

# Hilltopics



There will be no branch general meeting in October.

So, Mark your calendars for upcoming events!!

Coming up in November is an **Out 'n About** excursion on **Saturday, Nov 4**, arranged by Nina Thayer to visit the new Vladem Contemporary Art Museum, located at 404 Montezuma Ave, Santa Fe. Lunch at Tomasita's will follow our museum visit.

Los Alamos folks, please meet at 9:30 in the United Church parking lot on Rose Street. White Rock folks, please call or text Denise to arrange car pools. (505-690-3534). If you have not signed up, text or phone Nina at (505-231-6312) to be added to the list.

Shadow and Light, the inaugural exhibition at the Vladem Contemporary plays upon the famed New Mexico light which is credited for attracting artists and photographers to the region for decades. More importantly, the theme illustrates one of the original notions behind the founding of the New Mexico Museum



of Art—the belief that the impact of the arts is far greater than simple replication and illustration. The arts engage the big ideas and experiences of human life.

While the light of New Mexico is commonly associated with representational landscape paintings, the West has also nurtured and attracted artists who struggled to capture and express more than mere naturalistic representation in their artwork. Filling two galleries of the newly constructed New Mexico Museum of Art Vladem Contemporary, the exhibition looks at artworks from the mid-20th century through the present day with eye towards the West and Southwest, and this desire for a visual experience that could convey more than the empirical. Transcendental Painting Group members and acclaimed New Mexico artists Emil Bisttram and Florence Miller Pierce are at the start of an arc that unfolds to reinforce the connection between the work the Museum of Art has always supported and trends in contemporary art practice and art history. In this specific case, connections are drawn between the nonphysical realms the TPG aspired to, the perceptual experience of the light and space movement, physical engagement of early land art, and contemporary projects like the indigenous futurism of Cochiti artist Virgil Ortiz.

In December join us for lunch on Saturday, the 9<sup>th</sup> at Rancho de Chimayo. We will have a guest speaker and celebrate the 11th year of our service project benefiting LA Cares. A committee will purchase fresh fruit, such as apples, pears, and oranges, and will prepare festive bags to be placed in each box distributed by LA Cares during its monthly food distribution in December.

We are asking for contributions to purchase fruit to provide this holiday treat. If possible, we encourage members to make their donations early by mailing a check to Denise George, 411 Cheryl Ave, White Rock, NM, 87547 (make the check out to Denise). It is best to have the contributions in hand so that Mary Ann Lindahl will know how much fruit to order. We will also accept donations at the luncheon. Karin Roberts will be asking for help to pack the fruit gift bags.





The highpoint of our fall lunch was hearing from two of the girls who attended Tech Trek. The best part of their summer; everything was perfect, the workshops, the field trips, the food, the Game of Life (financial literacy activity), the evening meet and greet with professional women, the math games night. They are already asking how they can sign-up to be junior counselors. Watching Helena's camp slide show, we all wished this opportunity would be

available to more girls. Thanks for supporting Tech Trek.

# **Book Group**

The October book is <u>Crossing Places</u> by Elly Griffiths. Linda McLellan will lead the discussion at both meetings.

The Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> 7 pm meeting will be at Merete Nieto's home, 1291 45<sup>th</sup> St. Let Merete know if you will attend (505-662-2271, meretehn@aol.com)

The Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1 pm hybrid Zoom meeting, will be facilitated by Rozelle Wright at the Episcopal Church. Let Rozelle know if you will attend (505-662-5490, <a href="mailto:bandrwright@yahoo.com">bandrwright@yahoo.com</a>). She will send out the Zoom link. She is requesting volunteers to bring refreshments.

This year's schedule is found under the <u>study</u> group tab of our website or use this link: 2023-2024 AAUW Book Group Schedule:

# **Nonfiction Book Group**

Our next meeting will be on December 11, 7pm. Sue Watts will lead the discussion on <u>All that She Carried</u> by Tina Miles. We need a hostess!

# **Great Decisions 2024**

If you were not a member last year and would like to join or would like a book, please let Denise know (<a href="mailto:denisegeorge@icloud.com">denisegeorge@icloud.com</a>, 505-690-3534)

The books normally arrive in time to begin meeting at the end of January. We will meet in the White Rock Public Library every two weeks, date and time to be decided by members. If you wish to reserve leadership for a given topic, let Denise know. Zoom will be available.

#### Mideast Realignmen by Marc Lynch

The United States and Middle East are at a crossroads. In spite of a reduced presence in the Middle East, the U.S. still has significant national interests there and the area is a key arena for global power politics. Can the U.S. continue to defend its interests in the Middle East and globally with a lower level of military and political involvement, or should it recommit to a leading role in the region?

# Climate technology and competition by Bud Ward

Will the United States and China, with other powerful countries following suit, approach current and future climate initiatives with an increased commitment to trade protectionism and nationalism, by various measures including trade restrictions? Or could a growing spirit of international accord develop to confront the "common enemy" of climate change?

# Science across borders by Mila Rosenthal

Scientific advances benefit from collaboration between researchers, but what happens when material, such as

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is controversial and important to a nation's national security? Is there a middle

ground between sharing information and denying access? How can we regulate cooperation?

# **U.S. -China trade rivalry** by Jonathan Chanis

China's economic rise and its current policies of increasing the role of the state in the economy have led some U.S. policymakers to seek to deny China access to U.S. technology and investment. This is seen as a necessary corrective to decades of predatory Chinese economic policies. Is this a wise strategy, and how effective can it be?

# NATO's future by Sarwar Kashmeri

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has come under increased scrutiny, not because NATO troops are involved in the conflict, but because of its role in relations between Russia and its neighbors. Will expanding membership in NATO protect countries, or will it further provoke Russia?

#### **Understanding Indonesia** by Charles Sullivan

Despite its large size, Indonesia remains virtually invisible to most Americans. But as one of the world's largest democracies, the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, and as an economic driver of ASEAN ,why does it fly below the radar? What are current issues in U.S.-Indonesian relations, and what role can the country play in Asia?

# High Seas Treaty by FPA editors

Areas of the seas beyond national jurisdiction comprise the high seas, which are facing a degradation of ecosystems due to climate change and the increase in human activities, such as shipping, overfishing, pollution, and deep-sea mining. The recently negotiated High Seas Treaty, also known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty, will attempt to address these issues. How difficult will it be to convince nations to participate?

#### Pandemic preparedness by Carolyn Reynolds

Looking back at the covid-19 pandemic, there are many lessons to take away in terms of domestic and international policies. Although this pandemic seems to have waned, how can we apply these lessons to future pandemics? Will countries cooperate, and will a consensus emerge on how to manage global health challenges?

## Calendar

Oct 2,3 | Book Group

# **Coordinating Council 2023-2024**

Carroll Thomas	Co-Facilitator	505-662-7617	carrthom58@earthlink.net
Judy Prono	Co-Facilitator/Public Policy	505-662-2691	djprono@msn.com
Linda McLellan	Secretary	505-690-3939	lindamclellan@msn.com
Alahna Weller	Membership	505-672-9539	acweller@comcast.net
Denise George	Newsletter/WEB	505-690-3534	denisegeorge@icloud.com
Maryjane Giesler	University Representative	505-662-5574	mgiesler@unm.edu
Marilyn Doolen	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion/Historian	505-672-3571	mtdoolen@aol.com
Mary Ann Lindahl	Treasurer	505-660-2259	moonbeamx@comcast.net
Appointed			
positions			
Helena Whyte	STEM	505-690-7824	mozden08@aol.com
Nina Thayer	Hospitality/Pubic Policy	505-231-6312	gnthayer@cybermesa.com
Bev Cooper	Publicity	505-672-9696	bcooper@cybermesa.com
Open	Nominating		