



VOL. XXI, Issue 2

February 2016

ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS



Las Cruces Branch member Kathy Cooke poses on a branch in the Botanical Garden, Christchurch, New Zealand

Kathy Cooke's Travels in New Zealand and AAUW-NM Tech Trek Participants' Experiences: Tales of Adventure at Feb 13 Branch Meeting

Our February general meeting on **Saturday, Feb. 13**, will begin at **10:15 am in the Branigan Library's Roadrunner Room**. Don't miss a two-part program that features tales of adventure.

The first is an opportunity for us to hear from several students from Las Cruces and Dona Ana County who participated in the first two amazing AAUW Tech Trek New Mexico summer science camps. This adventure has changed their young lives.

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**Don't forget to
Vote on
Tuesday,
Feb 2!**



Read details about renewal of the Las Cruces public schools capital improvements levy in the Of Note section found at the end of this newsletter.

The second exciting adventure features branch member Kathy Cooke, who will share her extended visit to New Zealand. Kathy and her husband Ron spent three months in New Zealand last year, visiting three different locations, with short tours in between. She'll tell us about their experiences, including hiking in national parks and hot springs areas, visiting the highest peak - Mount Cook - during a rare period of good visibility, and being touched by the resilience of the people in Christchurch during their still ongoing recovery from the earthquake of a few years ago. In addition to the highlights of her visit, Kathy will relate some of New Zealand's recent history, pointing out how that country has seemed to avoid or overcome some of the social problems our country is currently facing.

This would be a great meeting to invite a friend to come along!

From our Co-Presidents Mary Rita Chapman & Shirley Armstrong

Profound & Loving Greetings AAUW!

This month Americans celebrate the birthdays of two of our greatest presidents AND our annual day devoted to LOVE! As an organization, **AAUW's national action priorities** fit nicely with the February themes of great and loving ideas:

- To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity
- To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women
- To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.

Many of **you have mentioned you would like to know more about what AAUW stands for** so we again encourage you to read the very last page of your yearbook which lists specifics under each of these major priorities.

Getting to Know You!

What a start to 2016! We had a record turnout at our January general meeting, plus three new members joined that day. **One of our major goals of 2016 is for our members to get to know each other, or to know each other better.**

We are starting get-togethers for new members but we want all our members to feel connected so.... Please set a goal at each meeting to introduce yourself to at least one member you don't know, OR visit with someone you know, but don't know well. **Make new AAUW friends; get**

In our own **AAUW Las Cruces branch**, we too strive to uphold these worthy goals in our programs and activities. **Our major activities focus around giving to the girls in our community** through 1) scholarships at NMSU and at Rio Grande Preparatory Institute and 2) our two big programs, Girls Can! (March 5) and Tech Trek (June 19-25).

In January we held **our first new member gathering** to get to know these special women, share a bit about our AAUW Las Cruces branch and answer questions. Six new and four current members met for a fun and productive get-together. Similar gatherings will be scheduled in future months. One of our goals is for branch members to get to know each other better so **we encourage all of you to introduce yourself to at least one person you don't know at every single meeting!**

February begins the second half of our 10 annual meetings with a dual program featuring 1) member Kathy Cooke telling about the 3-month sojourn she and husband, Ron, spent in New Zealand last winter and 2) a presentation on Tech Trek with some of the local girls who have participated in the past sharing their experiences.

February is also the count-down month to Girls Can!, the wonderful program for sixth grade girls our branch has sponsored for 22 years. **BIG kudos to Ann McCullough** and her hard-working committees who are spending countless hours preparing for this event on **March 5 at Lynn Middle School. We hope that every one of you will participate in some way!**

For now, **we wish you a fun and loving month filled with profound thoughts!!!**

Mary Rita Chapman & Shirley Armstrong

Las Cruces Branch Sets Goals for 2016-17

For 2016, the Board of our branch has decided to focus on the following goals:

- * Continue our tremendous Girls Can! program and increase attendance and member participation;
- * Continue our financial support to Tech Trek and promote active volunteering at the camp;
- * Increase focus on making new branch members feel welcome;
- * Promote awareness of Equal Pay Day in April through proclamations, press releases and a promotion at our April branch meeting;

involved!!

-Shirley Armstrong

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To send the Organ Mountain Views to a friend, click on the Forward this Email link at the bottom of this newsletter

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Upcoming General Meetings & Events

Saturday, Feb 13, 10 AM,
Branigan Library
Roadrunner Room
Tech Trek NM
& Kathy Cooke's New Zealand Adventure

Saturday, March 5
8 am - noon
Young Middle School
GIRLS CAN!

Tuesday, April 9, 6-9 pm
Location TBA
"Advocating for Women's Causes"
Panel of AAUW, Soroptomists International, and League of Women Voters

**Plan to Attend
AAUW Rocky
Mountain
Regional
Conference!**

**July 14 - 17
at the**

* Lead "Get out the Vote" activities in this active election year.

Of course, success in the above will only be possible through our members getting thoroughly involved!!

INTEREST GROUPS

Anything Goes Book Group

Anything Goes will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, February 8 at the home of Julia Bruner to discuss *Far From the Madding Crowd* by Thomas Hardy. For more information please contact Julia at 522-1685 or julesnewmexico@gmail.com.

Future titles for discussion include *Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West* by Hampton Sides on March 14; *My Brilliant Friend* by Elana Ferrante on April 11; *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande and also *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes - both for May 9; *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry: A Novel* by Rachel Joyce on June 13.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group

The Anything Goes Fiction group will meet on Monday, Feb 22 to discuss *The Pearl that Broke Its Shell* by Nadie Hashimi at the home of Shari Glassman. New members are always welcome.

Daytime & Evening Bridge

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

26 Jan	Carol Ann Council
23 Feb	Lavita Costley

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

11 Feb	Lavita Costley
10 Mar	TBA

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

Dining Out

Dining Out will meet on **Tuesday, Feb 16 at 5:30 p.m.** at **Habaneros, 600 E. Amador, Las Cruces.** This is a popular Mexican restaurant, which bills itself as serving Fresh Mex. The food is very good. Let Cathy Quinones know at quinonesc@aol.com or 575-993-9528 by the Monday evening, Feb 9 if you are interested in joining us for dinner. Bring a spouse or guest if you wish. This is a good opportunity for new members to get to know other members in a relaxed setting.

Going Places

**Sheraton
Uptown,
Albuquerque**

**Save the
Dates!
More
information to
follow in
upcoming
newsletters.**

Going Places on **Thursday, Feb 18** will take us to the **NMSU Arrowhead Development Center** at 10 am to explore business opportunities at this complex designed to accelerate economic development. Director Kramer Winingham, who heads the NMSU students division, will conduct a tour and will explain all of the programs housed in the center.

Further information about where the group will meet and lunch plans will be sent out in a email closer to the event.

International Dinners

International Dinners group will meet on Saturday, Feb. 20 at the home of Kathleen Cordova. This month's theme is Presidential Dinners.

Opera

The next opera showing at Allen Theatres Cineport 10 (at the Mesilla Valley Mall) is *Der Rosenkavalier* by R. Strauss on **Sunday, Feb 21** at noon. A meeting will be scheduled after March 5 for those interested in going to the Santa Fe Opera this summer to decide which opera we want to attend. The season runs from July 1 to August 27. If you want to check out what is being offered, go to their website, SantaFeOpera.org. Ann McCullough 524-2601.

Girls Can! Coming Soon - Saturday, March 5 Volunteers Needed!

Girls Can! Career Conference for Sixth-Grade Girls in Doña Ana County is coming up Saturday, March 5, at Lynn Middle School again this year, 950 S. Walnut. This is the 22nd year for Girls Can! It is truly something for our branch to celebrate!

Between 200 and 300 girls will begin their morning with a breakfast and welcome speech by **President Renay Scott of Doña Ana Community College**. They'll start their workshops at 9 am, while attending parents will go to a Parents' Workshop.

Thanks go to **Deanise Marta** and **Kathleen Cordova** for helping me find 20 really good workshops for the girls this year. The careers represented are nutrition, theater, dentistry, veterinary medicine (two sections), cosmetology, law, biology, marine biology, computer science, Border Patrol, substance abuse education, costume design, NASA engineering, nursing, horticulture, medicine, desert studies, chemical engineering, and art.

Thanks also to **Kay Williams** and **Kay Brilliant** who have

organized the School Contact Team and have been working with the schools to get more participation this year than ever before.

Because of the top-quality workshops and more girls attending this year, we need everyone's help to have a successful Girls Can! We need a few more volunteers to sign up to be facilitators (people who help the workshop leaders and then evaluate those workshops), someone to run the coffee rooms, photographers, greeters for the buses, and greeters to help the girls, parents and volunteers know where to go when they arrive. We are planning to have two facilitators in each workshop, one experienced volunteer who has done it before and one who is new. It's a great way for new members to get involved and experience Girls Can!

If you want to help with the Parents' Workshop, please see Ann Palermo, and if you want to help with registration, see Donna Rea.

If you aren't able to volunteer this year, a cash donation or cases of bottled water for the event would be valued contributions. Checks should be made out to AAUW-LC (with a note for Girls Can!) and mailed to PO Box 6572, Las Cruces 88006. Or bring them to our next general meeting on Feb. 13.

Thanks for everything you are doing and have done for years and years! Together we are making a difference.

- Ann McCullough, Girls Can! Coordinator 524-2601 or girlscanlascruces@gmail.com

**Cultural Attractions Loom Large in Our Small City!
"Collaboration makes this community great."**



Four Las Cruces women whose presence is distinctive in the Las Cruces cultural scene spoke to a full audience of members and guests in January. A panel composed of (l.-r.) **Katy Milligan** (Doña Ana Arts Council), **Megan McQueen** (NMSU faculty, Scaffolding Theater), **Derrickson Moore**, *Las Cruces Sun-News*, and **Rebecca Slaughter** (City of Las Cruces Museums) presented information about exciting cultural offerings available to us all.

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Megan McQueen and Cameron Lang are uniting to bring you "Broadway Today 2016," featuring excerpts from 18 musicals that played Broadway in the past year. On Feb 12 at 7:30pm at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts, over 50 talented students and terrific community members will unite in a diverse evening of showtunes. The evening will also include themed appetizers and desserts by Roanna St. Clair and the Alma d'arte culinary students. Reserved tickets are \$15-20, and are available at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts box office from 12-4pm Monday-Friday 575-646-4515, or at the Pan Am ticket office or Ticketmaster website.

All Above Board

The AAUW-LC Board meets at 9:30 am on the first Monday monthly in the meeting room at the Picacho Hills Country Club. The next meeting is an exception to the rule and is on Monday, Feb 8. 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. *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 available for your review. Click on the blue link below to see a pdf that you can read and print out.*

[Nov 2015 AAUW-LC Board Minutes](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Something new for new members:

Membership Co-VP LaJune Smith shares this report about a new program for new members: Several new members and members of the board met recently for coffee and conversation. Each gave brief biographies and told how they became interested in AAUW. The focus of the meeting was to share information about the local branch, the interest groups and other benefits of membership. Conversation was lively and some new ideas emerged that we will work on for future general meetings. New member meetings will be a part of orientation in the future.



Welcome to our newest members, Rita Dekker and Sandra Miles, who joined AAUW at the January general meeting. We

also happily welcome back **Judy McGuire**, who returns to us after several years abroad. Their contact information follows.

Rita Dekker (left, first photo)
2705 Johnson St., LC 88005
575-647-1679
radjella@gmail.com
MA, Social Work, Portland State University
Portland, OR

Judy McGuire (left, second photo)
2904 Long Bow Dr., LC 88011
575-932-9905 (cell) 575-888-4900 (home)
judymcguire2@gmail.com
MS, Health Administration, Trinity University
San Antonio, TX

Sandra Miles (right, bottom photo)
20 Las Casitas, LC 88007
575-496-7367
gransandy@msn.com
MA, Developmental Psychology, University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL

A Change of Address for Suzanne Ostrem: please change her yearbook listing to this new location -
5578 Camino Escondida
LC, NM 88011

WOMEN GRADUATES USA

International Liaison Carol Ann Council has submitted information from the October 2015 Annual General Meeting of Women Graduates USA held in Baltimore, including a listing of upcoming events that may be of interest to AAUW members. To open a pdf of that report, click on the blue link below or contact Carol Ann for more information about the organization.

[Women Graduates USA](#)

Of Note... (information from the LCPS website)

On Tuesday, Feb 2, voters in the Las Cruces school district will decide whether to renew an existing tax that funds repairs, maintenance and renovations for Las Cruces Public Schools. If approved, the two mill capital improvements tax levy (also known as SB9) would generate approximately \$6.2 million per year for major repairs and improvements such as roofs, heating and cooling, restroom facilities, playground equipment and landscaping. The funds would also pay for physical plant maintenance projects like painting, repairing

water fountains, improving lighting, removing asbestos and repairing parking lots. Every school, and therefore all students, benefit from this mill levy. It pays for technology, musical instruments, band/choir/mariachi uniforms and school equipment. It also allows the district to make safety improvements at all school campuses such as cameras, alarms and security fencing. Approval of the levy would also provide capital improvement funds (on a pro rata basis) to La Academic Dolores Huerta charter middle school and New America School-Las Cruces. The levy is currently in place but must go before voters every six years for renewal. Approving the two-mill tax will not increase the current tax rate. It will maintain what property owners already pay to maintain our public schools, protecting taxpayers' investments.

And a NOTE from our friend, Bonnie Eisenberg

I miss you all so much!
 I have found a good book group locally, but not a women's group like AAUW. I have made contact with the branch in Grand Junction and will try to attend their Jan meeting this week (if it doesn't snow again before then).

Please send my regards to all my friends in Las Cruces.

Bonnie

(A recent FaceBook posting notes that Bonnie is shoveling snow off the sidewalk at her beautiful new Colorado home.)

SUPPORT OUR MEMBER ADVERTISER!

Smile!

Name _____
 Date _____
 Time _____

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