



Legislative Preview
Thursday, January 6th, 6:30-8:30 pm
with
Rep. Christine Chandler,
Sen. Roberto “Bobby” Gonzales,
Sen. Leo Jaramillo.

The meeting will be held via Zoom, and the link will be sent to you before the Preview. Mark the date and time on your calendars as you will not want to miss this important event.

AAUW co-sponsors this annual event with the League of Women Voters. Our member, Helena White has agreed to be the moderator this year. The legislators will each have 20 min to share their expectations and priorities for the upcoming session and will then respond to audience questions.

As an additional speaker, the League has invited Kurt Steinhaus, Secretary of the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED). He has been asked to provide an update on how the state is meeting the Yazzie ruling, including what has been done so far to address the court’s findings and what is needed to do more. Also, what is the PED’s budgetary wish list in light of the ruling? He too will have 20 min for a presentation with additional time for Q&A.

AAUW-NM’s “Lobby Day” Monday, January 24th

The new name of lobby day is **Advocacy Day**. This year we will be allowed inside the state capitol building for specific events but not allowed to hold any large group event. Details of AAUW advocacy will be discussed at the Winter Leadership Team Meeting (LTM) in Santa Fe on Sunday, Jan. 23. The LTM will be held at the Hotel Santa Fe and via Zoom. Anyone interested in tuning in to hear more about Advocacy Day activities should get in touch with Lynn Heffron (lgheffron@gmail.com), our state President, and ask for the Zoom link or Meredith Machen (meredith.machen@gmail.com), our state Public Policy chair.

2022 Los Alamos Schools Science Fair, Volunteers Needed

Karen Henderson is leading the AAUW judges for this year’s science fair. The judging will be in-person on Saturday, January 22. Please contact Karen to volunteer or if you have questions (505-695-0247, KOH7X@yahoo.com). We will be judging elementary grade projects, and a science background is not required.

Book Group

The Book Group does not meet in January. The February book is Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell. The meetings are on February 7th at 7 pm and February 8th at 1 pm. The reviewer is Ginny White.

The year's schedule is under the **study group** tab of our website at: [2021-2022 Book Group Schedule](#).

If you wish to be added to the book group membership list contact Karin Roberts (505-672-9625, karinroberts875@icloud.com).

Nonfiction Book Group

The nonfiction book group is looking for books and presenters for future meetings.

Denise has two suggestions, but will not be able to present until late spring. Please send your suggestions to (denisegeorge@icloud.com), so that we can add to the list given below and select books for 2022:

The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race, by Walter Isaacson

Braiding Sweetgrass, by botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer

Great Decisions

Members who have signed up to participate in the 2022 Great Decisions group will be contacted as soon as the books arrive. Members will then decide meeting times and structure.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

AAUW National has suggested that branches consider issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion. This came to mind as I was reading an article by Rev. Dr. Kristen L. Harper titled "A Theology of Darkness" in which she notes, *"As a student of religion and race for many decades, I have been concerned about the consistent equating of darkness and blackness with negative qualities such as sin and despair...Phrases like 'dark mood' and 'dark night of the soul' only reinforce our negative feelings. We are taught to fear the dark—that all the monsters and demons come out in the dark. But those who hurt others under the guise of 'battling monsters' do so as much in the daylight as in the night".* She suggests becoming aware of these connotations and to *"Seek words to replace dark and black to describe a mood or experience...As you go about your week, seek positive black, brown and dark imagery."*

I've been thinking about adjectives to use in place of 'black' when I'm not describing a color, and quickly I found 'dire', 'woeful', 'nasty'. Add your own to the list.

If you would like to read the entire article including a lovely poem, here is the link:

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/theology-darkness>

Calendar

Jan 6	Legislative Preview
Jan 23	LTM
Jan 24	Advocacy Day

Coordinating Council 2021-2022

Carol Neal	Co-Facilitator	505-662-7256	the_neals@prodigy.net
Judy Prono	Co-Facilitator/Public Policy	505-662-2691	djprono@msn.com
Margaret Gibson	Treasurer	505-672-3609	mfgibson1943@yahoo.com
Alahna Weller	Membership	505-672-9539	acweller@comcast.net
Bev Cooper	Publicity	505-672-9696	bcooper@cybermesa.com
Maryjane Giesler	University Representative	505-662-5574	mgiesler@unm.edu
Denise George	Secretary/Newsletter/Webmaster	505-672-9688	denisegeorge@icloud.com
Marilyn Doolen	Diversity,Equity,Inclusion/Historian	505-672-3571	mtdoolen@aol.com
Appointed positions			
Helena Whyte	STEM	505-672-9153	mozden08@aol.com
Mary Ann Lindahl	Program/Hospitality	505-662-0995	moonbeamx@comcast.net
Open	Nominating		