL AUDIT & COMPLIANCE

Making an appropriation (\$50K) for an independent audit and report of compliance with Sunshine Portal Transparency Act.

HB 53 SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Making an appropriation (\$145K) to Crime Victims Reparation Commission to fund services for victims of Human Trafficking.

HJR 1 LAND GRANT FUND DISTRIBUTION, CA

A **constitutional** amendment providing for additional annual distribution of the permanent funds for public school education programs (2020 & 2021) and early educational services (2020, 2021 & thereafter).

HJR4 STATE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, CA

An amendment to Articles 4 and 20 of the NM constitution to provide for the creation of a state redistricting commission to develop redistricting plans for congressional, state and local offices.

HB 98 LOCAL ELECTION ACT

Providing for a single election day and uniform processes for local elections.

HB 56 PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF ABORTION. ** Oppose **

Requiring notification of a parent or guardian when an abortion is to be performed on a minor, creating exceptions, requiring reporting, establishing penalties, repealing the criminal abortion statute.

HB 147 LOTTERY FUNDS. ** Oppose **

Elimination of the thirty percent monthly transfer from sales of lottery games,

HB 180 SCHOOL DATA COLLECTION & CLASS GOALS

Requiring implementation of a cost-saving, real-time, advanced data collection system to reduce administrative costs, eliminating certain reporting requirements, establishing minimum classroom expenditure goals for school districts and charter schools.

Title IX at 45: Ending Sexual Harassment and Assault from National Coalition and Girls in Education (NCWGE) 2017 Report

Sexual harassment and assault negatively affect students' well-being and their ability to succeed academically. Despite the protection of the law and greater attention to this problem, in recent years, sexual and gender-based harassment remain pervasive in K-12 schools and on college campuses. While sexual harassment and assault affect girls and women more than boys and men, boys and men also face this issue, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning (LGBTQ) students are particularly vulnerable. When one student or group of students faces harassment or violence, it can create a hostile environment that undermines learning for all students.

Students need to know their rights, and schools need to know their responsibilities under the law. Sexual harassment includes any unwelcome behavior that is sexual in nature including name-calling, unwanted sexual advances, acts of physical aggression, posting of inappropriate images or messages, or other actions that may be threatening, humiliating, or harmful. Title IX's protection extends to sexual harassment of students in all of a school's programs or activities, whether the harassment occurs on school property, on a school bus, or at an off-site school event. Harassment may come from other students or from school employees such as teachers, coaches, or other staff. Having an anti-bullying policy is not enough. A school must take prompt and effective steps to address sexual harassment, bullying, and violence.

Title IX prohibits harassment of students because they do not conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity or on the basis of gender identity. Thus, the law protects LGBTQ students. Title IX also prohibits sex-based bullying that creates a hostile environment, including hazing and cyberbullying. Common forms of such bullying include using social media to target students by calling them sexually charged names, spreading sexual rumors, rating students on sexual activity or performance, spreading compromising photos, and creating and circulating e-mails or websites of a sexual nature. Conduct often dismissed as "boys will be boys" or "mean girls" can actually be prohibited harassment. Title IX prohibits sex-based bullying and harassment that interferes with a student's education. "Bullying fosters a climate of fear and disrespect that can seriously impair the physical and psychological health of its victims and create

conditions that negatively affect learning, thereby undermining the ability of students to achieve their full potential.” Any form of sexual violence, including rape, is prohibited by Title IX and other statutes.

Nearly half of middle and high school students report being sexually harassed, including 40% of boys. Verbal harassment was the most frequently cited behavior. Unwelcome touching was reported by 13% of girls and 3% of boys. Many victims of harassment reported harassing others. 85% of LGBTQ students in middle and high school were verbally harassed in the prior year and more than 25% were physically harassed. 49% were threatened via electronic media. According to a 2015 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey, more than 10% of high school girls and 3% of boys report having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse.

More than 60% of college undergraduates experience some form of sexual harassment. More than 20% of women and 5% of men report being raped or sexually assaulted in college. Among those identifying as transgender, queer, or nonconforming, 24% of undergraduates and 15% of graduate students have been sexually assaulted. Harassment can have serious emotional consequences for these students. It can cause difficulty in concentrating on schoolwork, absenteeism, and poor academic performance. The frequency of sexual harassment reported by schools does not match what students say is actually happening at their schools.

Sexual harassment in schools starts early. 75% of elementary students report being called names, made fun of, or bullied. One-third of students have heard kids say that girls should not wear or do certain things because they are girls. Even more boys have heard that boys should not do or wear certain things. Nearly half of elementary teachers reported students making sexist remarks at school.

NCWGE Recommendations:

Recognizing and addressing sexual harassment in schools is essential for providing a safe and respectful learning environment in which all students can thrive.

Schools should protect harassment victims by providing close follow-up, including working with victims’ families, and be on the look out for continued harassment and retaliation. They should also provide services to survivors of sexual assault and be able to refer survivors to additional services as needed.

Students, faculty, staff, and parents/guardians should talk openly about attitudes and behaviors that promote or impede progress toward a harassment-free climate in which all students feel safe and can reach their full potential.

Harassment should be deemed a hostile environment when it is sufficiently severe or pervasive to deny a victim access to the educational opportunities and benefits provided by the school.

Next month: Single-Sex Education

Additional Resources:

(1) Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School, 2011, available at

<http://www.aauw.org/research/crossing-the-line>

(2) Title IX Protections from Bullying & Harassment in School: FAQs for Students available at

<http://www.nwlc.org/resource/title-ix-protections-bullying-harassment-school-faqs-students>

(3) Harassment-Free-Hallways: How to Stop Sexual Harassment in School available at

<http://www.history.aauw.org/files/2013/01/harassment.free.pdf>

Submitted by Helena Whyte

Branch Calendar

Feb	5	Book group, evening
Feb	6	Book group, morning
Feb	8	Great Decisions – Evening group
Feb	15	Great Decisions – Morning group
Feb	22	Great Decisions – Evening group
Feb	29	Great Decisions – Morning group

LA Cares

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

December 31, 2017

AAUW
c/o Denise George
411 Cheryl Avenue
White Rock, NM 87547

Dear Friends,

You truly are an extremely generous group! We were surprised and delighted to receive not only your check for \$300.00, but word that a bit more fruit will be coming for the February Distribution. Our clients do not often have a selection of really fresh fruits and vegetables, so this is a very special treat. Again, a hearty thank you to the many who gave so much to make a gift of this magnitude possible. We are very grateful as are our clients.

Sincerely,



Linda F. Burns
Secretary

Coordinating Council for 2017-18

Marilyn Doolen	Co-Facilitator	672-3571	mtdoolen@aol.com
Carol Neal	Co-Facilitator	662-7256	the_neals@prodigy.net
Betsy Comly	Secretary	672-1574	jack_comly@msn.com
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Bev Cooper	Publicity	672-9696	bcooper@cybermesa.com
?	Univ. Rep./International Affairs		
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Denise George	Newsletter/Webmaster	672-9688	denisegeorge@icloud.com
Mary Ann Lindahl	Program/Public Policy	660-2259	moonbeamx@comcast.net
Appointed positions			
Helena Whyte	STEM	672-9153	mozden08@aol.com
Marilyn Minshall	Historian	672-3499	mjbminshall237@q.com
???	Hospitality		
???	Nominating Chair		