

Fall Luncheon

Saturday, September 15, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
2390 North Rd., Lower Entrance**



Come join us for an informative and entertaining program to kick off our 2018-2019 branch activities. Helena Whyte will share experiences of the Tech Trek camp held in Socorro this past June and share plans for Tech Trek 2019. There will be a slide show featuring Tech Trek as well as personal accounts from young women who attended the camp.

Ruby K will cater the lunch and the price is \$15. **Please phone or e-mail Mary Ann Lindahl** (660-2259, moonbeamx@comcast.net) to reserve a place.

Members will brief us on available groups, including Great Decisions, Fiction Book Group, Nonfiction Book Group, and Out ‘n About. Signup sheets will be available.

The Early Childhood Education Forum, held the evening of September 6, 2018, at the United Church, was organized through a partnership between the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos, the Los Alamos Branch of AAUW, and Searchlight, NM--a rather new “think tank” formed by a group of investigative reporters. The LANL foundation is a major supporter of Searchlight. The forum attracted more than seventy attendees of which eleven were from our AAUW branch. Attendees ranged from young mothers (one with babe in arms) to LAPS Superintendent Kurt Steinhaus and other community leaders.

Charles Sallee , the deputy director of the Legislative Finance Committee, a non-partisan committee, mandated to evaluate the management performance and program content, including cost-benefit, of the state of early childhood education programs in New Mexico, was the presenter. The format for Mr. Sallee’s presentation was “question and answer”. Searchlight, NM Executive Editor Sara Solovitch, asked a topical question and Mr. Sallee responded with relevant information about that topic. Examples of topics that were addressed: “Why should we care about early childhood education?”, “Which departments of state government play roles in early childhood education?”, “What programs are currently offered within New Mexico?”, “Have any of the programs currently available been shown by good data to be effective?”, “What monies are available?”, “Would New Mexico benefit from having a cabinet level department to coordinate all aspects of government involvement in early childhood education?”, etc.

After an hour of the initial presentation, the audience was given twenty minutes to ask questions of Mr. Sallee. The six or eight questions pointed out some of the weaknesses in what is currently available and also led to some discussion of the need for coordination among government and private early childhood care and educational programs. Charles Sallee emphasized the need to ask the legislature what problems are they willing to solve as there is a wide range of programs which need to be coordinated into productive, relevant services within the state, especially in rural areas where the need is greatest. For some examples, New Mexico has the highest maltreatment cases in the U.S.; it costs \$180,000/year for each incarcerated youth; early intervention to help families in need is woefully negligent.

Then each table of about seven attendees discussed one of three topics in the general area of early childhood education: (1) What do we want the legislature to do? (2) What do we want the executive branch to do? (3) What do we want the schools to do? The majority opinions from each table were visually shown by putting blue dots on posters listing potential actions displayed at the front of the room.

A general summary of the priorities would be the wish for more well-trained and well-paid teachers and providers of early childhood education, more coordination and oversight from state government, and a diversity of proven, evidence-based programs available in all communities to all.

And finally a straw vote was taken concerning how each individual in the audience thinks such early childhood programs might be paid for. The list of financial options from which to choose was taken from the suggestions given in Judge Singleton's recent court ruling concerning New Mexico education. The method that received the most votes, "Access the general fund."

It was a worthwhile, interesting, and very informative program especially because this year the legislature will have a "long" session.

For Searchlight NM's report of the program see <http://searchlightnm.com/2018/09/07/spend-wisely-to-boost-child-well-being-finance-official-says/>

Reported to Hilltopics by
Carol Neal, co-facilitator of Los Alamos AAUW Branch
Marilyn Doolen, AAUW Branch



Book Group

The September book is The Little Paris Bookshop by Nina George.

On Monday, September 10, at 7:00 pm we will meet at Karin Roberts, 415 Cheryl. (672-9625, karinroberts875@icloud.com).

On Tuesday, September 11, at 1:00 pm the meeting is at Ginny White's, 1001 Oppenheimer. (695-2072, ginny@atomicski.org).

Let the hostess know if you are coming. Guests welcome to attend all book group meetings.

The Schedule for 2018-2019 is posted on our web site and can be found under the study group tab.

The direct link is:

<https://losalamos-nm.aauw.net/files/2018/08/2018-2019-Schedule-copyDenise.pdf>

Nonfiction Book Group

The next meeting will be on September 17 at 7:00 pm. The book is Pandora's Lab, by Paul Offit. Denise George will lead the discussion and will host the meeting at her home, 411 Cheryl. Please let Denise know if you will be attending the meeting (672-9688, denisegeorge@icloud.com).

Unpaid Dues?

If you are not certain that you paid your AAUW dues this year, contact Margaret Gibson, branch treasurer at mfgibson1943@yahoo.com or 672-3609. If you wish, you can pay your dues at our AAUW Fall luncheon or you can pay on-line by credit card at <http://www.aauw.org>, or mail your check (\$87) to AAUW, P.O. Box 272, Los Alamos. If dues are not received by the end of September, 2018, members' names will be removed from the membership directory and the mailing list.

RBG

As a benefit for the AAUW-LAF (Legal Advocacy Fund), the biographical documentary about Ruth Bader Ginsberg, *RBG*, was screened at the Reel Deal Theater on August 30. We had 46 people in the theater, 4 were high school students. Donations total over \$1000. Jim O'Donnell donated the venue; hence all proceeds went directly to LAF.

1ST CANDIDATE FORUM 2018 GENERAL ELECTION

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos will hold the first of two candidate forums.

When: Thursday, September 27, 2018

Where: Lecture Hall in Bldg 2, UNM-Los Alamos, 4000 University Dr, Los Alamos

Time: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. (refreshments at 6:30 p.m.),
Come hear candidates for **County Council:**

David Izraelevitz (D),
Randall Rtyi (D),
Sara Scott (D),
James Robinson (D),
Helen Milenski (L),
Brady Burke (R),
Dawn Trujillo Voss (R),
John Bliss (R).

Also participating are:

Anne Nobile, running unopposed for Probate Judge, and a speaker to explain the **North Central Regional Transportation District (NCRTD) reauthorization ballot issue.**

2ND CANDIDATE FORUM 2018 GENERAL ELECTION

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos will hold the second of two candidate forums.

When: Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Where: Lecture Hall in Bldg 2, UNM-Los Alamos, 4000 University Dr, Los Alamos

Time: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. (refreshments at 6:30 p.m.),
Come hear candidates for:

NM House District 43
Magistrate Judge
Municipal Judge
Sheriff

Also participating: The candidate for **County Assessor** who is running unopposed.

Branch Calendar

Sept	10,11	Book Group
Sept	15	Fall Lunch
Sept	17	Nonfiction Book Group
Sept	27	Candidate Forum
Oct	3	Candidate Forum
Oct	6	Council meeting, 2pm, Carol Neal's, 3451 Urban

Coordinating Council for 2018-19

Alahna Weller	Co-Facilitator	672-9539	acweller@comcast.net
Carol Neal	Co-Facilitator	662-7256	the_neals@prodigy.net
Marilyn Doolen	Secretary	672-3571	mtdoolen@aol.com
Bev Cooper	Publicity	672-9696	bcooper@cybermesa.com
Maryjane Giesler	University Representative	662-5574	mgiesler@unm.edu
Margaret Gibson	Membership/Treasurer	672-3609	mfgibson1943@yahoo.com
Denise George	Newsletter/Webmaster	672-9688	denisegeorge@icloud.com
Appointed positions			
Helena Whyte	STEM	672-9153	mozden08@aol.com
Marilyn Minshall	Historian	672-3499	mjbminshall237@q.com
Mary Ann Lindahl	Hospitality	660-2259	moonbeamx@comcast.net
????	Nominating Chair		