



VOL. XIX, Issue 8

April 2015

ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS



Director of Freshwater Conversation of Audubon NM, Beth Bardwell, at the podium, will speak at our April 11 general meeting.

Conservation of the Rio Grande Basin is topic for AAUW-LC General Meeting Saturday, April 11, 10 am at Peace Lutheran Church Hall

Despite this past winter's rains, New Mexicans have an ongoing concern with conserving our essential natural resource: water. At our **Saturday, April 11** general meeting, we are fortunate to be able to hear from a champion for fresh water conservation, **Beth Bardwell**. We will meet at **10 am at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave.**

Elizabeth (Beth) Bardwell, Director of Freshwater Conservation of Audubon NM, lives in Las Cruces on the Rio Grande with her husband and two daughters. She has a Masters of Science in Biology from New Mexico State University (1999) and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Oregon School of Law (1987). Her legal practice included labor law, Indian law, and criminal law, including work for the Navajo Nation and the City of Flagstaff, Arizona.

After seven years practicing law, Beth fell in love with birding and

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Upcoming General Meetings & Events

[Saturday, April 11
10 am
Peace Lutheran Church
Conservation of the Rio
Grande Basin
Speaker: Beth Bardwell](#)

[Tuesday, April 14](#)

returned to school to study biology. Since receiving her Masters, she has been working to conserve freshwater and rivers within New Mexico and the Rio Grande basin through on-the-ground restoration and water policy reform at the local, state and federal level.

In cooperation with the Elephant Butte Irrigation District, Beth spearheaded New Mexico's first public-private partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to develop and implement a cooperative, market-based environmental water transaction program on the Rio Grande in Southern New Mexico. The objective of the water transaction program is to acquire water rights from willing sellers to benefit riparian habitat at 30 sites totaling over 500 acres by 2019. Prior to her current position at Audubon, Beth was a Program Officer for the Chihuahuan Desert Program of the World Wildlife Fund.

And wonderful news for us, Beth has accepted our invitation to become a member of our branch!

AAUW-LC TO HOLD TWO FAIR PAY FOR WOMEN ACT FORUMS ON FRIDAY, MAY 1

AAUW-NM has received a grant to disseminate information about a very important New Mexico Law. The Fair Pay for Women Act was passed in 2013 and really puts New Mexico at the forefront of equal pay for women.

A committee from our branch, including **Bonnie Eisenberg, Mary Rita Chapman, Ruth Benjamins, Marsha Hokannen, Bonnie Schranz** and **Deanise Marta**, has been working with AAUW-NM to plan the Forums to be held in Las Cruces and around the state. To date, forums are also scheduled in Santa Fe and Albuquerque this spring.

What does the law do?

The law goes beyond federal law in the areas of higher penalties, limited "excuses" for paying differently, and prohibiting retaliation for those assisting the claimant. Cases can be brought directly to court or be processed through the Human Rights Bureau of New Mexico. More details will be presented by Pamela Herndon, JD, Executive Director of the Southwest Women's Law Center and ALJ Jaimie Phillips, PhD, Outreach Coordinator and Administrative Law Judge of the New Mexico Workforce Solutions, Human Rights Bureau at two AAUW sponsored forums that will be held on Friday, May 1 at the Dona Ana County Government Center on Motel Blvd.

The first session, from 7:30 - 9 am (costing \$15, includes continental breakfast) is planned for lawyers, employers and human resource managers. The second session, from 11:30 am -

EQUAL PAY DAY

April 18 - 20
[AAUW-NM Leadership Team Meeting and State Convention](#), Santa Fe

Friday, May 1
[NM Fair Pay for Women Act Forums](#)

Tuesday, May 5
6 pm
Mountain View Regional Medical Center
[film presentation: The Harvey Girls, Opportunity Bound](#)
*Election of Officers

Tuesday, June 2
6 pm
Donna Rea's residence
End of Year Potluck

THANKS!

Many thanks to guest photographers who helped to make this issue so visual!

Julia Bruner
Carol Ann Council
Deirdre Price

A CORRECTION

Kay Brilliant was seen in the center of a photo with Mary Rita Chapman, Donna Rea and Ieva Rasmussen in last month's OMV, but misidentified. Look for her in this issue in the Girls Can! photos, standing in front of girls sitting at classroom desks - yes, the pretty blond lady is Kay!

:)

1 pm is Free, and will be directed to employees and anyone from the general public who is interested in the law. Those who attend should bring their own lunch. Drinks will be provided.

We welcome all our branch members to attend either session. For more specific information and /or to register (at no cost) for the lunchtime session, click on the link below.

That will open a pdf information flyer. From there you can click on the link in the flyer to take you to the registration page.

[Click HERE for Fair Pay for Women Act Forums info/registration](#)

What can you do to help?

We will need volunteers for registration and distributing breakfast food from 7 to about 9:30 am. We also need volunteers for the lunch session for registration and general help from 11 am to about 12:30 pm. After April 1, contact Mary Rita Chapman mrchapman11@gmail.com or call 647-1287.

From Co-President Mary Rita Chapman



Bonnie Eisenberg (left) officially handed off the presidential gavel to Mary Rita Chapman at the March branch board meeting. Later in this newsletter, see photos taken at Bonnie's farewell luncheon, organized by Mary Rita, before Bonnie's March 31 move to Colorado.

Hello Friends,

Well, this was certainly a busy March (as usual!). **Girls Can!** was a great success - (see **Ann McCullough's** article later in this OMV.) Just so we wouldn't get bored entertaining 243 girls at Lynn Middle School, we also interviewed 10 candidates for the Tech Trek that will be run at Highlands University in July. Thanks to **Ruth Benjamins, Donna Rea** and **Shirley Armstrong** for

Did you know that you can forward this issue of the OMV to a friend?

Go to the bottom of the newsletter and click on the blue Forward email link.

Do you have an article or a photo that you would like included in the OMV?

Contact Bonnie Schranz

bonnie.schranz@gmail.com

or call 575-640-8328

doing interviews.

Speaking of **Tech Trek**, our members stepped up and **matched the \$1500 challenge from the branch so we have contributed over \$3000 from Las Cruces this year.** In my role as Fundraising Chair for Tech Trek - thank you so much.

Our next big project is hosting the New Mexico Fair Pay for Women Act Forum on Friday, May 1 at the Doña Ana County Government Building on Motel Blvd. Please read the article **above** to find out more about the event so that you can plan to attend and spread the word to others. **Contact me to volunteer to help at the Forums.**

On another topic, we have **our slate for elected officers** for the branch, and it will be presented by the nominating committee at the April 11 general meeting. **The Board will be working on filling the appointed positions** during the next two months, so if you would like to be more involved, please let us know - don't be shy!

Thanks to all our great volunteers!!

Mary Rita Chapman, President

INTEREST GROUPS

Anything Goes Book Group

Anything Goes book group will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, **April 13**, at the home of Julia Bruner to discuss *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier. For more information, please contact Julia at 522-1685 or julesnewmexico@gmail.com.

Anything Goes 2 Fiction Book Group

AG2 Fiction will meet **Mon, Apr 20** to discuss *The Perfume Collector* by Kathleen Tessaro (a historical novel set in 1950s London and Paris) at the home of Cheryl Tom-Nelson. Please bring your ideas for the remaining 4-6 book titles for the year. Only one book title you've already read may be presented at that meeting.

Daytime & Evening Bridge

AAUW day-time bridge group meets on the *2nd Thursday of each month* at 1pm to approximately 4pm
Upcoming dates and hostesses:

April 9 **Mary Berry**

May 4 **Carol Ann Council**

AAUW evening bridge group meets on *the 4th Tuesday of each month* (except December) at 7:15 pm.

Upcoming dates and hostesses:

April 28 **Mary Berry**

May 26 **Freddie Olhausen Finkner**

Contact: Carol Ann Council kk-ca_council@msn.com

Dining Out

With better weather coming, we will Dine Out at the **Ánde! Dog House** across the side street from Ánde! Restaurant in Mesilla on Tuesday, **April 21** at 5:30 p.m. Bring a friend and join us.

Please let Cathy Quinones know by the evening before at quionesc@aol.com how many will be coming so we can have it set up properly for us the next day. See you there!

Going Places

April "Going Places" is scheduled for **April 4. THIS IS A SATURDAY (the day before Easter)**. We will be visiting the Trinity Site on the far north part of White Sands Missile Range. It will be an approximately 3 hour drive from here to get to it. The Open House is from 8AM to 2PM. We will need to leave here around 8 AM in order to get there before the gate closes. This site is only open ONCE per year, so this is our opportunity. For more information about the site, go to www.wsmr.army.mil and click on "Trinity". There are maps, historical information, etc. at this site - most importantly an FAQ sheet telling us what to bring, what's available on site, etc. Note that the site also says there is an October opening - but last year that was cancelled, due to federal sequestration - which is still in effect.

Please advise me if you want to go, or are able to drive. My car carries only 4 comfortably for that distance, so will need more drivers, depending on interest. Email ctngolfgo@gmail.com or phone 575-647-1631. We will determine a meeting spot (probably the K-Mart lot on Del Rey) once I know how many we have. Hope to see you then. - Cheryl Tom-Nelson

International Dinners

The International Dinners group will not meet in April. Look for an announcement of the group's May dinner plans in the next OMV.

What Makes Girls Can! Exceptional? YOU DO!

Thanks to everyone involved with Girls Can! this year, our 21st year, and to everyone who has worked on it before. Especially thanks to **Bonnie Eisenberg** for coordinating the event for many years and for mentoring me as the new coordinator. **Julia Brown** was our welcome speaker at the breakfast, and as usual, she was positive and inspiring to the **243 girls who attended**.

The parents' workshop was again a wonderful, inspiring



session with 38 participants.

Thanks to all of the AAUW volunteers who worked on committees, registered the kids, contacted the schools, served as facilitators and even workshop

presenters. You know who you are, and you were fabulous. One thing that is beautiful about an event that has been done so well for so long is that the members just know what to do. I was concerned that the girls wouldn't be able to find their next classroom, but what did I know? In between classes, facilitators just appeared in the hallways asking little girls what room they were supposed to be in next and providing them direction. It was amazing.



At 11:00 on Saturday, I met with most of the out-of-town counselors and teachers who accompanied kids on the buses. I wanted to get their feedback on Girls Can! One counselor has been coming to Girls Can! for 16 years! Two other teachers accompany the sixth graders every year even though these women are teachers in the 4th and 5th grades. They like seeing how students they know are growing up. The feedback was all good. I guess that's why we have such good attendance from schools in Gadsden and Hatch; they tell other teachers and encourage their students to come. **Success breeds success.**



**Girls Can! Coordinators past and present,
Lynn Mulholland (left) and Ann McCullough**

At the end of the morning, I must have been looking a little tired when **Carol Eggers** said to me, "**Just look at the girls' faces!**" I did and noticed they were all smiling and excited...about the day and about their futures!

Thank you! Together, we are making a difference. It's an honor to work with you on this important project.

- Ann McCullough, coordinator for Girls Can!







It's Time to Renew AAUW Membership for 2015 -16

It's time to renew your AAUW membership. As an AAUW member whose branch participates in the Membership Payment Program (MPP), you will be paying all of your dues - branch, state, and national - at once. There are two ways to renew your membership.

Annual AAUW-Las Cruces dues are \$77

National \$49.00

State \$12.00

Branch \$16.00

Total \$77.00

1) **To renew online:** Go to www.aauw.org Click LOGIN at the top of the page. Enter your MEMBER ID and PASSWORD. If you do not have a password, register here first:

https://svc.aauw.org/recore/inc/register_wp.asp

Once logged in, scroll to the bottom of any page and click MEMBER TOOLS, then click MEMBER SERVICES DATABASE. Select RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP and pay with your credit card!

2) **To renew by check:** * Note: **payable to AAUW**, not AAUW-Las Cruces. Mail checks to: Donna Rea, Treasurer AAUW Las Cruces Box 6572 Las Cruces, NM 88006. AAUW National Individual Membership dues are \$49; **\$46 is tax deductible** as a charitable contribution and \$3 is not (because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's Section 501(c) (4) Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote activities).

*Please renew your membership no later than July 15 so that you will be listed in the 2015-16 branch yearbook!

All Above Board

The AAUW-LC Board meets on the first Monday monthly at 9:30 am in the meeting room at the Picacho Hills Country Club. (This is a change of venue since Bonnie Eisenberg has moved to Colorado.) The next meeting is Monday, April 6. Meetings are open to all branch members. Highlights and reports of the most recent board session appear in this column or elsewhere in this issue of the OMV. *A pdf version of the most recently corrected and approved minutes of a previous meeting is available for your review.*

Click on the blue link below and see a pdf that you can read and print out, if desired.

[Minutes of the AAUW-LC Board meeting of February 2015](#)

Tech Trek 2015

Mary Rita Chapman reported that the **Las Cruces branch has matched \$1,500 in member contributions to Tech Trek.** With

pledges from other branches, **Tech Trek has now raised \$40,000**; the goal is \$42,000-\$44,000 to run a camp for 48 girls. Verizon and Sandia have each pledged \$5,000; Los Alamos National Labs has pledged \$3,000; and outstanding grant requests are pending with Wells Fargo Bank and El Paso Electric. Google will also be approached for a donation. Intel will be running one course during the workshop.

Programs

Program Co-Chair **Marsha Hokkanen** announced that the year-end party will be **Tuesday, June 2** at 6 p.m. at **Donna Rea's** house. Look for more details in the May OMV.

Upcoming AAUW Conferences

The AAUW-NM State Convention and Team Leadership Meeting will be April 17-19 in Santa Fe. The AAUW National Convention will be June 18-21 in San Diego. For registration information, click on links to the state or national websites. These are located in the new **Quick Links** - in the right hand column of this OMV.

Equal Pay Day - April 14

Marsha Hokkanen reminded us that **Tuesday, April 14 is Equal Pay Day**, and is also Lily Ledbetter's birthday. A related proclamation from the branch has been drafted and sent to the county. Look for an upcoming email about the possibility of the document being read at a Doña Ana County government meeting on that date.

AAUW-LC Celebrates Bonnie Eisenberg ... her friendship and her leadership!







Of Note -

You can support our friends
of the **GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces**
by attending their **2015 Fashion Show on Saturday, April 18**
at the Hotel Encanto, 705 S. Telshor, Las Cruces.
Doors open at 11 with lunch served at noon.
The show is a fundraiser for NMSU scholarships
and will feature fashions by Chico's, Children's Place and
the NMSU Golf Course, as well as offer a silent auction
and entertainment
Tickets are \$25. Call 522-5474

Thinking of You



Wishing you a speedy recovery!

LaJune Smith and Susan Grigaliunas

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