

Branch Activities

*There will be no branch meeting in April. The council encourages our members to try one of our study groups; all are open to all members, and joining the discussions has no prerequisite. Try one out for a dose of learning among friends, and sometimes share a tasty treat.

*We do have a treat in store for May. Mark your calendars for our **Spring Tea on Friday, May 9, 4:00pm** at the Gathering Space of Bethlehem Lutheran Church featuring **Bev Branch's "Women of the Mesa" presentation and slide show.**

*On March 14, Kirsten Bell, Chair of the **Leadership Los Alamos (LLA)** Board of Directors, talked about the program's history and impact in our county.

Since its founding in 2003, it has graduated over 350 leaders. Interestingly, almost three quarters of its graduates are women, so the program has had an outsized impact on women who live and/or work in Los Alamos. LLA is a 501(c)(3) organization run solely by volunteers.

Participants pay \$800 tuition for the 9-month program, though scholarships for up to \$400 are available. Among alumni are Kirsten herself, Christine Chandler, Carol Clark, Ryn Herrmann, and Anne Laurent. Participants must work or live in Los Alamos.

The program focuses on educating participants of the opportunities and needs of our community, helping them develop interpersonal relationships and a sense of esprit de corps, providing opportunities for hands-on leadership experience, and offering opportunities for interactions with current community leaders. In terms of the program's impact on women in our community, Kirsten felt it offered them networking opportunities and helped them build both self-confidence and a willingness to take risks.

As a side note, in discussions before her talk, Kirsten commented that she had grown up in Los Alamos. She was not only a friend of Helena's daughter, but remembered Helena as her girl scout leader, and remembered Karin Roberts as her kindergarten teacher in White Rock. It is a small world. *(Summary of talk provided by Judy Prono)*

Since many of us missed the meeting, I will send out Kristen Bell's slide presentation along with the newsletter.

*The New Mexico state convention, "**Our Stories - Our Strengths**", will be held April 25 and 26 in Mesilla. The convention brochure is included at the end of this newsletter. If any of the convention sessions are available on Zoom, I will forward the link.

Book Group

The April book is Becoming Madam Secretary by Stephanie Dray. Debby Hyman will review at both meetings.

The April 7th 7pm meeting will be hosted by Merete Nieto, 1391 45th St. Please let Merete know if you will attend (505-662-2271 or meretehn@aol.com).

The April 8th, 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 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. Please let Denise know if you will attend (505 690-3534 or denisegeorge@icloud.com).

Out'n About

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

Public Policy

Sadly, the Medical Leave Act passed the house, but died in the senate finance committee. Many Think NM bills addressing doctor shortage also failed to be passed.

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, 505-690-3534) will be happy to send out a link if asked.

2025 Great Decisions Schedule. Remaining meetings

Date	Topic	Presenter
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	Group
May 8	#3 Competition, Cold War or conflict? Navigating U.S.-China Relations in Tense Time	Mona Wecksung

Calendar

April 7,8	Book Group
April 10	Great Decisions
April 21	Nonfiction book group
April 24	Great Decisions

Coordinating Council 2024-2025

Judy Prono	Facilitator	505-412 3769	djprono@msn.com
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Appointed positions			
Karin Roberts	Hospitality	505-709-8930	karinroberts875@icloud.com
Helena Whyte	STEM	505-690-7824	mozden08@aol.com
Maryjane Giesler	University Representative	505-662-5574	mgiesler@unm.edu
Open	Nominating		