

VOTE IN AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION!
LC Branch member Julia Brown
is a candidate for National Board Chair.
Find details in ALL ABOVE BOARD in this newsletter.



VOL. XXII, Issue 5

2017



**Annual Meeting Combines Business & Pleasure:
Budget, Officers' Election & Flamenco Dance
Program!**

Please join us for an entertaining and informative program about the art forms of Flamenco and Classical Spanish Dance with Paco Antonio and Lucilene de Geus and Sol y Arena dance ensemble. We will meet on **TUESDAY EVENING, May 9 at Peace Lutheran Church** (1701 Missouri Ave.) Fellowship Hall. Come early at 5:30 pm for socializing and snacks, with the **meeting starting promptly at 6 pm!**

Sol y Arena will engage us following the important business meeting to elect new officers and approve the budget and revised by-laws.

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Of Note

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website

AAUW-NM
website

PLEASE attend this meeting that mandates a quorum in attendance for us to be able to take action on these branch business matters!

AAUW
National
website

Plan to wear comfortable shoes, as the program will be interactive and fun!

Frank A. Gilpin, aka Paco Antonio, and his wife Lucilene de Geus are the Co-directors of Sol y Arena, the Dance Programs performance ensemble that specializes in Flamenco and Classical Spanish Dance. Paco completed his Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at NMSU and is currently Associate Professor in the Dept. of Kinesiology and Dance.

Lucilene is the director of dance at Alma d'Arte Charter High School and adjunct dance facility at NMSU. They have successfully taken their third group of dance students from Sol y Arena to Spain for a month long study in the summer called "An Interactive Exploration of the Arts Through Flamenco and Spanish Dance". As a result, they have seen tremendous advancement in their



students' artistic development. Their aspiration is to make the study abroad program happen every two years, so they do performances throughout the year to help fund it. Paco will discuss these art forms and their experiences in Spain and the dancers will perform and get us dancing along with them.

From our Co-Presidents Shirley Armstrong & Donna Rea

May greetings AAUW members,

Members? That's YOU! We often mention individual members in this letter but **this month our focus is on ALL of US!** AAUW-Las Cruces would not exist without YOU. Your importance to the vitality of our organization cannot be overstated. We thank you for your membership and for all each of you have done to make our 2016-2017 year a great success.

Some thoughts on membership that may be of interest...

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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

Tues., May 9
BRANCH
ANNUAL
MEETING
5:30 pm
Peace Lutheran
Church
program: Intro
to Flamenco
Dance

Tues., June 6
POTLUCK
Dinner
& Officers
Installation
6 pm at the
home of Donna
Rea

Thanks!

Additional
photos were
provided by
Carol Ann
Council and
Donna Rea.

- **Numbers:** 16 new members have joined since July 1, 2016, the beginning of our AAUW year. This is a great number but a bit misleading since our current membership list of 116 includes those who paid their 2016-2017 dues but are no longer here due to death or relocation. As sad as this is, it is reality and we know that change is necessary to the vitality of any organization.
- **Why we joined?:** Each of us made the decision to join AAUW for a variety of reasons - a friend asked us to attend a meeting, we read about an interesting program in the newspaper, we wanted to belong to a book group or play bridge, we wanted to meet interesting new people and make friends **OR simply, we believed in AAUW's mission.** Whatever the reason, we are pleased you have chosen to be part of our Las Cruces branch.
- **Retention:** Approximately a third of our group have belonged for around 20 years or more and another third have joined in the last 5 years. That our group is continually evolving is natural, but our goal is to make all new members feel welcome and important. **Our membership co-vice presidents work hard at making this happen and we appreciate that many of you help in that process!**
- **Involvement:** It is vital for all of us to feel we can do something to make a difference or to feel a part of our group. **Need some ideas: Serve on the board** or on a temporary committee, **Volunteer** at Girls Can!, **Help** with fundraising, **Join** an interest group or **Coordinate** a new one, **Start** a coffee discussion group, **Attend** monthly meetings, **Host** a new-member gathering, **Help** with Tech Trek. Let us know what appeals to you!

New to the
OMV?

Join Our
Mailing
List

[CLICK
HERE!](#)

Nothing in AAUW is obligatory other than paying our dues, BUT we do have **one business meeting each year** (paired with our May general meeting) that **requires a quorum (25%) of our membership in attendance.** The business part is typically rather short - we elect our new slate of officers and approve the budgets for the next year. This year we also need to approve some changes in our Bylaws, Policies and Procedures. **Please make an extra effort to attend this meeting - Tuesday, May 9 at 6 pm, at Peace Lutheran Church.** The business meeting is followed by our traditional 'active' program.

Finally, a **reminder about dues:** Payment is **due this year on June 30.** **SOMETHING NEW: To have your name and information included in the 2017-2018 yearbook, your dues must be paid by June 30.**

For specific information about paying dues, see the All Above Board column below in this newsletter.

**We appreciate each of you and look forward to seeing you on May 9!
Happy spring,**

- Donna Rea & Shirley Armstrong, Co-presidents

INTEREST GROUPS



Going Places offered a wonderful opportunity in April for branch members and guests who visited Holloman Air Force Base to learn about their rapidly developing drone training program. A guided tour included quality time spent with a drone pilot, videographer (female officers!) and mechanics for the special aircraft.



May Going Places Planning Event

Help is needed to come up with suggestions for day trips of interest for AAUW members. Come to a luncheon meeting at 11 am on **Tuesday, May 16** at Peppers Restaurant in Old Mesilla with ideas and suggestions to share. The Gadsden Room is being reserved for us. Please RSVP directly to Kathi Barit at 575-640-4257 or katherinebarit@gmail.com.

Anything Goes Book Group

Anything Goes Book Group will meet at 1:30 on **Monday, May 8** at the home of Marsha Hokkanen to discuss *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance. For More information, contact Julia Bruner at julesnewmexico@gmail.com or at 522-1685.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group meets next on **Monday, May 22** at the home of Cheryl Wilson to discuss *When the Moon is Low* by Nadia Hashim. New members welcome! If you aren't already a member of this group but would like to attend, contact Cheryl at 575-418-7747

Daytime & Evening Bridge

The AAUW Daytime bridge group meets on the **2nd Thursday of each month** at 1 pm to approximately 4 pm. Upcoming hostesses:

11 May Carol Ann Council
8 June Rita Worrell

The AAUW Evening bridge group meets on the **4th Tuesday of each month** except December at 7:15 pm. Upcoming hostess:

23 May Freddie Finkner

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

Dining Out

Dining Out will be at Indulgence Bakery and Cafe, 2265 South Main Street in Las Cruces on **Thursday, May 25** at 1 p.m. for lunch. You may have read in the paper that this restaurant sprang up after Si Bistro closed its doors. So we can expect some decadent pastries and lunch items.

Contact Cathy Quinones at quinonesc@aol.com if you want to attend so I can give them a head count to prepare for. Bring a friend. This is an ideal opportunity to get to know members, old and new, in a relaxed setting. See you there!

International Gourmet

Decisions about upcoming dinners will be made at the April 30 dinner at the home of Cyrille Kane. Check next month's OMV for future plans.

BRANCH MEMBERS ATTENDED AAUW-NM STATE CONVENTION - Co-President Shirley Armstrong Shares What They Learned



AAUW is becoming even more active and encourages ALL MEMBERS to become more knowledgeable and active in advancing our causes. **Advocacy and activism** were two of the main take-aways we gleaned from **Ann Hedgepeth, AAUW National's senior government relations manager**, at the 2017 AAUW-NM State Convention in Los Alamos, NM, April 21-23. **AAUW-LC branch members who attended are (in photo l. - r.), Beverly Chambers, Shirley Armstrong, AAUW NMSU Affiliate member Fattaneh Naderi-Behdani, Londa Seiffert, Carol Ann Council, and Donna Rea. Julia Brown (right) was a presenter at the convention.**

Both Julia and Fattaneh spoke during the weekend:

Fattaneh talked about the process of receiving the AAUW International Fellowship, applying for a Visa and her future plans. She presented a slide show about her research in desalinization projects.

Julia's topic, Diversity & Inclusion - Out of the Box! focused on the realistic future of AAUW and how to recruit and retain a diverse membership. Her insightful support for Open Membership* resulted in several attendees changing their minds on this important topic. Julia also spoke persuasively of her goals in running for president of our AAUW national president. (Voting is open on-line through June 15 - see details in All Above Board.)

Ann Hedgepeth shared **the importance of Grassroots Advocacy** to achieve our goals and reminded us this process is **a Marathon, not a Sprint**. She quoted author Terry Pratchett saying, "People think that stories are shaped by people. In reality, it's the other way around." To be more effective as an organization, Ann encouraged us to share the AAUW story to get our message out. AAUW has the reputation of being a trusted non-partisan advocate for women's causes, BUT many (most) people have never heard of our organization.

Ann gave us several tools we can use to share our name and our message:

- **Table:** Set up at local events and farmers markets with an AAUW sign and information.
- **Use the media:**
Write letters to the editor or op-eds on topics that mesh with our action priorities.
- **Meet with elected officials.**
- **Host an issue-specific forum**, perhaps using a Program in a Box from the www.aauw.org.
- **Become a 2-Minute Activist:**
Members and non-members can sign up for this effective tool on our national website.
- **Perfect your 'Elevator Pitch'** (brief AAUW story statement).

If you are inspired to become more active, please contact our board with your thoughts!

With our involvement, we can effect positive change!

NMSU Prof and Students were Guest Speakers at April Branch Meeting



Dr. Patricia Wojahn gave members and guests a good idea what the developing Gender & Sexuality Studies (formerly Women's Studies) program at NMSU is all about. Courses in this program might be some of the most valuable classes students of both genders could ever take!



Dr. Wojahn was assisted in her presentation by senior international student Christina Binderup Mikkelsen of Denmark.



Freshman NMSU student Selena Solis shared some of the joys and challenges of her first year of college which was supported in part by the True Grit Award presented to her upon graduation from Rio Grande Preparatory Institute by AAUW-LC.

All Above Board

The AAUW-LC Board will next on Monday, May 1 at 9 a.m. in the Conference room of Good Samaritan. Board meetings are open to all members.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! DO IT NOW!

Voting in the AAUW National Election is quick and easy. You should have received an email with a link to your personal member ballot to vote. If you have any questions, please email connect@aauw.org or call 800-326-2289 on weekdays between 8 am and 3 pm MT.

As with any election, you are shaping the future. Who will lead AAUW? What will our public policy platform reflect? Will our membership requirement change? Your vote is your voice, and I hope you participate in this important process. Of special interest this year, AAUW-LC member **Julia Brown is a candidate for National Board Chair.** A video explaining her candidacy was attached to the April OMV and the text is available in *Outlook* magazine, which you should have received in the regular mail.

Issues on the ballot this year include gun violence and AAUW's membership requirement. Vote on candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors, amendments to the AAUW Bylaws, proposed resolutions, and proposed changes to the AAUW Public Policy Program. Details about the [candidates](#) and [ballot issues](#) are available on the website and in your spring *Outlook* magazine. You can click on the [green](#) words underlined above to go directly to those sections of the national website.



Four of the young women who learned how to better negotiate their first salary at the first AAUW Start Smart program held at NMSU.



Several Branch Board members enjoyed a morning with AAUW-NM Co-President Sylvia Fink (2nd from left) at the home of AAUW-LC Co-President Donna Rea following the first AAUW Start Smart workshop held at NMSU on April 4.

MEMBERSHIP

We extend a warm welcome to our newest branch member, **Patricia Johnson**.

It is that time of year to renew your AAUW annual membership.

The 2017-18 dues are \$87: National \$49 (\$46 of the national dues are tax deductible), State \$18, LC Branch \$20.

NOTE! Current and new members who wish their names and contact information to be included in the 2017-18 Yearbook must pay their dues no later than June 30, 2017.

You can renew in two ways:

- 1) **send a check** to AAUW PO Box 6572, Las Cruces, NM 88006 or give your check directly to Mimi Roddy.
- 2) **pay online** <http://www.aauw.org/member-tools/> Log on with your AAUW ID and password.

GIRLS CAN!

We're all still basking in the glow of another successful Girls Can! The facility, the workshops, the excitement by the students -- it all went pretty well for our first time at DACC. And we hope it is not our last. I was hoping to report on the evaluation/planning session by the team leaders, but we haven't had it yet. Hopefully, we'll have it soon and you can read about it in the next OMV. In the meantime, please email me with any observations, suggestions or comments about what was great and what could be better next year! Thanks for your input. Best, Ann McCullough (girlscanlascruces@gmail.com).

PUBLIC POLICY - VOTE May 2!

Be sure to vote in the Doña Ana Soil & Water Conservation District Election on Tuesday, May 2. Polls will be open from 7 am - 7 pm at these locations in Las Cruces:

(Open to all eligible voters in Zones 3 & 4):

Doña Ana County Government Center, 845 N Motel Blvd, Las Cruces

Good Samaritan Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces

Las Cruces Sage Cafe Community Center, 6121 Reynolds Dr, Las Cruces

You can view a candidate forum aired on KRWG on Saturday, April 25 by

clicking on this link:

<https://youtu.be/kyEOEzbEnVI>

Jo Tice Bloom - a Life in AAUW

"AAUW is in my blood," branch member **Jo Tice Bloom** told me in a recent conversation we shared. "My mother was an AAUW member, and I always knew I would join when I left college." Today in 2017 she is proud to be a Life Member of an organization that is still actively doing things that matter.

Jo said she was encouraged to join AAUW by her English Dept. Chair when she was a young teacher in 1965. After her marriage in 1968, she became a member of the AAUW branch in Reston, VA, but as program chair, she faced criticism for inviting too many (three!) women of color as speakers for the group. She refers to herself today as a "quiet feminist," and through the years she has continued to support and take action on issues that are those championed by AAUW.



Jo Tice Bloom speaking at an AAUW-NM convention held in Las Cruces.

"We are involved in education for girls and women. That's what we're here for," she said, noting that she is also a strong supporter of the Girls Scouts of America. "It's been my evocation: 30 years as a leader and 35 as a trainer."

She was honored as a Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest. Speaking about her own education, Jo recalled being one of only 8 women of 250 graduate students, and women made up only 2% of Doctoral candidates.

That number today is 50%. "But there's still discrimination in degree programs in upper education," she said, "though there is some progress in the sciences." She smiled remembering her father saying, "I don't know why she wants a Ph.D. - but if she wants it, I'll support her." She added, "Without him, I wouldn't be the woman I am today."

Jo has been a member of the Las Cruces branch since 1995 when she and her husband, John, became faculty members of New Mexico State University. She was recruited by Carol Ann Council. For a number of years Jo also taught a very popular class on New Mexico history at the Farm & Ranch Museum. I was among quite a few branch members who took the course to help acclimate to our new homes in Las Cruces.

I asked Jo if she could do it all again, would she still join AAUW?

"Absolutely!" was her quick response. She praised our branch: "Active!

Vibrant!" She worked on Girls Can! for at least 16 years of its history. She is delighted that NMSU now finally has an AAUW Affiliate group. "We are opening eyes!" she said. She laughed when she thought back to the California branch she joined many years ago that just didn't have room for her in their bridge group. Really???

More importantly, she pointed out, "We are still working on women's issues, and we still have work to do." Among issues finding their way to the top of her bucket list are getting out the vote, women's reproductive rights, and bringing more diversity to the branch and the organization as a whole.

Admittedly, due to constraints of health and time, Jo is now unable to attend many general meetings, but she continues both the important work of archiving branch materials and the enjoyable pastime of playing bridge with her AAUW interest group friends. She concluded, "I just feel that this is one of the prouder things of my life - that I have supported AAUW for 51 years. I wouldn't give it up for anything."

This is the first in what will be a series of interviews with some of the longtime AAUW-LC branch members, with a focus on their lives in AAUW and a tribute to all they have contributed to our community, our branch and the AAUW organization at all levels. - Bonnie Schranz, OMV editor

Thinking of You..

Our hearts are with branch member **Glennis Adam** who lost her husband Martin "Marty" Ditmore on April 2. Born in Pittsburgh, PA in 1933, he retired to Las Cruces in 1996 following a career as a systems engineer for the MITRE Corp of McLean, VA. He also leaves three children, 10 grandchildren and a beloved dog.



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Sincere get well wishes go out to branch members **Juliet Williams** and **Deanise Marta**, as well as **Fran Plec's husband, Jerry**.

Of Note...

AAUW-LC and Mesilla Valley Chorale members Lynn Alford and Bonnie Schranz invite you to attend this joyful, spring seasonal event...listening to lots of great music is a perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Tickets are \$10 at the door of the Rio Grande Theatre on Sunday, May 14.

Mesilla Valley Chorale
Presents
Dreamin'
Nancy Ritchey Director
Judy Bethmann Asst. Director
Accompanists:
Laura Loos & Karen Warren
Tickets \$10
For information: 575-647-2560
May 14, 2017
3 p.m.
Rio Grande Theatre

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