

**Join AAUW Santa Fe for an Equal Pay Day Luncheon**

**Saturday, April 2, 2022, noon**

**Santa Fe Bar & Grill, De Vargas Center**

Our featured speaker will be Chief Administrative Officer for the city of Albuquerque Sarita Nair.



Sarita Nair was appointed Chief Administrative Officer by Mayor Tim Keller in December 2017. As CAO, she is the City's top senior executive manager, overseeing all 19 departments of municipal government and a budget of over \$1 billion.

Ms. Nair most recently served as the Office of the State Auditor's Chief Government Accountability Officer and General Counsel, where she successfully brought transparency and accountability to a variety of issues in state government, including addressing the statewide sexual assault evidence kit backlog, out-of-state contract spending, pay equity reporting, indigent health care funding and state agency fund balances.

Prior to that, Ms. Nair was a shareholder at the law firm of Sutin, Thayer & Browne, representing private companies and public entities in business and governance matters since 2004. As a business lawyer, she had the opportunity to work for a wide range of small and family businesses across New Mexico, to represent both companies and governments in industrial revenue bond and Local Economic Development Act transactions, and to understand first-hand the challenges of access to capital, succession planning and strategic growth that our local businesses face. Before entering private practice, Ms. Nair clerked for Judge Lynn Pickard at the New Mexico Court of Appeals.

Prior to her law career, Nair worked in the field of international development and consulted on policy initiatives for a number of organizations including the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the New York City Parks and Recreation Department.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Ms. Nair earned her bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University, a master's degree from the University of New Mexico School of Community and Regional Planning, and graduated magna cum laude from the University of New Mexico School of Law. Her daughter is a graduate of New Mexico State University. Ms. Nair can often be found in the mountains with her Great Dane-Boxer Mix.

Proof of vaccination and ID will be required, masks are optional.

For questions, or to RSVP do not respond to this email. Contact Jeanne Patrick by Tuesday, March 29 at [pres.jeannepatrick@gmail.com](mailto:pres.jeannepatrick@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. Attendance will be limited to 24 people, so reply early.

A check in the amount of \$28.95, made out to Anne L. May, needs to be brought to the lunch.

## Future Programs

- **May:** We will return to our traditional May tea. A highpoint will be meeting our scholarship recipient, Kara Webster. It will be time to replenish our scholarship fund in order to continue this tradition. We will elect the 2022-2023 Branch Council. Consider accepting an invitation to join the Council.

**Great Decisions 2022** meets via Zoom every other Thursday at 1:30 pm. The entire meeting schedule is at: [https://losalamos-nm.aauw.net/groups/#Great Decisions](https://losalamos-nm.aauw.net/groups/#Great_Decisions).

The remaining dates, topics and reviewers are:

April 14	Russia and the U.S.	Julie Van Camp
April 28	Biden's Agenda	Carroll Thomas
May 12	Myanmar and ASEAN	

## Nonfiction Book Group

The next meeting will be on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The book is Code Breaker by Walter Isaacson; Denise George is the reviewer, and will host the 7 pm meeting at 411 Cheryl Ave, WR. Please let Denise know if you are coming ([denisegeorge@icloud.com](mailto:denisegeorge@icloud.com), (505) 690-3534 or (505) 672-9688)

Dates have not been decided for The Last Queen by Clive Irving (Angela Coop reviewer) and Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer (Rozelle Wright reviewer).

## Book Group

The group will read Black Cake by Charmain Wilkerson for May, and the summer book is Perestroika in Paris by Jane Smiley

The April book is How it all Began by Penelope Liveley; the reviewer is Marilyn Thayer.

The April 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm meeting will be at Chris Sierk's, 4640 Ridgeway Dr, LA; please let Chris know if you will be coming ([acsierk@hotmail.com](mailto:acsierk@hotmail.com), (505) 662-3894 or (505) 660-8620 ).

The April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm meeting will be held via Zoom and will be hosted by Rozelle Wright who will send the meeting link.

## Public Policy Report-Post Legislative Session 2022

It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. In 30 days, New Mexico legislators approved funding and policy measures that will transform our state, advance equity, and improve our economy and quality of life. The governor is expected to sign most if not all of our top priority bills and the nearly \$8.5B budget, the largest in state's history. Thanks to record oil and gas revenues and flush with federal relief dollars, NM lawmakers had the resources to make significant investments and finally did so, but it was a truly grueling session. These investments will help us address some of the long-term effects of poverty, low educational achievement, housing instability, food insecurity, insufficient behavioral healthcare, substance abuse, domestic violence and other crime victims, and public safety.

Marathon floor sessions with tense, divisive partisan arguments were almost impossible to endure. The biggest loser was the voting rights protection and election reform legislation that was obstructed by endless debating, excessive amending, and shameful filibustering. We need to advocate for and implement better legislative processes, or fewer people will want to serve in our unpaid legislature.

Our planned advocacy efforts changed mid-session when we witnessed major pushback when urging legislators to support certain legislation. For instance, the more we and our coalition partners asked legislators to support a memorial to study Paid Family and Medical Leave, the more the measure was debated and stalled. The House version passed the committees but was never heard on the floor. The Senator Stewart fought back silly amendments and efforts to table during hours of debate on the floor. We were more successful in our advocacy to end predatory lending, but setting the interest cap at 36% barely made it through the process, even after Rep. Herrera showed charts demonstrating the effects of compounding. It took heart-breaking testimonies from borrowers who described the devastating impact on their lives when they couldn't repay loans at 175% and the escalated rates pushed them deeper in debt. Personal financial management instruction failed to get traction, but PED's new Social Studies Standards do include some principles.

**In contrast to the rancor on many issues, the legislature made monumental, transformative investments in education, early childhood through post- secondary. We testified at virtually every committee hearing that discussed education funding, which constitutes approximately half of New Mexico's budget in normal times.** The Yazzie-Martinez court orders stopped the usual arguments against spending any more money on K-12, ranked dead last nationally in outcomes. Legislators unanimously passed **SB1, sponsored by** Sen. Stewart, increasing starting salaries for Level 1, 2, and 3 teachers to \$50,000, \$60,000, and \$70,000 respectively. This investment should incentivize people to go into teaching as well as help address our severe teacher shortage. In addition to the 1100 plus teacher vacancies, impending teacher retirements add to the urgency to recruit and retain more teachers. Current teachers will have their salaries adjusted to address compaction, and all educational employees will receive a long-overdue 7% salary increase. Millions more will go into Indian Education, teacher residencies, and retirement funds.

The biggest game changer for NM and core to our mission is **SB140- Opportunity Scholarships Act** sponsored by Sen. Liz Stefanics and Rep. Joy Garratt. Qualified NM residents without bachelor's or associate degrees can receive free tuition and fees at any of NM's public post-secondary institutions if they meet and maintain eligibility requirements, including completing at least 6 credits a semester (fall and spring) with a 2.5 GPA. The program starts this fall and will cover tuition and fees for undergraduate NM residents wishing to pursue credit-bearing certificates in workforce shortage and high-need fields, such as health care, public safety, and technology; associate degrees (up to 90 credits); and/or bachelor's degrees (up to 160 credits). We need to get the word out to the approximately 35,000 adults who never completed college as well as to students who are struggling to afford college. There are no income eligibility requirements, and these scholarships can be used in summer semesters. Imagine the enhanced career opportunities and quality of life improvements that will result in higher graduation rates, workforce improvements, and more economic prosperity. NM is first-in-the-nation to offer free college!

Space limitations prevent me from elaborating on other successes, but here are a few notables from this session. The status of all of the bills we supported are in our shared MyRoundhouse, legislation tracker. We advocated successfully for the expansion of the Working Families Tax Credit, a new state-level Child Tax Credit, the NM Housing Trust, smart criminal justice and public safety measures, food programs to reduce hunger and health disparities, infrastructure spending, and more.

The pandemic is far from over, and our economy is still a bit uncertain, but we see great possibilities for the future. The partisan divide should improve after the general election in time for the 60-day legislative session in 2023. We will have a slew of new lawmakers from newly drawn districts setting new policies and deciding what to fund and sustain. Legislators will undertake major tax reform, and we will advocate for a fairer and more equitable policies. Having more money in the pockets of low-income individuals benefits families, communities, small businesses, and the state's economy. We will look back to the 55<sup>th</sup> legislature with tremendous gratitude for their remarkable accomplishments working under extreme uncertainty and unprecedented challenges.

Meredith Machen, AAUW-NM Public Policy Chair, [mermachen@cybermesa.com](mailto:mermachen@cybermesa.com), 505 577-6337.

2/21/22



**PATRICIA JEAN HARLOW Aug. 3, 1927 – March 17, 2022**

Patricia Jean (Nystuen) Harlow died peacefully on March 17, Saint Patrick's Day, 2022, in Los Alamos, New Mexico, at age 94.

She was born on August 3, 1927, in Room 2, at the Northfield Hospital in Northfield, Minnesota. Her mother, Mary Elizabeth (Cooley) Nystuen, was from Le Center, Minnesota, the youngest of eight children. Her father, Oscar Nystuen, was from Milford, Iowa, the sixth child in a family of nine.

Oscar was a supporter of crop rotation, specifically alfalfa preceding the preferred crop. Mary was a devoted schoolteacher and mother.

Patricia, a lifelong Episcopalian, was baptized in 1927 and confirmed in 1940 at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Northfield, Minnesota, a church on the National Register of Historic Places.

In Los Alamos, she was one of the original members of Trinity-on-the-Hill Episcopal Church (joining when it was still a mission church) and remained a devoted member until her death.

By high school, Patricia and her family had moved nine times, including a move to California. She graduated in 1945 from Oroville Union High School in Oroville, California. She enjoyed reading books from an early age, a passion that lasted her entire life. She was a dedicated letter writer and regularly corresponded with family and friends, maintaining lifelong connections through letters, cards, and photos.

After high school, Patricia moved to San Francisco and trained to work as a medical secretary. She loved living in San Francisco and particularly enjoyed a beautifully scenic walk to and from her first job. In the last days of her life, she often recalled how much she enjoyed her life there.

After a move to Seattle, Washington, Patricia attended the University of Washington and graduated in 1952 with a Bachelor of Arts in Geography. While she was a student, she worked half-time as a secretary in the physics department, where she met her future husband, Francis (Frank) Harvey Harlow. They were married on June 21, 1952, at the Christ Episcopal Church in Seattle.

Patricia and Frank moved to Los Alamos, New Mexico, where Frank had accepted a job at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Patricia embraced the 1950s model of devoted homemaker. She stayed at home to raise four children, kept an immaculate home, and prepared beautiful family meals. She hosted international foreign exchange students, played bridge, put together jigsaw puzzles, and hosted tea parties. Music was an important part of her life, and she enjoyed listening to classical music and opera daily. All her children learned to read music and play musical instruments.

After her children grew up and moved away from home, Patricia volunteered for decades at the Santa Fe Opera costume department and at the Museum of International Folk Art textile department in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She had a deep appreciation for handcrafts, folk, and fine art, and was a skilled seamstress, embroidery artist, and textile expert. Patricia and Frank curated a beautiful private collection that celebrated the Native American Pueblo communities of the Southwest. In addition, Patricia collected beautiful art from her Irish and Norwegian heritage, and from her travels to India, Australia, Europe, Japan, and China.

Patricia was steadfast in her lifelong devotion to the service of others.

Patricia was preceded in death by husband Frank (2016), daughter Carol (2014), sister Carol (2005), nephew Jeff (2021), brother-in-law Bruce (2021), and her friend of 74 years, Caroline Parpia (2021).

Patricia is survived by her children Catherine (Joseph), Celia, Keith; grandchildren Lisa, Adam, Clinton, Haely (David); five great-grandchildren, Liam, Ivy, Johnny, Daisy, Lily; brother and sister-in-law, John and Gwen; nieces Leslie, Deborah, Rebecca; and nephew Daniel.

Patricia donated her body to the University of New Mexico Medical School to be used for research. A memorial service will be held at Trinity-on-the-Hill Episcopal Church, to be announced at a later date. Donations to honor her life may be sent to the charity of one's choice.

### Calendar

Apr 2	Joint branch meeting with Santa Fe
Apr 4,5	Book Group
Apr 14	Great Decisions
Apr 18	Nonfiction Book Group
Apr 28	Great Decisions
May 12	Great Decisions

### Coordinating Council 2021-2022

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Mary Ann Lindahl	Program/Hospitality	505-662-0995	<a href="mailto:moonbeamx@comcast.net">moonbeamx@comcast.net</a>
<b>Open</b>	Nominating		