

Tech Trek Un-Tea



Our February event is a fund-raiser for Tech Trek 2019. Watch your mailbox for an invitation to join our Un-Tea. Every contribution, whether large or small, helps.

When many of our branch members respond, we demonstrate to the organizers the depth of our support. That depth can be important in securing other grants.

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**

Tech Trek 2018 earned a Stemy, Excellence in Stem Award, from The Air Force Research Labs, honoring those students, teachers, volunteers and other New Mexicans doing remarkable things in science, technology, engineering and math education.

Learn more about the wonderful opportunity Tech Trek provides by clicking on this link <https://techtrek-nm.aauw.net>. Watch the video and catch the girls' enthusiasm.

Tech Trek is looking for volunteers to interview girls who have applied to attend the 2019 camp. There is also a need for volunteers to read 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)

STEMY winners will be honored at a ceremony on Friday, Feb. 22 at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Helena will be attending the dinner. If you wish to attend, tickets are now on sale for the ceremony at www.afnlnewmexico.com/stemys. The keynote speaker will be nationally known mathmagician Arthur Benjamin.

Legislative Day – Monday, February 11, Roundhouse, Santa Fe, NM:

1. 8:30 a.m. Meet at the Capitol in Room 303. Pick up a cup of coffee and a burrito in the cafeteria. Any member of AAUW-NM is encouraged to attend Legislative Day. Newbies can pair up with someone trained and experienced. It's important to AAUW advocacy to have many members involved.
2. 9:00 a.m. Go to legislators' offices to talk with them about issues or to leave notes addressing

our issues, attend legislative sessions and/or committee meetings

3. Around 11:00 a.m. Recognition of AAUW-NM on the House floor by District I SF Representative Linda Trujillo.
4. Lunch on your own in Capitol cafeteria or grill. Sonya hopes to find a space so we can come back together and debrief.
5. We may meet with Governor Lujan Grisham or attend committee meetings.

Branch News

Budget Needs: After considerable discussion the following motion was unanimously voted upon and passed by Coordinating Council: **to increase the branch dues to \$20.00 (from \$10.00.)**

The membership vote will be taken at the branch annual meeting (Spring Tea) in May. There will be time for discussion at the tea. The date for the tea will be announced in the March Hilltopics; be sure to attend. If the increase is approved, the new rate will be in effect in 2020.

The driving justification for the dues increase is that for many years we have been meeting branch expenses by using money from past savings. This cannot continue. While our dues have remained constant our fixed expenses have increased. Additionally, our mission is to support gender equity for women and girls. In order to accomplish this mission we would like to increase awards for the Los Alamos Science Fair participants, to support young women candidates in AAUW programs such as NCCWSL, and possibly establish a scholarship at UNM-LA for a non-traditional female student.

Fruit for LA Cares

The February fruit distribution will be on February 7 and 8. Thanks to all who contributed. A final report will appear in the March Hilltopics.

Book Group

The February book is The Weight of Ink by Rachel Kadish. Marilyn Thayer will lead the discussion at both meetings.

The February 4th, 7 pm meeting will be at Mary Ann Lindahl's, 201 San Juan, 660-2259, moonbeamx@comcast.net.

The February 5th, 1 pm meeting will be at Mona Wecksung's, 161 El Corto, 662-7084, wecksung2005@msn.com.

The group needs a hostess for the March 4th, 7 pm meeting. Please contact Karin Roberts at 672-9625 or karinroberts875@icloud.com to volunteer.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions 2019 Schedule (Day Group)

Feb 14, 1:30 pm, WRPL, Linda McLellan, Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics (6)
Feb 28, 1:30 pm, MPL, Karin Roberts, The Rise of Populism (4)
Mar 14, 1:30 pm, WRPL, Denise George, Refugees and Global Migration (1)
Mar 28, 1:30 pm, MPL, Mona Wecksung, China (5)
Apr 11, 1:30 pm, WRPL,
Apr 25, 1:30 pm, MPL,
May 9, 1:30 pm, WRPL, Carroll Thomas, U.S. and Mexico (7)
May 23, 1:30 pm, MPL,

Remaining topics are:

Middle East (2)

Nuclear negotiations (3)

Sate of Diplomacy (8)

Contact Denise at denisegeorge@icloud.com or 672-9688.

Evening Great Decision 2019 Schedule

Date/Time	Topic	Hostess/Leader
1/24/19 7:00 p.m.	8 State of the State Dept.	Helena Whyte White Rock Library
2/14/19 7:00 pm	American Foreign Policy	Marilyn Thayer 505 Oppenheimer Dr. Building 8, 662-9785
2/28/19 7:00 pm	6 Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics	Helena Whyte 100 El Morro St., WR 672-9153
3/21/19 7:00 pm	7 United States and Mexico:	Marilyn Doolen 713 Meadow Lane, WR 672-3571
4/11/19 7:00 pm	3 Nuclear Negotiations:	Judy Prono 670 Totavi, LA 662-2691
5/2/19 7:00 pm	2 The Middle East	Beverly Cooper 521 Ridgecrest Ave., WR 672-9696
5/16/19 7:00 pm	1 Refugees and Global Migration	Marilyn Minshall 536 Brighton Drive, WR 672-3499

Contact Helena at mozden08@aol.com or 672-9153.

Nonfiction Book Group

The next meeting will be on March 18 at 7:00 pm.
We will discuss Code Girls by Liza Mandes. Helena White will review. We will meet at Rozelle Wright's,

213 Barranca Rd.; tell Rozelle if you are coming
(rozelle@losalamos.com, 662-5490).

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR REPORT

January 19, 2019

The AAUW branch judges were: Beverly Cooper, Marilyn Doolen (lead), Karen Henderson, Mary Ann Lindahl, Terry Marzili, Judy Prono, Nina Thayer, Alahna Weller. There were 53 total projects entered (including 4 class projects) in the Elementary Level in the categories of Life Sciences, Earth Sciences, and Physical Sciences.

The team awarded the following class projects with a personal note and \$15.00:

Barranca Kindergarten, Heidi Schembri, Teacher (Physical Science) *Rocking Robots*

Aspen 2nd grade, Rachel Bartram, Teacher (Earth Science) *Erosion*

Aspen 5th grade, Stacey Martens, Teacher (Physical Science) *Dissolve it All*

The following single entries were awarded with a personal note and either \$5.00 or \$10.00, in the categories of Life Science, Earth Science or Physical Science:

Micah Finstad, *Biodegradable Plastics*

Maclain Griffin, *A Meteorite hit my house (and I lived to tell about it)*

Aditya Viswanathan, *Wildfire Patterns on the Pajarito Plateau*

Nishta Mukundan, *To Kill or Not to Kill*

Ayva Preston, *Using Thieves Oil to Kill Bacteria*

Matthea Fung, *Dissection and Structure of a Bold-Faced Hornet's Nest*

Noah Bane, *Robotic Catapult Projectiles and Energy Use*

Penelope Barry-Hoffman, *The Effect of Car Pollution on pH*

Michelle Jackson, *Simple Electric Motors*

Aislim Marshall, *Playing with Sound Materials and Sound Absorption*

Anna Simakov, *Feynman's Spaghetti*

The team identified good hypotheses, age-appropriate experimentation, good explanations, and good data, as well as creativity.

The following were submitted as Best of Show; **Aditya Viswanathan** (Life Science); **Aspen 2nd grade** (Earth Science); **Barranca Kindergarten** (Physical Science).

It is noted that 2 student awardees were repeat awardees from 2018.

There was a pre-Fair judging at the elementary schools that resulted in fewer entries to review. This gave the team members adequate time to review and choose the most outstanding projects.

The team strongly recommends that the AAUW branch budget for 2019/2020 include funding to allow a minimum of \$10.00 for individual projects and a minimum of \$20.00 for class projects. (\$200 to \$300 is recommended to accomplish this goal.)

The volunteers on the judging team continue to feel this is an important contribution to the community following the tradition established by Chris Sierk and Nina Thayer in the early 1980s to recognize and award the younger youth. We are encouraging this age group to stay curious and extend their interest in science that can be fun. After the Fair, hand written thank you notes came from Mrs. Schembri's Kindergarten class students. They will use the award money for a field trip to the PEEC and will buy more science supplies.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Doolen, team leader

Branch Calendar

Feb	4,5	Book Group
Feb	11	Legislative Day
Feb	14	Great decisions (morning), Great decisions (evening)
Feb	22	Stemy Award Ceremony
Feb	28	Great decisions (morning), Great decisions (evening)

Branch Council 2018-2019

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
Nina Thayer	Public Policy	662-6835	gnthayer@cybermesa.com
????	Nominating Chair		