



Spring Tea and Annual Meeting

Friday, May 9, 4:00-5:30 pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Gathering Space, 2390 North Rd

Featuring:

WOMEN of the MESA by Beverly Branch

Branch studied to be an illustrator, and is a classically trained oil painter. She learned the three European traditions – Still Life, Landscape, and Portraiture. She studies drawing, anatomy, and composition. As for methodology, Branch finds oils to be more tactile than acrylics and uses glazes to tone down her imagery, letting it “sit together.” As a finishing touch, she scumbles with a dry brush, bouncing light off certain areas on the canvas to catch the viewer’s eye.

Branch’s “art gene” was passed through her mother and grandmother. Painting figurative portraits makes sense of her world and urges the viewer to see grace in the everyday. She paints stories of people she loves and illustrates that “storytelling is hardwired into our very biology.”

After a career as a designer and Illustrator on the East Coast, Branch built an off grid house in Carson, where the sacred Sangre de Cristo mountains and exquisite silence embrace her. Branch’s calling, heard by so many artists who moved west at the turn of the 20th century, holds the lineage of the Taos Society of Artists. The TSA are known for painting Native peoples in contemplation amidst the New Mexico landscape, simultaneously capturing the ethereal nuances of the Southwestern light. Branch remembers viewing TSA original studies and thinking, “That’s me. It felt like I came home.” She says, “Landscape is nothing without people. The sky I deeply love in all her moods is astounding, happening every day, with or without somebody seeing it. I choose to include the viewer, you, with my people and provide a touchstone of just how magnificent our world is.”

Branch’s exhibition showcases a wide variety of women and children who love and honor the land. Though disconnected from the national energy grid, these people flourish. “It’s not just about splitting wood and hauling water, Off-Grid is about living within means, being resourceful and caring about the integrity of the land, with its gritty wind and glorious skies, the lizards, the wildflowers, the walking rain. Everyday the mountains assure Branch she belongs in this rough-hewn life, where the messages received have no ownership in time or place.



Carole - Music in the Dome by Beverly Branch Oil on Canvas - 30"w x 20"h **\$2,100**



Angie 2 - VolunTuesdays by Beverly Branch Oil on Canvas 24"w x 40"h \$3,300

For purchasing information, please contact artist Beverly Branch at 203-240-1317 or branchartstudios@gmail.com. High quality prints in smaller sizes can also be ordered.

We will elect new Council members, hear about our UNM-LA scholarship winners and Tech Trek and enjoy refreshments provide by Council members.

Branch Council Slate

Members beginning a new two-year term:

Judy Prono

Linda McLellan

Members returning for their second year of a two-year term:

Denise George

Bev Cooper

Nina Thayer

Mary Ann Lindahl

Laura Loving

Branch Council Members Needed

Council needs new blood, and there is room for two more members. This coming year, continuing members will fill major Council positions. Council is looking for at-large members would be responsible for attending meetings (held once a month on Zoom), and adding new ideas and opinions as we deal with a maturing membership. Please consider joining us! [Contact Judy Prono \(djprono@msn.com\)](mailto:djprono@msn.com) for more information.

Report from your DEI Officer, Laura Loving:

1. Hey, all, in wrestling with how to keep our focus on DEI without having the acronym creating acrimony, we learned of a new acronym: JEDI! for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. So now consider me your **JEDI warrior**!
2. I want to share with you an official response released on March 20, 2025 by the National AAUW on the disruption and dismantling of the Department of Education. Because we advocate for equity in education, this issue is germane to our mission.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) unequivocally condemns President Trump's executive order "Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and

Communities" dismantling the U.S. Department of Education.

"This reckless and shortsighted action threatens to gut vital protections that ensure equal access to higher education and will have devastating consequences for students — especially women, students of color, and those from low-income backgrounds — who rely on federal oversight for their right to an equitable education," said Gloria L. Blackwell, CEO of AAUW. "Eliminating the Department of Education would decimate federal civil rights enforcement, slash protections against gender-based discrimination, and roll back decades of progress toward making higher education accessible and affordable. This decision is not about streamlining government; it is about stripping students of their rights and futures."

We may not all share the same political views, but we can agree that women students are vulnerable in this process, so I encourage you to read more about the impact of these government actions at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-condemns-executive-order-to-dismantle-the-u-s-department-of-education/>

Nonfiction Book Group

The next meeting will be on June 9, 7pm. The book is A Passionate Mind in Relentless Pursuit by Noliwe Rooks (about Mary McLeod Bethune); the discussion leader is Laura Loving. We need a host; contact Denise to volunteer or to be added to the e-mail list for this group. (denisegeorge@icloud.com)

Book Group

The May book is There There by Tommy Orange. The reviewer is Cynthia Biddlecomb. The May 5, 7pm meeting is at the home of Karin Roberts, 415 Cheryl Ave. Let Karin know if you are coming (karinroberts875@icloud.com, 505-672-9625)

The 1pm, May 6th meeting will be held at the home of Lynn Havel, 364 Cheryl Ave. Let Lynn know if you are coming. (lhavel@hotmail.com, 505-695-0745))

Great Decisions

This study group has its last meeting May 8 and will resume next year. Sign up at the fall luncheon to join us for a series of discussions on Foreign Policy issues

Out'n About

We are always looking for suggestions:

AAUW Dues:

AAUW National Individual Membership dues are now \$74; National dues are tax deductible.

State dues are \$18

Branch are \$20

If you are a life member you will owe \$38.

Otherwise, the total is \$112.

Honorary life members (50 years members) are not required to pay national, state or branch dues.

Our treasurer, Mary Ann Lindahl, will be at the tea and will explain how to renew your dues.

AAUW-Los Alamos Scholarship at UNM-Los Alamos:

Each year our Los Alamos Branch of AAUW tries to offer a \$1000 scholarship to a “non-traditional woman” student at UNM—Los Alamos. By “non-traditional” we mean a woman who is returning to school after some years not engaged in higher education. Because of some unusual circumstances, we did not have a recipient during Fall Semester 2024, but we did award two scholarships, each of \$500, for the current Spring Semester 2025. The recipients are Sara Louise Lujan and Alagandra Pizano Mendez.

As of April 15, we have a balance of \$532.79 in our scholarship account at the University of New Mexico Foundation (the Foundation administers our scholarship funds—which allows our donations to be tax deductible). Thus, we need to raise some money to be able to offer a \$1000 scholarship for the 2025-26 academic year. If you wish to donate to this scholarship, we will be accepting checks at the Spring Tea. Any donation check should be written to the **University of New Mexico Foundation** and noting in the memo line, **for AAUW-Los Alamos scholarship at UNM-LA.**

Checks collected at the spring Tea will be hand-delivered to the accountant at UNM—LA, thus helping to ensure the donations get into the correct account.

If you wish donate at a time other than Spring Tea, please send a check written as instructed above mail it to: AAUW-Los Alamos

P.O. Box 272

Los Alamos, NM 87544

Calendar

May 5,6	Book Group
May 9	Branch Meeting- Spring Tea

Coordinating Council 2024-2025

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