



At the February branch general meeting, Girls Can! Coordinator Ann McCullough calls for member volunteers, while a panel of local Tech Trek participants anticipate their presentation about their Tech Trek NM experiences.

AAUW OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG WOMEN - THAT'S WHAT WE DO!

22nd GIRLS CAN! CAREER EVENT COMING SATURDAY, MARCH 5

Dear AAUW members:

As you know, Girls Can! is almost here. Once again, we are going to **Lynn Middle School on March 5**, but the venue could change in future years. I think we are going to have a bumper crop of 6th grade girls this year, thanks to **Kay Brilliant** and **Kay Williams** and the School Contact Team, so we may need a bigger facility next year.

Also thanks to **Kathleen Cordova** and **Deanise Marta** for their guidance on the Workshop Recruitment Committee. We

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Of Note

Wanted: Branch STEM Committee

AAUW-LC in a Nutshell

Quick Links

[AAUW-LC website](#)

[AAUW-NM website](#)

[AAUW National website](#)

Join New Branch STEM Committee

Co-President Mary Rita Chapman seeks a group interested in supporting STEM activities in the Las Cruces area, similar to a large group that



have 21 top-notch workshops in a wide range of topics, from costume design to rocket science! We'll also have a fabulous Parents' Workshop led by **Ann Palormo**.

Thanks also to **Londa Seiffert** for stepping up to serve as the Volunteer Coordinator this year. She is working with the Soroptimists, the FEW (Federally Employed Women), and various professional clubs at NMSU, as well as AAUW volunteers to provide a great assortment of women volunteers and role models.

Most of all, I want to thank the Founding Mothers, as I call you, who started Girls Can! more than 20 years ago and have made it better and better every year!

See you on March 5!

- Ann McCullough, Coordinator for Girls Can!

NOTE: Girls Can! replaces the regular general meeting in March. Our next general meeting will be held on Saturday, April 9 at 10:15 am in the Branigan Library's Roadrunner Room. The program, "Las Cruces Women's Groups Working to Build a Stronger Community," will include a panel representing Soroptimists, League of Women Voters, Progress Club and AAUW-LC.

From our Co-Presidents Mary Rita Chapman & Shirley Armstrong

March Greetings, AAUW. Top 'O the Morning to You!!!

AAUW Las Cruces members are busy, busy, busy in March! By the Ides we will have completed the 22nd year of our signature Girls Can! program! A whole lot of us will be breathing a sigh of relief, but most especially **Ann McCullough, our amazing Girls Can! chair**. Hopefully Ann will at last be able to spend a few leisure moments in her garden with no thought other than the beauty of spring flowers. **We ALL owe Ann tremendous gratitude** for her hard work, organizational skills and innovative ideas! **Thank you, Ann! Muchas gracias! Merci beaucoup!**

We hesitate to mention other names for fear of leaving anyone out, but here is the laudable group of assistants Ann assembled and their tasks: **Kay Williams** and **Kay Brilliant** (schools),

already exists in Albuquerque.

What would a STEM committee do?

- Read/score essays from Tech Trek applications

- Interview applicants

- Organize Tech Trek reunions

- Volunteer at Tech Trek

- Support local science fairs, STEM courses or other STEM events seeking volunteers

Qualifications - Interest in expanding STEM opportunities to girls in the area, no STEM experience needed

Interested? Contact Mary Rita mrchapman11@gmail.com

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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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Londa Seiffert (volunteers), **Donna Yargosz** (goodie bags), **Deanise Marta** (breakfast), **Kathleen Cordova** and **Deanise Marta** (presenters), **Donna Rea** (registration) and **Ann Palormo** (parent's workshop). A BIG thanks to all of you, to those who helped on their committees AND to ALL of you volunteers who performed the myriad tasks necessary to pull off this incredible event!

In addition to Girls Can!, **March is the month our nominating committee is busy at work** putting together a slate of officers that will be voted on by the board in April, by the membership at large in May and then installed at our social (pot luck) gathering in June. A big thank you to **nominating chair, Marsha Ogden, and her committee, Julia Bruner and Carol Ann Council.** **Please contact them if you are interested in serving in some way.** In addition to the seven elected offices, we have a number of appointed and committee positions that may interest you. **Check them out** on pages 5 and 6 of your yearbook.

Also this month, **planning for Tech Trek, the STEM summer camp for eighth grade girls**, is in full swing as we select girls statewide for the June 18-25 camp at **New Mexico Tech** in Socorro, NM. You will find more about Tech Trek elsewhere in the OMV but we **encourage any of you with a STEM background - or interest - to consider volunteering for a half-day or more at the camp.** If you want to support Tech Trek but can't volunteer on site, **a monetary contribution would be greatly appreciated.**

Our year is going well thanks to all of you! Our interest groups are vital, or membership growing and our monthly meetings well attended. We close with **a special thank you to our part-year member, Kathy Cooke.** Kathy not only presented a wonderfully interesting account of the three months she and her husband spent in New Zealand last winter at our February meeting but is also sponsoring a **generous matched-giving grant to Tech Trek (Read about it elsewhere in this OMV).** We thank you, Kathy, and are grateful you choose AAUW as one of your Las Cruces activities!

We wish all of you a good month and look forward to seeing many of you March 5 at Girls Can!

Your Co-Presidents,

Mary Rita Chapman & Shirley Armstrong

Tech Trek Makes a Huge Impact on the Lives of Girls Who Attend - Please Give Your Support to Tech Trek NM 2016

Special guest speakers at the February meeting of our branch

Upcoming General Meetings & Events

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

Tuesday, March 8
INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY

Saturday, April 9
10 :15 am
Branigan Library
Roadrunner Room
"Las Cruces Women's
Groups Working to Build
a Stronger Community"
Panel of AAUW-LC,
Soroptomists
International,
League of Women Voters
and Progress Club.

**Plan to Attend
8-State
AAUW Rocky
Mountain
Regional
Conference!**

**July 14 - 17
at the
Sheraton
Uptown,
Albuquerque**

**Save the
Dates!
More
information to
follow in April
newsletter.**

**"AAUW- LC
IN A
NUTSHELL"**

Co-President
Shirley Armstrong
has written a
handy guide

were Las Cruces students **Rosa Taylor, Katy Boetticher, Carmen Sanchez, Liah Guerrero and Athena Angel**. who related their experiences at Tech Trek and expressed their thanks to AAUW for making it happen.

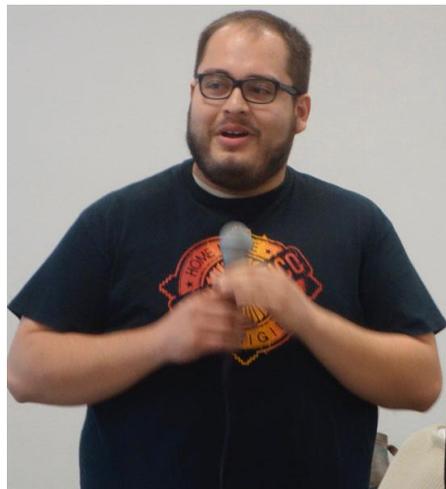


[check full of information about our branch.](#)

Originally prepared for our newest members, it is equally useful to AAUW members who have been part of our branch for years or potential new members!

To check it out - and then probably print it out - !

[CLICK HERE](#)



Ruben Diaz, science teacher at La Academia Dolores Huerta, praised AAUW for offering his students a chance to attend Tech Trek NM.

It was wonderful to hear from some of the girls who went to Tech Trek in 2014 and 2015 - also their parents and one of the teachers! **They were so enthusiastic, and when asked if they plan to become scientists, it was a unanimous "YES!"**

Planning for this year's Tech Trek is well on its way. We will have our one-week residential camp for 8th grade girls at **NM Tech in Socorro, June 19-25**. The STEM courses will concentrate on engineering and computer science - the two fields where women are less than 25% of the total in the field. Many thanks to those who donated money at the meeting and here is special info for those who would still like to donate:

A Still Small Voice, a charity created by Ron and Kathy Cooke, has pledged to match donations to Tech Trek by Las Cruces AAUW branch members, up to \$1,000. The challenge period ends April 1, 2016.

Please send donations to: Tech Trek, P.O. Box 6572, Las Cruces, NM 88006 (checks should be made to "AAUW" with "Tech Trek NM" in the memo line).

There are also opportunities for volunteers at the camp. We are looking for "**Dorm Moms**" who stay in the dorms with the girls and are responsible for them at night - with the assistance of student counselors. Another role is that of "**gofer**" - assisting teachers and presenters during the day (similar to a facilitator at Girls Can!). These are in half day blocks of time. **Contact Mary Rita Chapman** mrchapman11@gmail.com with any questions.

Kathy Cooke Gave Us Some Fascinating "Distance Education" in February!



Some of our very best presenters at monthly general meetings are from our own branch. Members found learning about New Zealand from Kathy Cooke, who spent three months there with her husband last year, simply wonderful. Several local residents also attended as guests to learn more about traveling to one of the beautiful, far away places

"down under."



Going out to lunch following general meetings is also a treat enjoyed by branch members, who are often joined by the meeting presenters. (photos by Shirley Armstrong)



INTEREST GROUPS

Anything Goes Book Group

Anything Goes will meet on Monday, **March 14** to discuss *Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West* by Hampton Sides. We will meet at the home of Carol Eggers. For more information please contact Julia at 522-1685 or julesnewmexico@gmail.com.

Future titles for discussion include *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, **March 28** to discuss *Enemy Women* by Paulette Jiles at the home of Roberta Shelton. In April, the group will meet in the home of Kay Williams to discuss *The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin. New members are always welcome.

Daytime & Evening Bridge

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

| | |
|----------|------------|
| 10 March | Jo Bloom |
| 14 April | Mary Berry |

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

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| 22 March | Mary Ann Willson |
|----------|------------------|

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

Dining Out

Dining Out will be on **Tuesday, March 15** at **Tokyo Sushi, 1030 El Paseo Road** in Las Cruces at **5:30 p.m.** The last time we gathered there, everyone was delighted with their meal. This restaurant also serves Korean Food and a variety of Japanese foods including Bento boxes for those who want to sample a variety of treats.

Let Cathy Quinones know at quinonesc@aol.com or 575-993-9528 by Monday evening, March 14 if you are interested in joining us for dinner. Bring a spouse or guest if you wish. Dutch Treat. This is a good opportunity for new members to get to know other members in a relaxed setting. See you there.

Going Places

On **Thursday, March 17**, we will travel to Truth or Consequences to the **Spaceport America Visitors Center**, where at 9 am, we will begin our tour of Spaceport America and return to the Visitors Center by 1pm. We will have a late lunch in T or C (location to be announced) before returning home. There should be a little time before and after the tour to check out the visitors center.

Meet at the K-Mart parking lot at 7:15 am to arrange carpooling and departure will be at 7:30 am. The cost is \$25 per person. Each person will need to make their own prepaid reservation either online at spaceportamerica.com or call the Visitors Center at 844-727-7223 by March 10. This is to insure our place on the tour. In addition, please inform Sally Story if you plan to attend or contact her if you have questions. ssstory13@msn.com or 532-1530.

International Dinners

International Dinners group will meet on Saturday, **March 19** at the home of Donna Rea. This month's theme is Northwest.

Opera

The next opera showing at Allen Theatres Cineport 10 (at the Mesilla Valley Mall) is Verdi's *Requiem* (La Scala) on **Sunday, March 20** 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.

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 on **Monday, March 7**. 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.

[January 2016 AAUW-LC Board Minutes](#)

AAUW NATIONAL EXPLAINS FUNDRAISING RULE

In response to questions many members have posed regarding allocation of branch funds raised by our fundraising projects, Co-President Mary Rita Chapman clarified that AAUW's Policy 501 states that branches should not fundraise for any outside charity (such as the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund). Donating goods, rather than cash, as we did for the Las Cruces Community of Hope in December, is permitted.



Mary Rita Chapman, Donna Rea, Ieva Rasmussen and Candis Stern have nothing but high praise for the Silent Auction item they won together at last October's Eat, Drink & Be Charitable fundraiser. They were the recipients of a fabulous Montana Dinner for 8 hosted by Susie Ostrem and Doug Loomer in their home in January.

HEAD'S UP - AAUW DUES WILL GO UP FOR 2016-17 YEAR

Members are reminded that effective March 15, 2016 combined membership dues for AAUW will show a \$10 increase for the upcoming year. **The cost will be a total of \$87** (\$20, local branch; \$18, AAUW-NM; and \$49 AAUW-National). This is the first increase in branch dues for quite a few years, and it was approved by a vote of our membership at last May's Annual Meeting.

WOMEN GRADUATES USA HONORED BY AAUW

The **AAUW Gateway to Equity Award** honors an individual, group or organization that has shown by action and philosophy the promotion of the AAUW mission of equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. It celebrates **International Women's Day which is held annually on March 8**. The award recognizes an awardee that shares its commitment to equity and to bring awareness to the work of that individual, group or organization and of AAUW. **This year, AAUW Doylestown Branch is honoring Women Graduates-USA for its work by awarding it their Gateway to Equity Award for 2016**. The award will be given at their branch meeting on March 12, a very fitting way to celebrate International Women's Day.

Of Note...

The following articles were submitted to the OMV by branch members Carol Ann Council, Ann Palermo, Rorie Measure and Donna Yargosz. If you have an idea for an article for a future newsletter, please send it to bonnie.schranz@gmail.com or call 575-640-8328 by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's publication.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IS MARCH 8

The sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will take place at the United Nations

Headquarters in New York from 14 to 24 March 2016.

Free Community Exercise Program for Senior Adults of Las Cruces

Looking for a way to improve your balance and flexibility?
Several members of AAUW participated in this class in
spring 2015 after the presentation at our January 2015
meeting by Dr. Bob Wood, department head and assistant
dean in the NMSU College of Education.

The class is ongoing, but individuals can still join.

**Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 10:15 - 11:10 a.m.
in the auditorium of the Frank O. Papen Community Center
304 Bell Ave. in Mesilla Park**

Faculty and students in the Kinesiology and Dance department at
New Mexico State University teach a class that is designed to
improve balance and flexibility through the practice of Tai Chi,
Yoga and Pilates. The class continues until May 3 (except for the
week of the NMSU spring break, March 14-18.)

Community participants have the opportunity to work one-on-one
with students to improve their balance and develop exercise
programs that are tailored to their individual strengths and
limitations.

Anyone who wants more information is welcome to call Ann
Palermo, 644-4277 or just come to a class and try it out.

Vote Online to Win 100,000 Books for NM

Vote for the state of your choice to win thousands of new books
for children in need from First Book and Disney. Vote as many
times as you like through March 31, 2016.

Schools and programs registered with First Book in the winning
state will receive 100,000 books. Second and third place states
will receive 25,000 and 10,000 books, respectively.

To go quickly to the First Book website where you can vote, click
on the link below.

[Vote for NM Kids to Win Books](#)

Desert Data Jam Judges Needed

Wednesday, April 27

Any 2 hours between 9 am - 2 pm

Wooten Hall, NMSU campus

The Asombro Institute for Science Education Education needs
judges for a unique competition for middle and high school students

who use environmental data sets in creative projects they design to communicate data trends to non-scientist audiences. These may include games, songs, physical models and more!

Judges require no previous training.

For more information or to sign up, call 575-524-3334 or email information@asombro.org.

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AAUW-LC, PO Box 6572, Las Cruces, NM 88006

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