



In This Issue

[Feb 8 Branch Meeting](#)

[From our President](#)

[Support Tech Trek](#)

[Interest Groups](#)

[Volunteer - Girls Can! March 8](#)

[All Above Board](#)

[OF NOTE](#)

[AAUW-NM Roadrunner](#)

[Vote Feb 4](#)

[Estate Planning Conference](#)

[Branch Website](#)

Feb 8 Branch Joint Meeting With LC League of Women Voters to Discuss Regional Affordable Housing Study

Fact: A recent report from the City of Las Cruces shows that 4,700 households in the city cannot find affordable rental units.

In 2010, the **League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces** undertook a study of affordable housing in our region. League presenters will provide an updated version of their study at our **upcoming general meeting in a joint session with the Las Cruces League of Women Voters on Saturday, Feb 8 at 10 am in the Good Samaritan Auditorium**, Buena Vida Circle off Telshor Blvd. Members of both groups are invited to attend. The meeting is free and open to the public.

They will discuss the need for affordable housing locally, share information about which organizations provide services, and talk about related issues and controversies. Presenters at the meeting will be **Jane Carter, Vicki Simons** and **Christina Little**. **Charlotte McCarthy** is acknowledged for her invaluable work as editor and researcher for the study.

In addition, **AAUW is offering a Membership special rate** for new members who join at our February meeting. See

Upcoming General Meetings & Events

Saturday, Feb 8 - 10 am
Good Samaritan Auditorium
League of Women Voters:
Chris Little, Vicki Simons &
Jane Carter
Research on Las Cruces area
Affordable Housing

Saturday, March 8 - 8 am - noon
Lynn Middle School
GIRLS CAN! Career Conference
AAUW and Community
Professional Women

details in the **Above Board** section of this newsletter. This interesting program offers an excellent opportunity to bring a guest!



Jane Carter

Jane Carter has been a League member for 15 years - both in Las Cruces and in Ohio. Most importantly, she is a 20-year volunteer with Habitat for Humanity here in Las Cruces. In that role, she has played an integral role in running the operation as construction coordinator, grant writer, office manager, and purchasing agent. Jane has worked with both federal and city grants and has a working knowledge of these programs. While in Ohio she was a Liquid and Solid Waste expert, and expanded League action into developing an EPA Facilities Plan for funding the upgrading of a sewage treatment plant for a community of 5,000. Legally blind since 2008, she hasn't let her handicap slow her down at all.



Vicki Simons

Vicki Simons is the person who identified the need for a League study on affordable housing. She has a distinguished League history as past president of the League of Women Voters of Las Cruces and past Action and Health Care Chair for the League of Women Voters of New Mexico. In past years, Vicki spent much of her time and energy working with Health Security for New Mexicans campaign. As a member of the Affordable Housing Committee, she regularly observes meetings of the Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority. **Vicki is an AAUW member** and is an active member of both the daytime and evening bridge groups.

Christina Little has been a League member for 40 years and has served as president of three Leagues. Since moving to Las Cruces, she has developed two

Tuesday, April 8 - 6 pm
Branigan Library Roadrunner Rm
Krysten Aguilar, La Semilla Food Center
Food for Border Communities

Tuesday, May 13 - 6 pm
Branigan Library Roadrunner Rm
Lyla Jordan - A Tour of the Seychelles Islands

Tuesday, June 3
END OF YEAR PARTY
Location and Time TBD

VOTE! **SCHOOL DISTRICT** **BOND & MILL LEVY** **ELECTION FEB 4**

Since AAUW is an organization with a strong commitment to education, it is very important that all members exercise their voting rights and vote in the upcoming School Bond and Mill Levy election on Tuesday, February 4. Passage of these bond issues will not result in a tax increase.

The bond issue will fund a variety of essential items, including renovated classrooms, improvements to instructional areas, safety, and other building needs. Renewal of the 3 mill public schools building tax will provide funds to maintain and repair all schools.

Early voting takes place at the Dona Ana County Government Center on Motel Blvd. and will be available until January 31. Information on where to vote on February 4 is available From the Bureau of Elections at 647-7428 or at

- www.lcps.k12.nm.us

You can also visit the web site for detailed information about the projects in the bond issue.



Christina Little

separate databases of social and community services and served as a Commissioner on the Housing Authority. Currently, she operates the Interagency Council, which is a networking group and communication tool for social service providers. **An AAUW member**, Chris has served as both Treasurer and OMV editor for the Local Branch.

A summary paper of the study can be viewed on the League's webpage. Click on this link:

http://www.lwvglc.org/lwvglc_affordable_housing.pdf

from our President Bonnie Eisenberg -

Tuesday, Feb 4 is Voting Day for a very important School Bond and Mill Levy measure. The turnout for these kinds of election is always very light, so every vote counts. Support your public schools by voting in this important election. Precincts have been condensed for this election, so if you are not sure of your polling place, click on the link below:

<http://lcps.k12.nm.us/2013/11/26/2014-lcps-bond-early-voting-and-election-day-voting/>

Also, early voting continues at the County Administration Center on Motel until Jan 31.

We have a little bit of business to conduct at the February branch general meeting, a membership **vote on the chair of the nominating committee** for next year's officers. **We need a quorum for the vote**, so I hope to see many smiling faces in the audience. There is a **membership special running this month, so it would also be a good time to bring a friend or neighbor to the meeting.**

Elsewhere in this newsletter I talk about **Girls Can!**, which is taking up a lot of my time right now. The Superintendent's office is giving us a lot of support this year, so we are expecting to have a great conference turnout. **Many volunteers will be needed. Sign up early to get your choice of which workshop you will assist.**

Use In this Issue (top right column, green print) to go to articles quicker than by scrolling. Simply click on the title of the article you want to view,

Just click on the above link.

AAUW'S MISSION

The mission of AAUW is to advance equality for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Estate Planning Conference for Women Starting Feb 5 at NMSU

An Estate Planning conference, exclusively for women, will be held on four consecutive Wednesday mornings, beginning Feb 5, at PSL Anderson Hall, NMSU. There is no charge but space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Participants are asked to attend all four sessions.

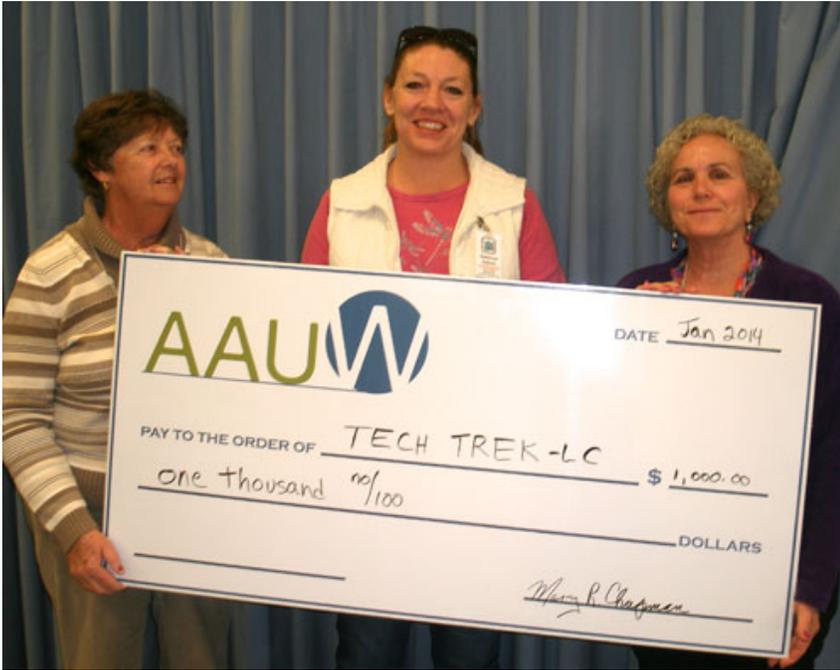
The four-part series is led by 13 prominent financial planners who volunteer their time. The curriculum offers the fundamentals of financial and estate planning, including Wills and Trusts, Asset Protection, Taxes, Charitable Giving, Elder Law, Money Management and much more. The final session will include a fun graduation celebration luncheon for participants and speakers.

This special program is offered as a community service for area women with support from Dr. Tammie Campos, NMSU Alumni Association; Debbie Widger, NMSU Foundation; Glenn Davis, Scott Hulse PC.

To Register, contact: Nohemi Perez, NMSUF Special Events Coordinator, 575-646-1106; or nohemip@nmsu.edu.

and you'll go there immediately!

TECH TREK EXCITEMENT BUILDS! **Your Support is needed!**



AAUW-New Mexico has contributed \$1,000 to support the Tech Trek Summer Camp for middle school girls, to be held at New Mexico State University in July. AAUW-NM treasurer and AAUW-LC member Mary Rita Chapman presents the check to Rebecca Galves, Tech Trek camp director, and AAUW-LC President Bonnie Eisenberg.

The Las Cruces Branch is excited to be hosting a Tech Trek summer camp July 13 - 19 at New Mexico State University. The camp is designed for girls entering 8th grade in fall 2014 from across New Mexico.

We are now in the participant nomination phase; teachers will nominate students until February 14, at which time students will be sent applications. If you know any middle school science or math teachers who could nominate currently seventh grade girls interested in STEM subjects, tell them to check out the Tech Trek information at this link:

<http://techtrek-nm.aauw.net/>

We are also working with all AAUW branches in New Mexico.

Mary Rita Chapman has reported that to date we have received \$1,000 in an AAUW state grant (see above photo caption) and \$250 in individual donations. National AAUW has provided \$10,000 in seed money for set-up charges. In all we need \$24,000 for 35 students - if we bring in more money in donations, more students can participate.

Webmistress Needed for Our Branch Website

This year we upgraded our branch website by joining with the National Association's site resources team. They created a beautiful website and gave us simple tools to easily add and change the contents. **Now, all we need is a member to take on the task of adding materials to the website from time to time.** The biggest changes will be in the fall, when new officers take the reins, and there might be other additions from time to time, but not a lot.

If you are interested in learning how to work with the website, **Please contact Bonnie Eisenberg.** Computer literacy is required, but **no previous website experience is necessary.**

Our website now also includes pdf versions of the OMV to download if you've lost your email version.

To access it, click on this link:

<http://lascruces-nm.aauw.net/>

You can invite a friend to read the OMV to learn more about us and what we do.

Forward this issue to a friend by clicking on the **Forward this email** link at the bottom of the newsletter.

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Do you have an article, photograph or other information you would like to share with AAUW members?

Send it by email to bonnie.schranz@gmail.com.

Our membership can support this event in at least two ways:

1) **Put your name on our volunteer list** to assist with activities during the week of camp. (These tasks will be defined as the camp takes shape.)

2) **Make a tax-deductible contribution to Tech Trek.** Checks should be made payable to AAUW with Tech Trek-LC on the memo line. Please send your contribution to our branch P.O. Box 6572, L.C. 88006. The branch will forward all contributions AAUW national. You can also make a gift online.

Contact Ann Palormo (apalormo@nmsu.edu) to volunteer and Ann McCullough (anniemac_37@q.com) with questions about contributions. Look for monthly updates in future OMVs.

INTEREST GROUPS

ANYTHING GOES BOOK GROUP

Anything Goes Book Group will meet on **Monday, February 10 at 1:30 p.m.** at the home of Julia Bruner to discuss *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand. For more information, please contact Julia Bruner at 522-1685 or julesnewmexico@gmail.com.

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ANYTHING GOES FICTION BOOK GROUP

Fourth Monday, 1:30 pm

Next meeting: **Feb 24** at the home of Denyse Johnson to discuss *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. Contact Denyse at 522-4618, or sourcefinearts@earthlink.net. The group warmly invites additional members to join us for lively discussions of our favorite fiction selections.

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ART RAMBLE

Friday night Ramble in downtown Las Cruces on **Friday, Feb. 7** is going to be an exciting event with images playing on the Valentine's theme; a collection of egg tempera paintings by a group of six artists working in the medium, ancient and difficult to produce beautifully. We will see this lovely exhibit at The Artists' Guild, incorporating the Julie Oliver studio and Main Street Gallery.

The Branigan Cultural Center is featuring The Love of Art and a show of PRAIRIE FURNITURE incorporating found objects with various woods. The Museum of Fine Art will feature artist Gustav Baumann who painted in the Taos/Santa

Fe area. An exhibit not to miss. Let's meet at the corner of Water and Main Streets just outside the galleries at 5 pm. on February 7, visit these galleries and also M. Phillips' collection of original paintings. To contact Denyse Johnson, call 522-4618, email sourcefinearts@earthlink.net.

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DAYTIME BRIDGE - Second Thursday, 1 - 4 pm.

Contact: Carol Ann Council at 522-3313, email kkca_council@msn.com.

Hostess for up & coming games:

Feb 13 Lavita Costley

March 13 Carol Ann Council

EVENING BRIDGE - Fourth Tuesday, 7:15 pm.

Contact: Carol Ann Council, 522-3313, email kk-ca_council@msn.com.

Hostess for up & coming games:

Jan 28 Mary Berry

Feb 25 Lavita Costley

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GOING PLACES

Join us on **Thursday, February 20** - SAVE THE DATE: Tour the U.S. Post Office on Main Street in Las Cruces, with lunch to follow. Details will be announced as we get closer to the date. Guests are always welcome.

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INTERNATIONAL DINNERS

The International Dinner group will meet on Saturday, **Feb 15** at the home of Rorie Measure. The theme is "Eating with Our Ancestors." Contact Rorie if you will be attending 522-4804 or remeasure@gmail.com.

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DINING OUT

This month we'll be going to Si Italian Bistro and Bakery, 523 E. Idaho, Las Cruces for Dining Out. We'll meet at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, **Feb 18**. Bring a guest if you wish. Let Cathy Quinones know by Monday evening, Feb 17, if you are planning to attend at 526-2454 or quinonesc@aol.com. This way we can notify the restaurant of how many to expect.

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NFL FANS

See you next season!

**Get Ready for Girls Can! Coming March 8
Volunteer Your Help!**



Girls Can! Career Exploration conference is a wonderful opportunity for members of our branch to give back to our community by introducing sixth grade girls to strong female roles models working in a variety of careers.

Many thanks to our branch members who are conducting workshops for the conference: Bonnie Schranz (drama), Kathleen Cordova (dentistry), Carol Krenek (money management), Phyllis Franzoy (electronics) and Rebecca Galves (robotics).

Approximately 200 girls will attend the conference, so a lot of volunteers are needed to work the day of the conference as workshop facilitators and hall monitors.

Soroptimists of Las Cruces is providing volunteers to work the early morning breakfast shift, but we still need at least 20 volunteers to work from 8 am until noon assisting the workshop presenters. Please contact Bonnie Eisenberg or Rita Stopa if you can help in this vital capacity. You can also sign up to volunteer for Girls Can! at the upcoming Branch meeting on Feb 8.

Poster Party - Members and friends are encouraged to join us for a fun afternoon making posters for Girls Can! With your help we will make 18 large, colorful posters to be hung in the schools advertising the conference. All materials will be provided; all you need to bring is your creativity (and maybe a pair of scissors). It usually takes about 2 hours to make the posters, depending on how many people show up to help.

Hope to see you on **Saturday, Feb 1 at 1 pm** at the home of Bonnie Eisenberg. Please RSVP if you can help with this important project 541-8443 or email mizbons@comcast.net.

All Above Board

This column reports actions and ideas from the most recent AAUW-LC Board meeting, as submitted by Board members and in the minutes of the meeting taken by Secretary Fran Plec. The Board will meet next on Monday, Feb. 3 at 9:30 am at the home of Bonnie

Eisenberg. Board meetings are open to all members.

Membership Special:

AAUW is running an extra special "Half-Year Special" for new members who sign up at our February meeting. National dues will be only 25% and state and local dues 50%, for a total of \$26.25 for half-year membership. To take advantage of the special, new members must sign up with a check, made out to AAUW-LC, at the Feb meeting for this deal.

New members who sign up before March 15, but not at the February meeting, will pay the regular half-year rates.

Corrections:

Kathy Cooke has a new phone number. Please make the correction in your yearbook. You can reach her at 575-521-1654.

Please make the following email correction in your yearbook for **Gretchen Aultman**. It should read gretchenaultman@msn.com.

Girls Can! Future Events Fundraising

Looking ahead to future fundraising for Girls Can!, the **Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico** has accepted Girls Can! as a special project. This will allow us to take advantage of their non-profit status to receive tax-deductible contributions for Girls Can! Many thanks to **Ann McCullough** for suggesting this route and for shepherding us through the process.

Branch Officers Nominating Committee

This year we are electing a president, treasurer and two program committee vice presidents. (We may consider changing the position of president to two co-presidents.) The name of a Chairman of the Nominating Committee will be submitted for approval by the membership at the February general meeting. The board will also select two additional branch members to be members of the nominating committee. The committee's nominations will be presented to the membership at the April general meeting and voted upon at the May general meeting. Anyone interested in serving on the committee is asked to notify **Deanise Marta**.

Branch By-Laws Review and Update Planned in 2014

Our current by-laws published in the 2013-14 yearbook were last updated in May 2012; however, there were mandatory changes to NM State by-laws after the October 2013 state meeting and to AAUW National by-laws after the national meeting. The Board agreed that we need a by-laws review committee to ensure we are in line with national and state by-laws. **Marsha Hokkanen** will chair the committee, and **Fran Plec** will work with her. It was suggested that we also have a

finance person to review policies and procedures.

Public Policy

State Leadership Meeting and Legislative Day

Carol Ann Council and **Mary Rita Chapman** will attend AAUW's State Leadership Meeting on January 26 and State Legislative Day (morning only) on January 27.

Equal Pay Day

Ruth Benjamins announced the national Equal Paycheck Day will occur in early April of this year and called for raising attention in New Mexico by contacting state and local officials and media.

Scholarships

Katrin Sumpter reported that Rio Grande Prep High School (formerly San Andres High School) is still taking at-risk students. She will contact Principal Kathie Davis to discuss the annual AAUW scholarship. She will also invite two non-board AAUW members to assist in this year's NMSU scholarship selection process.

NMSU and NCCWSL

NMSU Liaison Ann Palermo reported that she is currently focusing on this year's NCCWSL (National Conference of College Women Student Leaders) nomination process.

Ruth Benjamins is Branch NM Award Nominee

In memory of Terry Sleight, a long-time women's advocate, AAUW-NM board member, lobbyist, and dear friend, the New Mexico State AAUW established the Terry Sleight Memorial Award in 2005. This award is given out annually to an individual AAUW-NM member or group of members in recognition of their efforts in advancing women's issues. The AAUW-LC Board is proud to nominate Ruth Benjamins for the 2013/2014 award.

International Concerns:

Human Trafficking Prevention

International Liaison Carol Ann Council reminds us that as we move into February, **January was designated as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in the United States.** More than 20 million people globally are affected by this tragedy. In 2010, the White House issued an official Presidential Proclamation stating, in part: "During National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we acknowledge that forms of slavery still exist in the modern era, and we recommit ourselves to stopping the human traffickers who ply this horrific trade."

You can Read the Presidential Proclamation at this link:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-proclamation-national-slavery-and-human-trafficking->

[prevention-month](#)

Women Graduates-USA also shares in this commitment and recognizes that raising awareness and taking action about Human Trafficking is a shared responsibility. You can use the resources available on the WG-USA website to learn how you can take part to help someone else become 'more aware' or take action. You can join Women Graduates with a \$50 membership fee. Visit their website for more information:

http://wg-usa.org/program_ht_2012.shtml

OF NOTE... from the AAUW Action Network



Today, American women are still typically paid only 77 cents for every dollar paid to men, nine out of 10 American workers don't have paid family leave, and nearly 40 million don't have a single paid sick day - not to mention the critical need for affordable, quality child care. We can change that.

On January 29, AAUW, our allies, and champions in Congress invite you to join an unprecedented national conversation about these issues and the changes that will advance income equality and economic security for women and families in America. Can you make it? Here are the details:

**WHAT: Let's Talk About It: Advancing Women and Families in 2014. A national tele-townhall event on fair pay, paid leave, and access to child care:
WHEN: Wednesday, January 29, at 6:30 p.m. MT
Anniversary of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act**

**WHERE: From the comfort of your own phone
No numbers to dial, we'll call you to connect to the event**

**RSVP FOR THE CALL NOW! Click on the link below.
Fair pay, paid sick days, paid family and medical leave, and affordable child care are fundamental policy reforms that need to be on the national agenda. Hear from - and ask questions of - House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Lilly Ledbetter, working women from across America, and congresswomen championing these critical**

issues.

<http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=XHFX4yStcw8z%2FWEDsux4YRb%2FjuWKAH3j>

READ THE AAUW-NM ROADRUNNER

The Roadrunner, the newsletter of the New Mexico State AAUW, is available for you to read and download in pdf format on the AAUW-NM website. For the most recent issue, click on the following link:

<http://aauw-nm.aauw.net/files/2013/12/Winter2014Roadrunner.pdf>

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