



VOL. XX, Issue 10

December 2015



Hope to See You at the Holiday Luncheon Saturday, Dec 12 at Picacho Hills Country Club!

Take a break from your seasonal plans and projects to spend time with your AAUW friends and guests at the branch **Holiday Luncheon on Saturday, Dec 12 at Picacho Hills Country Club starting at 11:30 am. Make your reservation by Saturday, Dec 5.**

The cost is \$25 per person. Send your check payable to AAUW to PO Box 6572, Las Cruces, NM 88006. Be sure to specify your choice of entrée (salmon, pork tenderloin, or vegetarian) on the memo line of your check. AAUW members who are also members of the country club can charge their meal(s) to their club account.

In the spirit of the season, we have decided to give non-cash gifts to the Melilla Valley Community of Hope.

Read to the bottom of this article to find their suggested needs list, along with a description of the population they serve.

Please bring your items to donate to our luncheon. Thanks for supporting one of the many worthy non-profits in our community.

Mesilla Valley Community of Hope for Holiday Giving

The MV Community of Hope, 999 West Amador Avenue, is a public charity that operated with the city and community volunteers to provide services last year to 298 veterans and 2,381 other homeless persons. The following excerpt from their recent fund-raising program explains their philosophy:

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Quick Links

[AAUW-LC website](#)

[AAUW-NM website](#)

[AAUW National website](#)

Upcoming General Meetings & Events

[Saturday Dec 12, 11:30 am
Holiday Luncheon
Picacho Hills CC](#)

[Saturday, Jan 9, 2016
10 am
AAUW General Meeting
Exploring the Las Cruces
Cultural Climate
Location TBA](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Are you on the mailing list to receive the AAUW-LC Organ

We (MVCofH) are now concentrating on people who have been homeless for a long time. These folks have a number of challenges including disabling health and behavioral health problems that may have contributed to their homelessness in the first place. The Community of Hope currently has two group homes (Abode and Sue's House) that are home to 19 previously chronically homeless individuals. Using the concept of '**Housing First**', an internationally recognized model, individuals are given residence without being required to achieve sobriety or comply with psychiatric treatment. Once housed with supportive services in place, many residents respond to medical help, counseling and additional services.

Our AAUW-LC donations will mainly be used for the residents of 'Tent City,' a part of the greater MVCofH complex. Ten women and 25 men along with 2 cats and 2 dogs currently live in the tent community and can use: any new or gently used and clean warm clothing (especially coats & jackets), hats & gloves, underclothes and socks, blankets, sleeping bags and tents, along with personal care items - soap, tooth brushes & toothpaste, razors, deodorant, lotions, etc. Any pet food donations are also appreciated. Their phone number if you have questions is 532-2219.

From our Co-Presidents

Mary Rita Chapman & Shirley Armstrong

Greetings AAUW members,

Yikes!!! It's December!! **Where has this year gone?** In recent weeks, many of you have probably experienced this disbelief, along with the companion thought that the years really do seem to be getting shorter.

But, the calendar says we are approaching year's end, and **for our local AAUW branch 2015 has been a good one.** We can pat ourselves on the back for our many accomplishments - Girls Can! and Tech Trek, many great meetings and fun times in interest groups, outreach to the community through our scholarships and educational programs and certainly not least, a very successful fund raising event.

We thank every branch member for your contributions, no matter how great or small, to our worthy organization. Many times we forget, or maybe even don't know, **exactly what AAUW does or what our organization stands for.** In January, our local board will gather to set some longer term goals for our local branch and will be sharing more of the AAUW's worthy priorities at each meeting.

Mountain Views newsletter?

If not, click the button above if you would like to receive upcoming issues in your email.

INVITATION TO ATTEND LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' DECEMBER LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

**Saturday, Dec 5
9 - 11 am
Good Samaritan
Activity Room**

Make reservations by Nov 27 to meet with the League and Doña Ana Country legislators to discuss their priorities for the upcoming session.

SAVE THE DATE!

**July 14 - 17,
2016**

AAUW Rocky Mountain Regional Conference

**Albuquerque, NM
Hotel Sheraton
Uptown**

We **hope to see many of you at our annual holiday luncheon** at Picacho Hills Country Club on Saturday, December 12. It is a totally social event and a great time to meet and visit with our friends, new and old. The board has chosen the **Community of Hope for our charitable contribution this year, so if you wish to donate, you will find a list of appropriate items at the end of the article directly above this letter.**

Until next year then, we wish you all a joyous and peaceful season!

Mary Rita Chapman & Shirley Armstrong

INTEREST GROUPS

BOOK GROUPS COMBINE FOR DECEMBER MEETING

Both AAUW-LC book groups will be holding their combined holiday potluck and book selection luncheon at Ruth Benjamins' home, 6620 Vista Hermosa, in Picacho Hills, on **Monday, Dec 14** at 11:30 am. Please let her know if you are coming and give her a general idea of what you will be bringing. Anything Goes group members should remember that a recommended selection should have been read. Directions to Ruth's home will follow.

Daytime & Evening Bridge

Contact Carol Ann Council kk-ca_council@msn.com 649-8122

Daytime Bridge:

The AAUW day-time bridge group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1:00pm to approximately 4:00pm.

Dec 10, 15 Roberta Shelton

Jan 10, 16 Ruth Benjamins

Evening Bridge:

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

Dec 2015 Merry Christmas!

Jan 26, 2016 TBD

Dining Out

The Dining Out group will not meet in December. January's destination will be listed in the next issue of the OMV.

Going Places

Annual planning meeting & luncheon will be held on **Thursday, Dec 17** at the Sunset Grill, 1274 Golf Club Rd., Sonoma Ranch, at 11:30 am. We need your suggestions to help us plan nine excursions for 2016. All members are invited to attend, and your input will be greatly appreciated. Reservations for the luncheon

should be made no later than Dec 15 to Sally Story, 532-1530 or ssstory13@msn.com. If you cannot attend and have some suggestions, please contact Sally at any time.

International Dinners

Save the date: **Saturday, January 30, 2016**. Join the International Dinners Group for a Vietnamese New Year's Banquet at Pho A Dong Restaurant. More details will follow in the January OMV.

NFL Fans

The **Pittsburgh Steelers'** first December game is Sunday, Dec. 6, vs. the Colts at 6:30 pm. Other Dec. games are Sunday, Dec. 13, vs. the Bengals, at 11 am, Sunday, Dec. 20, vs. the Browns at 2:25 pm; and Dec. 27, vs. the Ravens at 6:30 pm. The Steelers Fan Club in Las Cruces is now meeting at K-Bob's at 1660 S. Valley. Great food and service. Please contact Phoebe Pierce at 575-524-8320 or pierce1@zianet.com if you have any questions.

Chicago Bears fans will be at the Game Sports Bar & Grill on S. Espina on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 11 am to watch the match with the San Francisco 49ers. Members and guests are welcome to join the group on game day. Contact Cheryl Tom-Nelson for more info ctngolfgo@gmail.com.

Opera

Branch members and guests interested in opera will meet in the lobby of the Cineport theater at the Mesilla Valley Mall a few minutes prior to the Sunday showing of upcoming performances so that they can sit together to enjoy the show. Early in 2016, we will start to plan a trip to Santa Fe during the summer to see a live opera performance. For more info, contact Ann McCullough girlsanlascruces@gmail.com. To get the complete list through August 2016, click on the blue link below the Dec. 2015 show.

- The Three Tenors Christmas Concert- 12/20 & 12/22

[Opera Schedule 2016](#)

DACC Puts Students First - Time is the Enemy!

The large crowd of AAUW-LC members and guests who attended the November meeting got encouraging news about directions Doña Ana Community College is taking to better achieve students' success and increase both graduation rates and job placement.



Dr. Renay Scott (left) and branch Programs Co-VP Ann Palormo.

But the great challenges that exist to meet those goals were also made clear in the strong presentation by **DACC President Dr. Renay Scott**.

More good news! Dr. Scott has agreed to be the Opening Speaker for the 2016 Girls Can! Be sure to mark your calendar

for Saturday, March 5, from 8 am - noon, and contact Ann McCullough to volunteer your time and talents for this outstanding AAUW-LC event.



AAUW-LC General meetings bring members and guests together for conversation and insights into important issues facing our community.

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. The next meeting is Monday, Jan 4, 2016. Meetings are open to all branch members.

Highlights and reports of the most recent board sessions appear in this column or elsewhere in this issue of the OMV.

Minutes come to us compliments of our secretary, Fran Plec. A pdf version of the most recently corrected and approved minutes of a previous meeting is also available for your review. Click on the blue link below to see a pdf that you can read and print out, if desired.

[Board Minutes Oct 2015 Meeting](#)

Membership

We welcome our newest member, **Winifred Jahnke**, who joined us at the November meeting. She resides at 1861 Newton St., Las Cruces 88001. She can be contacted at 219jank@gmail.com or 575-532-5616. She holds a MAED in Special Education from Governors State University, University Park, IL.

One of our newer members, **Cheryl Harrelson**, has left Las Cruces to return east to care for a family member. She has asked to remain on the list to receive the *Organ Mountain News*, and she can be reached at this new email address harrelsoncd@yahoo.com. Our best wishes go with her.

Final Figures for 2015-16 Fundraiser

Congratulations to **Beverly Chambers**, her committee of **Kay Williams** and **Kay Brilliant**, and everyone who contributed to the branch fundraiser held in October. After all is said and done, a **net profit of \$4,327.53** was earned by the event. Positions are now open for a few good women to plan next year's fundraiser. If you are interested in joining this winning team, contact Beverly Chambers flagbab@mac.com.

Graduate Women International

AAUW-LC International Liaison **Carol Ann Council** shares this important message from the organization's president:

As GWI moves more into the spotlight at the international level and makes great strides in empowering girls' and women through lifelong education, it is inevitable that national federations and associations (NFAs) focused solely on domestic issues may withdraw their support from our global vision. Thus it is that the German NFA, DAB, has decided to withdraw its membership of GWI...

We are in the second year of a change process that takes time. It is understandable that people look backwards. We should indeed be very proud of the past: IFUW helped women through the Second World War and the Cold War, was instrumental in getting the girl child on the international agenda, and certainly changed the lives of many women in its 96 year history. Yet we should also be looking at the world as it is and will be, how societies are developing and markets are changing in order to build a future for GWI. Does the membership want an international umbrella organization? If it does, then the membership must ensure the organization can exist. This means NFA member recruitment, NFA activities, NFA growth, payment of membership dues and foreseeable income for GWI to be able to plan, implement and provide services.

Thank you for your continued support of GWI. GWI is your organization and together we can ensure that girls' and women are empowered through lifelong education, so that no girl in the world is left without education or hope.

Thinking of You



We hope you are on the road to a speedy recovery,
Susan Grigaliunas!

Of Note...

There's nothing like music to ignite the magic of the holidays!

AAUW Members Lynn Alford, Nancy Carlson, Susan DeMar, and Bonnie Schranz invite you to an afternoon of holiday music at 3 pm at the the Rio Grande Theater on Sunday, Dec 6, when the Melilla Valley Chorale will perform in concert. Tickets at \$10 are available at the door.

A colorful poster for a holiday concert. At the top, the words "Holiday Magic" are written in a large, red, bubbly font with a black outline, set against a white, cloud-like background. Below this, a cartoon wizard with a long white beard, glasses, and a green robe is depicted. He is wearing a tall, pointed hat with red and yellow patterns and is holding a wand that emits a bright orange and blue starburst. To the right of the wizard, the text "PRESENTED BY" is in a small, blue, sans-serif font. Below that, "MESILLA VALLEY CHORALE" is written in a large, bold, red font with a black outline. Further down, "SUNDAY, DEC 6TH" and "3:00 PM" are in a blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the poster, "RIO GRANDE THEATRE" is written in a blue, sans-serif font. At the very bottom, the text "OPEN SEATING TICKETS \$10 INFO: 647-2560" is displayed in a blue, sans-serif font.

Holiday Magic

PRESENTED BY
**MESILLA VALLEY
CHORALE**

SUNDAY, DEC 6TH
3:00 PM
RIO GRANDE THEATRE

OPEN SEATING TICKETS \$10 INFO: 647-2560

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