

Un-Tea for Tech Trek



Our February event is a fundraiser for Tech Trek 2021. 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 camp 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:

**AAUW Tech Trek New Mexico
PO Box 90322
Albuquerque, NM 87199**

Tech Trek is usually a week-long residential camp where girls participate in STEM classes, workshops, and field trips. Although it was not feasible in 2020 to run classes online, instructions and supplies for workshop activities were boxed and mailed: this became Tech Trek in a box. Campers received a backpack, a Kindle tablet loaded with apps, a graphing calculator, workshop supplies and instructions, and a journal. The Kindle included videos from the PBS series “Ask a Scientist,” highlighting NM women in STEM careers, and an e-book, *Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers who Changed the World*. Feedback was been overwhelmingly positive. One enthusiastic Trekker wrote: “Thank you so much for the Tech Trek in a box! I love it and can’t wait to do the experiments and use everything. Thanks for thinking of me this summer!” A mother wrote: “Kudos to the Tech Trek team for knowing how to hook a teen—and quickly!”

In 2021 AAUW plans to run two separate virtual sessions of Tech Trek: one for the girls who would have attended the 2020 camp and one for the girls who will be selected this year. This year virtual Tech Trek will be more than a box. It will include online classes presented by experts with experience in this format. The fees for these experts will be a significant cost. Last year we did not host an Un-Tea for Tech Trek; however, this year contributions are needed to fund this important opportunity for seventh and eighth grade girls in our state.

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.

Los Alamos County Science Fair

January 22, 2021

The Los Alamos Country Science Fair was held virtually this year. The Los Alamos Branch of AAUW continued the tradition of judging elementary level entries, individual 4th and 5th grade students' projects, in a new and unique way, virtually. We judged a smaller number of entries this year, only 19, and there were no class projects. The branch judges were Karen Henderson (lead), Judy Prono, Marilyn Doolen, Margaret Gibson and Denise George.

We were budgeted \$200 for prizes; however, with fewer projects, we as a group decided to only award \$110 this year and return the unused funds to next year's science fair budget allocation. We awarded 12 prizes: one \$20 best-of-show, seven \$10 firsts and four \$5 honorable mentions.

The team had to sign up on an online platform to view the projects at home. We had four days to review projects online and had the option to write comments in the project review page that will be sent to each student via email. We met as a group via Zoom on Friday afternoon, January 22, to review our comments and select our winners. The team looked for a good hypothesis, scientific method, and age appropriate experimentation with good explanations and data. The team goals were to give good positive feedback and encouragement and to express that science is fun and rewarding. The lead judge wrote letters to all 12 students who presented outstanding projects.

Most projects were in the Physical Science category with some in Life Science and only one in Behavioral Science. Examples of awarded projects are: "How do different types of music affect how fifth graders solve simple math?", "Yeast", "An eggcellent science fair project", "Turn milk into plastic" and "Banish your WiFi woes." Our best of show project was titled "What's blocking your signal?"

We are encouraging this age group to stay curious and sharing that science is fun.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Henderson, lead

Book Group

Zoom meetings will be hosted by Rozelle Wright and Denise George. All group members will receive meeting invitations to both meetings. Other branch members who wish to be invited should contact Karin Roberts, karinroberts875@icloud.com, to be added to the group mailing list. Evening meetings are on the first Monday of the month at 7pm. Daytime meetings are the following Tuesday at 1pm.

The February book is American Dirt by Jeanine Cummings. Karin Roberts will lead the discussion. The dates for the meetings are February 1st and 2nd. A complete schedule is under the **study group** tab of our website at: [2020-2021 Book Group Schedule](#)

Nonfiction Book Group

The next Zoom meeting is Feb 15, 7:00pm. The book is Invisible Women by Caroline Perez. Helena White will lead the discussion. Denise George will host the meeting.

Great Decisions

There will be an organizational Zoom meeting on Thursday, January 28 at 1:30 pm. We will discuss Global Supply Chains. Other topics are Persian Gulf Security, Brexit, The Arctic, China in Africa, Two Koreas, WHO and End of Globalization.

Fruit Project

The committee will use the remaining \$347 to purchase fruit for the LA Cares February distribution.

Round House Report

Our AAUW-NM lobby corps is busy tracking legislation pertinent to AAUW mission to promote Women's Rights and Educational Opportunity. Currently bills are being assigned to committees.

Your editor will inform the membership of bills that you might wish to express your support for or opposition to. Currently SB10 REPEAL ABORTION BAN is scheduled to be heard in the Health and Public Affairs Committee.

Legislators are often swamped with e-mails and phone calls. However, they do want to hear from constituents. If you e-mail, put the bill number and 'support' or 'oppose' in the subject line. Here are the addresses of our Senators and Representative.

christine.chandler@nmlegis.gov

roberto.gonzales@nmlegis.gov (WR)

leo.jaramillo@nmlegis.gov (LA)

Black Suffragists

I did not realize till this year that the suffragist movement we celebrate was restricted to white women. A review in the Jan/Feb *Atlantic* of a book by Martha S. Jones, [Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All](#) is an eye-opener in case you are as naïve as I. Below is an excerpt, but you can read the entire article for free by going to the *Atlantic* site:

[\(https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2021/01/review-pankhurst-holmes-vanguard-jones/617267/\)](https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2021/01/review-pankhurst-holmes-vanguard-jones/617267/).

“For Black suffragists in the United States, separating the fights for racial justice and voting rights was impossible. Trailblazing a path, these women developed an analysis of oppression that linked suffrage to other movements for social change, including education, prison reform, and workers’ rights. ...

Suffrage figures in Jones’s account as just one episode in a much longer story of emancipation. She begins in the early 19th century, with Black women’s struggles for autonomy and power in their churches, and continues through the antislavery movement and then to suffrage and its long aftermath. From the start, the American women’s-suffrage campaign was riddled with exclusions. A joint effort to secure voting rights for both Black

Americans and women fell apart when Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton opposed the Fifteenth Amendment, which gave Black men the right to vote. As the Black suffragist Frances Ellen Watkins Harper said in the 1860s, ‘You white women speak of rights. I speak of wrongs.’

The idea that Black women needed their own, independent organization came to fruition in the 1890s, with the founding of the National Association of Colored Women. Its motto was ‘Lifting as we climb,’ and by the early 1920s, it had nearly 100,000 members. Black women, Jones notes, were setting an anchor in American political culture even as the architects of Jim Crow sought to remove Black men from public life. The stakes couldn’t have been higher. In the Senate, Mississippi’s James K. Vardaman led an effort to use women’s suffrage as the lever to repeal the Fifteenth Amendment. White women could have the vote, but only at the expense of Black men and women. Vardaman’s maneuver failed, but not before garnering more than a quarter of senators’ votes.



Jones’s long chronology serves to illuminate the connection between the Black suffragists’ campaign and the civil-rights movement. After the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, Black women rushed to register to vote. Their struggles to overcome Jim Crow barriers helped bring about the Voting Rights

Act of 1965. The effort was ceaseless, and largely invisible. On a hot day in August 1965, a local photographer captured 68-year-old Joe Ella Moore, dressed in a beribboned straw hat, registering to vote. This was Moore's eighth attempt. On each of her seven previous tries, Mississippi authorities had turned her away.

One of the satisfactions of Jones's book is her attention to unheralded figures such as Moore and the organizer Diane Nash, an architect of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's "Selma strategy," the well-remembered marches for voting rights. Or the three women, handbags hooked on their arms, who were photographed with Lyndon B. Johnson, Ralph Abernathy, and Martin Luther King Jr. at the signing of the Voting Rights Act. The picture is famous, yet despite occupying a third of the frame, the women are hardly ever identified. They are Patricia Roberts Harris, a Howard University law professor, who went on to become the first Black woman to hold a Cabinet post, in the Carter administration; Vivian Malone, a Department of Justice staffer on the Voter Education Project who had, in 1963, defied Governor George Wallace to integrate the University of Alabama; and Zephyr Wright, who worked as the Johnson family's cook, from whom LBJ had heard firsthand about experiences of discrimination. Remember their names, too.

Anniversaries focus on the single-issue standouts: the Emmeline Pankhursts or the Alice Pauls, leading the parades of women in white. But for most suffragists, the campaign for the vote was simply a stop on a road with many turns. From there, they went on to lobby for improved maternity and infant care, collective bargaining, protections for women workers, access to professions, and municipal reform, among many other causes. Scratch a trailblazing woman in the 20th century

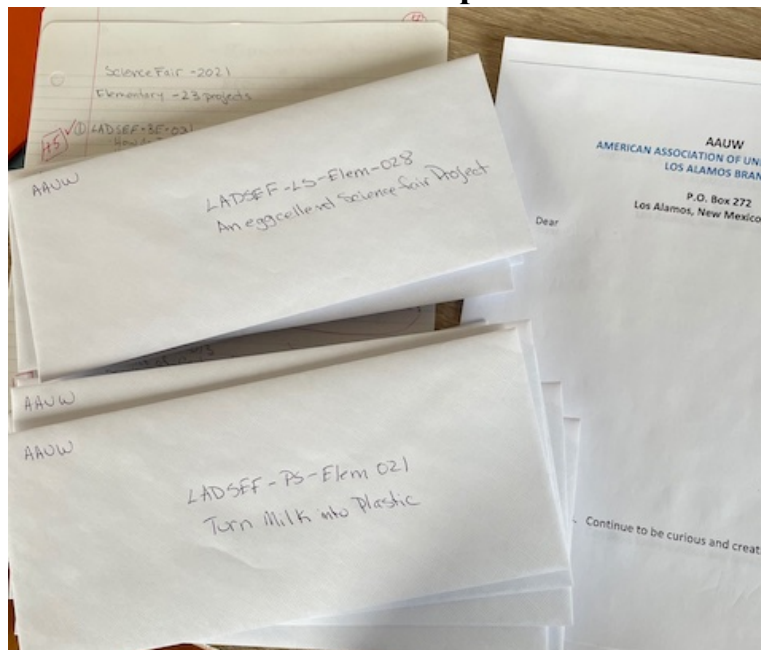
and you're likely to find a suffragist past: the first woman elected to the House of Representatives (Jeannette Rankin), the first woman Cabinet member (Frances Perkins), the first woman to win a case before the Supreme Court (Florence King), the first woman journalist to have a political column (Dorothy Thompson).

This was the outcome that the early opponents of women's suffrage had imagined with horror: an avalanche of activist women and a world remodeled along feminist lines. But for the first 70 years after suffrage, women didn't vote as a bloc, as the suffragists had hoped. The moral fervor that powered their campaign just as easily tilted into right-leaning crusades in defense of the "traditional" family. Starting in the early 1990s, though, American women's partisan preferences consolidated in favor of the Democratic Party. Since 2014, that gender gap has only widened. This divergence owes as much to men—especially white men—leaving the Democratic ranks as to women joining them.

One party for white men, another party for women of all kinds: That wasn't the world that Sylvia Pankhurst wanted. Like the Black women in Jones's book, she had no time for the "sex antagonism" her sister had preached. Her vision was utopian, but when it came to the machinations of power politics, Pankhurst was a hardheaded realist. She'd scarcely be surprised that today, the men who hold the cards are no more eager to surrender their power than they'd been a century earlier. "Why are women so patient?" Sylvia's father asked his wife and daughters. "Why don't you scratch our eyes out?"



Award Letters and Cash Prize Envelopes for Science Fair Winners



Coordinating Council 2020-2021

Alahna Weller	Facilitator The duties of facilitator will be shared among the council members	672-9539	acweller@comcast.net
Carol Neal	Secretary	662-7256	the_neals@prodigy.net
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Terry Marzili	Co-Treasurer	661-4214	tmarzili@aol.com
Judy Prono	Public Policy	662-2691	djprono@msn.com
Appointed positions			
Helena Whyte	STEM	672-9153	mozden08@aol.com
Marilyn Minshall	Historian	672-3499	mjbminshall237@q.com
Mary Ann Lindahl	Hospitality	662-0995	moonbeamx@comcast.net
????	Nominating Chair		

Calendar

Jan 28	Great Decisions
Feb 1,2	Book Group
Feb 15	Nonfiction book group