



*Fall Lunch*  
*Saturday, September 24, 11:30-2:00 pm*  
*Bethlehem Lutheran Gathering Space*  
*2390 North Road*

Come for an in-person get-together with your AAUW friends. There will be a lunch catered by Ruby K's. The price is \$15. Mary Ann Lindahl is asking you to **RSVP by Thursday** so she will know how much food to order; Please phone or text Mary Ann with your response at (505) 660-2259.

We will discuss and approve the Branch budget and sign-up for study groups.

A 2022 Tech Trek attendee will share her camp experiences at with us. Guests are welcome.

### State News

AAUW was instrumental in giving New Mexicans the opportunity to vote on Constitution Amendment 1 which will appear on our November ballots. Following are important facts to consider as you decide how to vote:

- The Permanent School Fund (*also known as the Land Grant Permanent Fund*) was **created in 1912** when New Mexico became a state.
- **Only the voters have the power** to change what percentage of the fund is withdrawn every year.
- It is a trust fund, but it differs from most trust funds because it has **two sources of income**: It receives money from oil, gas, and mineral production on 13 million acres of state lands. It also earns income on the investment of that money in the stock exchange.
- **It grows 11% per year** on average.

- The state constitution requires that **5% of the fund** be withdrawn every year to support public education, hospitals, and other beneficiaries.
- New Mexico's Permanent School Fund is currently valued at over **\$25 billion**.
- The Permanent School Fund ballot question will appear **on the back of your November 8 ballot** during the General Election.
- This question asks voters about **approving the distribution of an additional percentage (1.25%)** of the Fund for education.
- That would result in about **\$150 million in new funding available for early childhood education** (60% of the 1.25%) and roughly **\$100 million in additional funding for teachers and programs** (40% of the 1.25%) to address inequities in educational outcomes for students in our public schools.
- This additional funding will come from oil and gas revenues and interest on the fund's investments. It does **not raise taxes on New Mexicans**.

## This is how the funds will be spent:

- Hiring more teachers
- Expanding early childhood services like home visiting, high-quality child care, and pre-kindergarten
- Creating high school career technical education and job training programs
- Raising teacher salaries and increasing their benefits
- Supplying classroom technology
- Expanding mental health services for students and educators
- Hiring more student support staff, including counselors, social workers, psychologists, and nurses
- Expanding programs that support at-risk students
- Extending the school year for additional instruction (optional for communities)

## Great Decisions

Denise George will be ordering books for the 2023 Great Decisions group. Please let her know if you will be joining the group this year.

## Book Group

The October book is Small Island by Sandra Levy.

The Monday, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 7 pm meeting will be at Denise George's home, 411 Cheryl, WR. Let Denise know if you will attend

([denisegeorge@icloud.com](mailto:denisegeorge@icloud.com), (505) 690-3534).

The Tuesday, Oct 4<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting will be hosted by Rozelle Wright. Denise will lead the discussion at both meetings.

This year's schedule is found the **study group** tab of our website at: [2022-2023 Book Group Schedule](#).

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

## Nonfiction Book Group

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer (Rozelle Wright reviewer) will be the October book.

The Last Queen by Clive Irving (Angela Coop reviewer) will be the November book.

Tentative dates are October 17 and November 14. (Third Mondays)

## Calendar

Sept 24	Branch Lunch
Oct 3,4	Book Group
Oct 17	Nonfiction Book Group
Nov 14	Nonfiction Book Group

## Coordinating Council 2022-2023

Carol Neal	Co-Facilitator	505-662-7256	<a href="mailto:the_neals@prodigy.net">the_neals@prodigy.net</a>
Judy Prono	Co-Facilitator/Public Policy	505-662-2691	<a href="mailto:djprono@msn.com">djprono@msn.com</a>
Margaret Gibson	Secretary	505-672-3609	<a href="mailto:mfgibson332@gmail.com">mfgibson332@gmail.com</a>
Alahna Weller	Membership	505-672-9539	<a href="mailto:acweller@comcast.net">acweller@comcast.net</a>
Bev Cooper	Publicity	505-672-9696	<a href="mailto:bcooper@cybermesa.com">bcooper@cybermesa.com</a>
Maryjane Giesler	University Representative	505-662-5574	<a href="mailto:mgiesler@unm.edu">mgiesler@unm.edu</a>
Marilyn Doolen	Diversity,Equity,Inclusion/Historian	505-672-3571	<a href="mailto:mtdoolen@aol.com">mtdoolen@aol.com</a>
Mary Ann Lindahl	Treasurer	505-660-2259	<a href="mailto:moonbeamx@comcast.net">moonbeamx@comcast.net</a>
<b>Appointed positions</b>			
Helena Whyte	STEM	505-672-9153	<a href="mailto:mozden08@aol.com">mozden08@aol.com</a>
Nina Thayer	Hospitality		<a href="mailto:gnthayer@cybermesa.com">gnthayer@cybermesa.com</a>
Denise George	Newsletter/WEB	505-690-3534	<a href="mailto:denisegeorge@icloud.com">denisegeorge@icloud.com</a>
<b>Open</b>	Nominating		