

**Branch meeting—Friday, March 14 at 2 pm, on Zoom  
Leadership Los Alamos Program  
Kirsten Bell**



Join us in learning about Leadership Los Alamos (LLA), a unique program for those who live in Los Alamos County to expand their knowledge about our community and develop leadership skills. Our speaker will be Kirsten Bell, chair of the LLA Board of Directors. This 9-month program nurtures participants in such skills as strategic thinking, collaboration, and ethical decision making. The program is open to both men and women, but Bell will touch on how it offers women the knowledge and networking they might not find elsewhere to grow their careers. Join our Zoom meeting to learn more about this important community resource. Save this link:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/81659246447?pwd=QltW1gSLusLvNJh9WxuvoJGPiauZEJ.1>

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**DEI: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion**

Laura Loving is our branch DEI officer, and we are fortunate to have her share the following insights:

I have access to webinars, conversations and models from around the country for moving forward to be a more welcoming and accessible group for women interested in AAUW. This month I'd like to share where we start—with ourselves. In order to be institutionally sound as a diverse and inclusive chapter, we need to contemplate and model behaviors and attitudes that will get us where we want to go. So here are some initial steps to think about in these tumultuous times: How can we improve/increase our skills for difficult conversations? (and you know we're having them!)

1. Examine our motives as we enter a conversation. Ask honestly, "Do I have an agenda? Am I trying to convince the other person how right I am?"
2. Be curious, open to new perspectives. Wonder how the other person got there. Imagine what you might learn.
3. LISTEN (need I say more? Don't just wait for your turn to talk.)
4. Remind yourself that it's normal to be frustrated or confused when you experience cognitive dissonance in the conversation.
5. The goal of this kind of conversation is to increase awareness on BOTH sides, not to win.

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A second concept for us to learn is about “attribution bias.” We often cut ourselves a break while holding others to more rigorous critique. We make up attributes for them that we wouldn’t claim for ourselves. For example, “She’s always late because she doesn’t care about the meeting the way I do.” Or, “It’s part of their culture to be late.” Hey! Have I ever been late because I caught my skirt in the door and ripped it and had to go back? Or couldn’t find my keys? How about attributing those possibilities to someone we make assumptions about and criticize?

Finally, remember that there are three parts to consider in our conversations:

1. How clearly did I express my thoughts, point of view or opinion? Was I clear?
2. Can I articulate the other person’s point after hearing them speak? (Was I really listening and understanding?)
3. Are there insights that I’ve gained from hearing the “other side” of the argument—things that provide a broader perspective?

Each one of us has the opportunity to be welcoming, sensitive to differences and inclusive in our outlook and behavior. Let’s take/brush up on these first steps and then contemplate how we can grow as a chapter in this respect!

Next time we will examine the Wheel of Privilege and how it influences our attitudes and behaviors.

Stay tuned and thank you for this chance to serve AAUW.  
Laura Loving, Branch DEI Chair

## **Book Group**

The March book is James by Percival Everett. Laura Loving will review at both meetings.

The March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm meeting will be hosted by Chris Sierk, 4653 Trinity. Please let Chris know if you will attend (505-660-8620 or [acsierk@hotmail.com](mailto:acsierk@hotmail.com)).

The February 4<sup>th</sup>, 1pm meeting will be at Sherril Hall, Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church. Call or e-mail Rozelle Wright at 505-662-5490 or [bandrwright@yahoo.com](mailto:bandrwright@yahoo.com) if you will attend.

## **Nonfiction Book Group**

The next meeting will be April 21, when we will discuss Becoming Earth: How our Planet Came to Life by Ferris Jabr. Denise George will be the host and lead the discussion.

## **Out’n About**

Museum visit postponed due to unavailability of docent. Stay tuned.

## Public Policy

Denise George has been sending out and will continue to send out alerts of legislation that supports AAUW goals: for example, education, health care, social policy. Contact your legislators and express your opinions; remember numbers count.

[roberto.gonzales@nmlegis.gov](mailto:roberto.gonzales@nmlegis.gov) White Rock senator

[Christine.Chandler@nmlegis.gov](mailto:Christine.Chandler@nmlegis.gov) County representative

[leo.jaramillo@nmlegis.gov](mailto:leo.jaramillo@nmlegis.gov) Los Alamos senator

## Great Decisions

This group meets every other Thursday at the White Rock library. Meetings are hybrid: in-person and by Zoom. Branch members who have not joined the group are welcome to sample a Zoom session, Denise ([denisegeorge@icloud.com](mailto:denisegeorge@icloud.com), 505-690-3534) will be happy to send out a link if asked.

2025 Great Decisions Schedule. Remaining meetings

Date	Topic	Presenter
March 13	#1 American Foreign Policy at a Global Crossroads	Judy Prono
March 27	#4 India: between China, the West, Global South	Marilyn Doolen
April 10	#5 International Climate Cooperation in an Era of Geopolitical Turmoil	Rosemarie Frederickson
April 24	#2 The Evolution of U.S. Leadership in the Global Economy: Dilemmas and Choices	Margaret Gibson
Margaret Gibson	#3 Competition, Cold War or conflict? Navigating U.S.-China Relations in Tense Time	Mona Wecksung

## Tech Trek Un-Tea

Carol Neal and her helpers Nina Thayer and Judy Prono mailed out requests for donations to 2025 Tech Trek. You should have received your invitation; please remember to use the pre-addressed envelope and contribute what you can.

## Calendar

March 3,4	Book Group
Mar 13	Great Decisions
Mar 14	Branch Program (Zoom)
Mar 27	Great Decisions

## Coordinating Council 2024-2025

Judy Prono	Facilitator	505-412 3769	<a href="mailto:djprono@msn.com">djprono@msn.com</a>
Linda McLellan	Secretary	505-690-3939	<a href="mailto:lindamclellan@msn.com">lindamclellan@msn.com</a>
Mary Ann Lindahl	Membership/Treasurer	505-660-2259	<a href="mailto:moonbeamx@comcast.net">moonbeamx@comcast.net</a>
Laura Loving	Diversity-Equity-Inclusion	262-853-4138	<a href="mailto:lalsfnm@gmail.com">lalsfnm@gmail.com</a>
Denise George	Newsletter/WEB	505-690-3534	<a href="mailto:denisegeorge@icloud.com">denisegeorge@icloud.com</a>
Nina Thayer	Public Policy	505-231-6312	<a href="mailto:gnthayer@cybermesa.com">gnthayer@cybermesa.com</a>
Carroll Thomas	At Large	505-662-7617	<a href="mailto:carrthom58@earthlink.net">carrthom58@earthlink.net</a>
Bev Cooper	Publicity	505-672-9696	<a href="mailto:bcooper@cybermesa.com">bcooper@cybermesa.com</a>
<b>Appointed positions</b>			
Karin Roberts	Hospitality	505-709-8930	<a href="mailto:karinroberts875@icloud.com">karinroberts875@icloud.com</a>
Helena Whyte	STEM	505-690-7824	<a href="mailto:mozden08@aol.com">mozden08@aol.com</a>
Maryjane Giesler	University Representative	505-662-5574	<a href="mailto:mgiesler@unm.edu">mgiesler@unm.edu</a>
<b>Open</b>	Nominating		

