

Los Alamos Speech and Debate Team

Thursday, February 20, 7-9 pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

2390 North Road

Branch member, Margo Batha, 2019 National Speech and Debate Association National Educator of the Year, will bring members of her prize-winning speech and debate team to our meeting. Prepare to be amazed by these talented students!

Batha has coached the largest debate team in New Mexico for more than a decade, and was the head coach of the first NSDA National Champion World Schools Debate Team. She's led presentations and workshops for other New Mexico speech and debate coaches, has created partnerships for her team with community organizations, and plans to serve on the Host Committee for the 2020 National Speech and Debate Tournament in Albuquerque.

The focus Batha puts on the NSDA Code of Honor, which calls upon members to value integrity, humility, respect, leadership and service, set her apart from other educators, but it was her commitment to providing relevant, rigorous and innovative educational opportunities to the students of Los Alamos High School that set her above and beyond.

She proudly shared that her students are “agitating for change in our community by advocating for the re-opening of our county public health clinic, by advocating for a mental health professional on our campus, and by raising awareness that there are too few female classical composers taught in high school music classes.”

“It is obvious that Margo is providing the students on her campus a world-class education and phenomenal opportunities in speech and debate competition,” said nominator Trey Smith, New Mexico NSDA District Chair.

We are scheduled to use the upstairs lobby, but the church is under repair, and we may need to meet downstairs. I'll let you know.



Women's Suffrage Movement in New Mexico

New Mexico's Anglo Protestant women were late to organize influential women's clubs, which were not started until the 1890s. However, this movement left out large sectors of women in the state who were of Indian or Mexican American ancestry. The Catholic Church, openly opposed to women's suffrage in the 19th century, also tempered support for an early suffrage campaign. The state's constitution, ratified in 1910, posed the most formidable obstacle to early

suffrage. The State Federation of Women's Clubs won the right to school suffrage. In turn, full voting rights to Hispanic men were guaranteed. But the constitution required a daunting three-fourths majority of voters in each county to amend the suffrage provision in the future. This legal barrier dashed any hope of winning suffrage by popular vote, which had been the key to success in most other western states. New Mexico women focused on national suffrage politics instead. Alice Paul's militant Congressional Union (CU), the forerunner of the Woman's Party, played a leading role in the state's late-blooming movement. By 1915, the CU enjoyed a committed network of support, especially among middle-class and elite Anglo club women in urban areas. "They say it is very difficult to get the Spanish ladies out, but as I have one on the program to speak in Spanish, I think they will come--and their husbands as well," reported the CU's lead organizer, Ella St. Clair Thompson to Alice Paul in 1915. Her efforts to reach out to Spanish-speaking women paid off, especially among elite women relatives of influential Mexican-American politicians. Adelina Otero-Warren, the niece of the popular head of the state's Republican Party, helped lead Mexican American women into the political mainstream. Bilingual flyers and speeches in Spanish at public rallies brought support for suffrage among both men and women in the Hispanic communities. Otero-Warren enjoyed such a loyal following that she was chosen by Alice Paul to lead the state Congressional Union in 1917. Her mission was to bombard the New Mexico congressional delegation to win their support in the battle to pass the "Susan B. Anthony" (19th) Amendment. With her help the amendment passed through Congress and to the states for ratification. New Mexico women won full suffrage at last with the final ratification by the state legislature of the amendment in 1920. Women voted with enthusiasm in New Mexico, with participation rates of Mexican-American women exceeding that of Anglo women or men. Nevertheless, the 19th Amendment did not guarantee citizenship or the vote for the state's large population of Pueblos, Navajos, Hopis and other Native American women, who along with men from those communities still could not vote either. (source: *New Mexico Office of the State Historian*)

State News

AAUW Lobby Day is Monday February 3, and will begin at the Capital Building at 8:30 for a briefing. At 9:00 am members will begin visiting the offices of our legislators to speak with them.

Later AUW-NM will be recognized on the House floor.

Branch News

We have a new Member, Julie Van Camp.

The branch will be bringing fruit to LA Cares on February 13th

Book Group

The February book is [An American Marriage](#) by Tayari Jones. Angela Coop will lead the discussion. The February 3, 7:00 meeting will be at Angela's, 332 Aragon; let her know if you are coming (672-1037 or acwalkercoop@yahoo.com).

Carol Neal, 3451 Urban St. (662-7256 or the-neals@prodigy.com) will host the February 4, 1:30 meeting. Let her know if you are coming.

Great Decisions

Visitors are welcome at both groups.

The evening group is led by Helena Whyte (672-9153 or mozden08@aol.com). Contact her for the schedule.

The daytime group meets at alternate libraries at 1:30, twice a month on the second and fourth Thursday. The afternoon group is self-organized, but Denise George will answer questions (denisegeorge@icloud.com, 672-9688).

The 2020 schedule for this group is:

1/23 LA	AI and Data	Linda
2/13 WR	Northern Triangle	Denise
2/27 LA	Climate Change	Carol
3/12 WR	China	Karin
3/26 LA		
4/09 WR	Philippines	Carroll
4/23	Red Sea	Nancy
4/14		

Two topics looking for presenters:
India/Pakistan
Human Trafficking

Nonfiction Book Group

The next meeting will be on March 16. The book is Woman of No Importance by Sonia Purnell. We will meet at Betsy Comly's, 235 Kimberly. Carol Neal will lead the discussion. Let Betsy know if you are coming (672-15784 or jack_comly@msn.com)

Branch Calendar

Feb	3	AAUW Lobby Day
Feb	3,4	Book Group
Feb	13	Great Decisions
Feb	20	Branch Meeting
Feb	27	Great Decisions

Coordinating Council 2019-2020

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???	Public Policy		
????	Nominating Chair		