



*Fall Lunch*  
*Saturday, September 23, 11:30-100 pm*  
*Bethlehem Lutheran Church*  
*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 September 18, Monday**, so she will know how much food to order; Please text or e-mail Mary Ann with your response at (505-660-2259, [moonbeamx@comcast.net](mailto:moonbeamx@comcast.net)). This is an opportunity for all members to reconnect after a long Covid-imposed gap in social gatherings.

We will discuss and approve the Branch budget and sign-up for study groups. Please think ahead to bring suggestions for future Out 'n About activities and for future branch programs.



This year, **three girls from Los Alamos Middle School attended Tech Trek**: Ana Saenz, Julia Zhou, and Maya Somasekharen. All three will attend the luncheon with their mothers and tell us about their experiences. They will share both highlights and takeaways from their

camp experiences. Come to hear about what Tech Trek meant to the campers themselves and learn a little of what they learned. It was fortuitous that three girls from Los Alamos were admitted to Tech Trek, so the luncheon gives us a unique opportunity to see Tech Trek through campers' eyes. Helena Whyte will also share camp videos. Don't miss the show!

## Great Decisions

Denise George will be ordering books for the 2024 Great Decisions group. Please let her know if you will be joining the group this year.

## Book Group

The September book is Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pel.

The Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 7 pm meeting will be at Karin Robert's home, 415 Cheryl, WR. Let Karin know if you will attend (505-672-9625, [karinroberts875@icloud.com](mailto:karinroberts875@icloud.com)).

The Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 1 pm meeting will be hosted by Rozelle Wright, 213 Barranca Rd, LA; please let Rozelle know if you will attend (505-662-5490, [bandwright@yahoo.com](mailto:bandwright@yahoo.com)).

Rozelle will lead the discussion at both meetings.

This year's schedule is found the **study group** tab of our website at: [2023-2024 AAUW 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

On September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm the group will discuss The Soul of an Octopus by Sy Montgomery (Nina Thayer reviewer). We will meet at Carol Neal's home, 3451 Urban, LA; please let her know if you will join us ([the\\_neals@prodigy.net](mailto:the_neals@prodigy.net), 505-662-7256).

The Wager by David Grann,  
A Fever in the Heartland by Timothy Egan,  
Susan, Linda, Nina and Cokie by Lisa Napoli are under consideration for subsequent months. If you wish to be added to the e-mail list for this group text Denise (505-690-3534).



## ERA The Equal Rights Amendment

AAUW National is focusing efforts on legal acceptance of ERA. I've included a brief summary, but for members interested in the legal constitutional issues involved in final certification please use this link: <https://www.equalrightsamendment.org/>

### If the ERA is ratified it would codify into law:

Equal protection from discrimination for **ALL people**, regardless of sex.

A clear federal judicial standard for deciding cases of sex discrimination.

Provide a strong legal defense against a rollback of women's rights.

**(including but not limited to: Roe v. Wade & the Lilly Ledbetter Act)**

Improve the United States' standing in the world community. The governing documents of **many other countries already affirm legal gender equality.**



### What is it:

ERA first proposed in 1923, is an amendment to the United States Constitution that guarantees equality of rights under the law for all persons regardless of sex.

As of January 27, 2020, the ERA has satisfied the requirements of Article V of the Constitution for ratification (passage by two-thirds of each house of Congress and approval by three-fourths of the states).

Leading constitutional scholars agree that the ERA is now part of the Constitution. Because of issues raised about its unique ratification process, the Archivist of the United States has not yet taken the final ministerial step of publishing the ERA in the *Federal Register* with certification of its ratification as the 28th Amendment.

## Why it's needed:

While women enjoy more rights today than they did when the ERA was first introduced in 1923 or when it passed out of Congress in 1972, hard-won laws against sex discrimination do not rest on any unequivocal constitutional foundation. They can be inconsistently enforced or even repealed by a simple majority vote. Elements of sex discrimination remain in statutory and case law, and courts have had difficulty applying a consistent standard to gender-based classifications, which are not inherently suspect or comparable to racial or ethnic classifications under equal-protection analysis.

The need for a federal Equal Rights Amendment remains as compelling as it was in 1978, when now Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote in the *Harvard Women's Law Journal*: "With the Equal Rights Amendment, we may expect Congress and the state legislatures to undertake in earnest, systematically and pervasively, the law revision so long deferred. And in the event of legislative default, the courts will have an unassailable basis for applying the bedrock principle: All men and all women are created equal."

## A brief history of ratification in the states:

### **New Mexico ratified Feb. 28, 1973 !!!**

The Equal Rights Amendment was passed by Congress on March 22, 1972 and sent to the states for ratification. In order to be added to the Constitution, it needed approval by legislatures in three-fourths (38) of the 50 states.

By 1977, the legislatures of 35 states had approved the amendment. In 1978, Congress voted to extend the original March 1979 deadline to June 30, 1982. However, no additional states voted yes before that date, and the ERA fell three states short of ratification.

The 15 states that did not ratify the Equal Rights Amendment before the 1982 deadline were Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, and Virginia.

On March 22, 2017, 45 years to the day after Congress passed the ERA, Nevada became the 36th state to ratify it. On May 30, 2018, Illinois became the 37th state. And, in a historic vote to become the 38th state to ratify, the state of Virginia voted to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment on January 15, 2020.

However: **Five states have voted to rescind or otherwise withdraw their ratification of the ERA.**

Nebraska:1973, Tennessee:1974, Idaho:1977, Kentucky:1978, South Dakota:1979

### **Can a state legally rescind their ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment?**

Article V of the Constitution speaks only to the states' power to ratify an amendment but not to the power to rescind a ratification. All precedents concerning state rescissions of ratifications indicate that such actions are not valid and that the constitutional amendment process as described in Article V allows only for ratification. It is most likely that the actions of the five states — Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Tennessee — that voted to rescind their ratification of the ERA between 1972 and 1982 are a legal nullity.

## Calendar

Sept 23	Branch Lunch
Sept 11,12	Book Group
Sept 25	Nonfiction Book Group

## Coordinating Council 2023-2024

Carroll Thomas	Co-Facilitator	505-662-7617	<a href="mailto:carrthom58@earthlink.net">carrthom58@earthlink.net</a>
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Alahna Weller		505-672-9539	<a href="mailto:acweller@comcast.net">acweller@comcast.net</a>
Denise George	Newsletter/WEB	505-690-3534	<a href="mailto:denisegeorge@icloud.com">denisegeorge@icloud.com</a>
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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	505-690-7824	<a href="mailto:mozden08@aol.com">mozden08@aol.com</a>
Nina Thayer	Hospitality	505-231-6312	<a href="mailto:gnthayer@cybermesa.com">gnthayer@cybermesa.com</a>
Bev Cooper	Publicity	505-672-9696	<a href="mailto:bcooper@cybermesa.com">bcooper@cybermesa.com</a>
<b>Open</b>	Nominating		