

AAUW

Las Cruces (NM) Branch

VOL. XX, Issue 1

September 2015



Welcome to AAUW Las Cruces, kicking off the 2015-16 program year on Saturday, Sept 12. Pictured are a group of branch officers, including (l-r) Bonnie Schranz, Deanise Marta, Juliet Williams, Marsha Ogden, Carol Ann Council, Donna Rea, Ruth Benjamins, Ann Palormo, Shirley Armstrong, Lori LaPlanche, LaJune Smith, Fran Plec and Mary Rita Chapman.

WELCOME BRUNCH SATURDAY, SEPT 12 Starting 9:30 AM, Peace Lutheran Church



Mark your calendar and plan to attend the September meeting of the Las Cruces Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Saturday, Sept 12, beginning at 9:30 am at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave, Las Cruces.

The morning will begin with a meet and greet brunch**. The program will include a brief overview of the AAUW organization at the national and state levels; local branch programs; our annual fundraiser on October 17; and an introduction to a variety of interest groups open to members. Yearbooks will be distributed at this meeting. The featured speaker will be Kathie Davis, principal of Rio Grande Preparatory Institute (RGPI), formerly San Andreas High School.

New members and others interested in learning about the mission and activities of the AAUW are encouraged to attend.

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Girls Scouts Honor Juliet Williams

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Of Note

Quick Links

[AAUW-LC website](#)

[AAUW-NM website](#)

[AAUW National website](#)

Upcoming General Meetings & Events

Sat., Sept 12 9:30 am
Peace Lutheran Church
Welcome Brunch

Sat., Oct 11 10 am
Branigan Library
Roadrunner Room
Dr. Miriam Chaiken,
NMSU Honors College

Sat., Oct 17 3 - 5 pm
BRANCH FUNDRAISER
EAT, DRINK & BE
CHARITABLE
Picacho Hills CC

Anyone joining AAUW at the meeting can do so with a discount on dues for the coming year.

**We had such a tasty variety of goodies at last year's event, we hope any members who love to cook or bake, want to try a new recipe or have an old favorite they know everyone will enjoy will bring that item to share with the group. If cooking isn't your thing, you might contribute lemonade or iced tea.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, Sept 8 to Deanise Marta
dxmarta@msn.com 575-496-0192 or Ann Palormo
apalormo@nmsu.edu 575-644-4277.

AAUW-LC Co-President Mary Rita Chapman recently accepted an award from the NMSU Department of Arts & Sciences recognizing our branch's contributions to our community. Girls Can! Coordinator Ann McCullough (not pictured) was also an invited honoree at the event.



from our co-presidents
Mary Rita Chapman and Shirley Armstrong

Greetings All!

WELCOME BACK to our MANY 'old' members and our 4-and-counting new members. The great news is that our numbers are already above 100 - unusual before our first meeting. The other good news - and you'll see this elsewhere - is that new members who join at our September meeting pay only \$52.50 for a full year's membership, as compared to the full \$77. **SO BRING ALL YOUR FRIENDS.** They'll save money, you will be their heroines and we'll welcome them with open arms.

Our committees and boards have been working hard over the summer to plan an exciting year. Our variety of meeting topics and an incredible selection of interest groups should certainly be enough to pique everyone's interests. Check out the great list of programs for the year AND the interest groups both in the yearbook and this newsletter.

Speaking of the yearbook AND the newsletter, big KUDOS this month are due our illustrious editor of both publications, **Bonnie Schranz**. This is a Herculean job. If you don't know her, she is the one scurrying around at all meetings and events with camera flashing. Singling out Bonnie does not negate the incredible task of our treasurer, **Donna Rea**, who spent endless hours finalizing the budget and planning for our upcoming year. Other than her monthly reports at board meetings, this is pretty much a behind the scenes task but one we could not get by without.

Are you on the mailing list of the AAUW-LC Organ Mountain Views newsletter?

If not, click the button below if you would like to receive upcoming issues.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

AAUW members get a discount at Office Depot/Office Max!

Do You Want to Save Money???

AAUW has negotiated a great deal for all AAUW members with Office Depot/Office Max. We get up to 80% off on many items. That's a pretty good deal!

This is for both personal and professional needs, not just AAUW business.

So, all you have to do to get a discount card that you can print out is click on this link:

[OFFICE MAX DISCOUNT](#)

You can also get to this card online by going to www.aauw.org and putting 'office depot' in the search field - then follow several steps from there.

Use this card whenever you shop at Office Depot/Office Max.

Happy Shopping!

INVITATION TO ATTEND

And for Donna to have her 'tools' to work with - and us to have the funds necessary to complete our worthy annual projects - **Girls Can!, Tech Trek and scholarships - we couldn't function without your generous support.** We truly encourage you to support our one fundraiser for the year this October 17. Beverly Chambers and her committee have planned it separately from the holiday party which is a time when most of us are finding other ways to spend our money.

Your board met in August to begin discussion of our goals for the year. One certain goal is to continue with our Girls Can! program, set for March 5, 2016. **Girls Can! Chair, Ann McCullough**, shared two desires to improve the event: 1) to involve more branch members in the process and 2) to get more girls from Las Cruces schools to attend (by far the largest attendance is from the out-county schools).

We wish you all a wonderful fall and look forward to spending more time with you all at meetings and activities.

Your Co-Presidents

Mary Rita Chapman and Shirley Armstrong

LET'S DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT...



A FUNDRAISER WITH AN INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR!

That is the approach taken by this year's fundraising committee. Lead by Beverly Chambers, the group is prepared to offer international entertainment, a silent auction, good food and libation for your fundraising

pleasure!

SAVE THE DATE!

This event is being held on **Saturday, October 17 from 3-5 pm at the Picacho Hills Country Club.**

BRING YOUR FRIENDS ALONG!

This event is designed for AAUW members AND friends!

PURCHASE TICKETS - THEY'RE AVAILABLE 3 WAYS!

We will have tickets for **\$25 each** available at our **Saturday, September 12, AAUW brunch meeting!** Bring along your check books and purchase your tickets there.

OR...you can print out tickets you'll find by clicking this link:

[CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS TO PRINT OUT](#)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' FALL PROGRAMS

This fall we are exploring working closer with the Greater Las Cruces League of Women Voters on common goals shared by our national organizations. To help us achieve an understanding of what our two groups do, we have decided to share each other's monthly programs in our respective newsletters with **an open invitation to attend any of interest.**

Sept 14 5:30 pm

Good Samaritan Activity Room

The Future of Healthcare Delivery in Las Cruces, John Hummer, Owner, Steinborn Reality

Oct 12 5:30 pm

Good Samaritan Activity Room

The History, Benefits and Downside of Standardized Assessment, Steven Sanchez, PhD, Deputy Supt. LCPS, retired

Nov 9 5:30 pm

Good Samaritan Activity Room

Public Campaign Finance & Dark Money

Craig Fenske and Vicki Harrison, Common Cause

Dec 5 10 am

Good Samaritan Dining Room

Legislative Breakfast with Doña Ana County legislators

All meetings are accompanied by a meal. RSVP to make a meal reservation or request a seat without a meal:

Gwen Hanson

gwenhanson10@gmail.com
556-9251
or email

Then, just follow the payment instructions on the ticket.

OR. ...you can have the tickets you want mailed to you by contacting Beverly Chambers.

FABULOUS ENTERTAINMENT!

We will be entertained by **LAS PERLITAS**, a local Folklorico dance group AND the wonderful voice of **AL CHANCE**, our local "Sinatra" singer.

VERY SPECIAL SILENT AUCTION!

AAUW uses funds raised for a variety of causes that reflect AAUW values and goals. There will be a variety of wonderful items on which to bid...please bring your check book!

FOOD & DRINKS!

It would not be an AAUW event without wonderful food (the cost is included in your ticket), and a cash bar will be available for your dining pleasure.

INTEREST GROUPS

Anything Goes Book Group

The Anything Goes book group meets on the second Monday monthly at 1:30 p.m. Join them on **Monday, Sept 14** at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Marsha Ogden to discuss *American Nation* by Colin Woodard. New members are welcome. Contact Julia Bruner at 522-1685 julesnewmexico@gmail.com for more information.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group

The Anything Goes - Fiction group will meet in the home of Nancy Carlson on **Monday, Sept 28** to discuss *The Missing Place* by Sophie Littlefield. Contact Nancy at bnnm09@q.com or 522-9794.

Daytime & Evening Bridge

Daytime Bridge -

meets the second Thursday monthly, 1 - 4 p.m.

Hostess:

Sept 10 Lavita Costley

Oct 8 Mary Berry

Evening Bridge -

meets the fourth Tuesday monthly (not December) at 7:15 p.m.

Hostess:

Sept 22 Lavita Costley

Oct 27 Ann Wheeler Kaiser

Contact for both groups: Carol Ann Council

kk-ca_council@msn.com 649-8122

Dining Out

Dining Out Interest Group will meet on **Tuesday, Sept 15** at 5:30

p.m. for supper at **Peppers on the Plaza** in Mesilla (inside the Double Eagle), 2355 Calle de Guadalupe. All AAUW members and their guests, spouses, etc. are welcome. It is a great way to introduce prospective members to our organization. For those new to our area, Peppers does serve beer, wine, and mixed drinks.

Just **email Cathy Quinones** quinones@aol.com by the evening before if you plan to attend. We can then provide the restaurant with a number so they can accommodate us. We don't do anything formal-just have good conversation and enjoy a meal with separate checks at the end. We always meet on the **third Tuesday of each month between September and the following May**. We hope to see you there!

Going Places

Discover the effect on a prosperous silver mining town in New Mexico when William Jennings Bryan lost his presidential bid to William McKinley in 1896. **Visit Chloride, NM on Thursday Sept 17** with the "Going Places" group and discover an authentic Ghost Town. We will meet at Toucan market parking lot at 8 am. to carpool to Chloride, which is northwest of Truth or Consequences. After touring the General Store and the town, we will lunch at the Bank, which is now a restaurant. Reservations with Ruth Benjamins benjpa@q.com or phone: 527-0204. New members and guests are always welcome.

International Dinners

The **September 19** dinner will be at the home of Deanise Marta. The theme is Contemporary Southwest - Recipes from the (late, great) Café Terra Cotta of Tucson, Arizona. Contact Deanise at 575-496-0192 for more information or recipes.

NFL Fans

The **Pittsburgh Steelers'** first game of the season is **Thursday, Sept. 10**, vs. the Patriots, at 5:30 pm. Other September games are Sunday, Sept. 20, vs. the 49ers, at 11 am; and Sunday, Sept. 27, vs. the Rams, at 11 am. The Steelers Fan Club in Las Cruces is changing where it meets. The **new location is Jose Murphy's, 1201 E. Amador**. Please contact Phoebe Pierce 575-524-8320 or pierce1@zianet.com for more info.

Chicago Bears fans will meet at **The Game** at 11 am on **Sunday, Sept 20** to watch the Bears play the St. Louis Cardinals. Email Fran Plec fplec@comcast.net if you will be joining us.

Opera (NEW!)

Join the new AAUW-LC Opera Group, meeting monthly at Cineport 10 theater in the Mesilla Vallery Mall. See **Carmen** on **Sunday, Sept 20**, at noon. Think ahead to a summer group venture to attend the Santa Fe Opera. Contact Ann McCullough for more information girlsscanlascruces@gmail.com 524-2601.

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, Oct 5. 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 previous meetings are also available for your review. Click on the blue links below to see documents that you can read and print out, if desired.

[AAUW-LC Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 5, 2015](#)

[AAUW-LC Board minutes May 2015](#)



SENDING EMAIL MESSAGES TO BRANCH MEMBERS

If you have an announcement that you would like to have sent as an email to all of our branch members, Email Coordinator **Lori LaPlanche** asks that you please follow this procedure:

1. Supply a descriptive title
2. Edit your submission, because it will appear in the email exactly as you wrote it.
3. Submit it to one or both of the presidents for their approval.

The president(s) will forward it to the email coordinator.

(Chairs of interest groups such as the Dining Out group or Going Places do not need a president's approval.) Thanks!



Membership Co-VP LaJune Smith (left), Rorie Measure and Rita Stopa welcomed new member Joan Iverson at the June Potluck meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

As noted earlier in the newsletter, our branch membership is **already 101** going into 2015-16. Congratulations for a job well done, **Membership Co-VPs LaJune Smith and Juliet**

Williams and everyone who has brought a friend into the branch! Remember, anyone you bring to an AAUW meeting **who joins at that meeting** can do so at a dues discount.

Contact one of the Membership Co-VPs for more info.

Become a Friend

We are looking for individuals who would like to help new members feel welcome and at home. Many of these new members are also new to the area and are looking for friends and things to do. If interested, please talk to either LaJune Smith (522-6026) or Juliet Williams (522-2868).

WELCOME Our Newest Members

Welcome to our newest members who joined our group in June or over the summer. They are **Mary Ann Hendrickson, Joan Iverson, Merrie Lee Soules** and **Cally Williams**.

Be sure to **wear your name tag** to the September brunch, and **say "Hello"** to our new members and any continuing members you'd like to get to know better!

BRANCH RECEIVES RECOGNITION FROM NMSU

Over the summer, Girls Can! Coordinator **Ann McCullough** and Co-President **Mary Rita Chapman** accepted an award for the Las Cruces branch from the New Mexico State University Department of Arts & Sciences in recognition of what AAUW contributes to the Las Cruces community.

WOMEN GRADUATES - USA

Carol Ann Council, our international organizations liaison, shares this information: Women Graduates - USA will meet for their 2015 Annual General Meeting in Baltimore, MD Sept 25-27. Members will receive an electronic ballot to vote on Sept 16 for a slate of officers who will take office Jan 1, 2016.

AAUW-LC Member Juliet Williams is Girl Scouts' Honoree at Annual Women of Distinction Luncheon Sept 10



Juliet Williams, Membership Co-VP of our branch, will be honored by the Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest at their annual luncheon on Thursday, Sept 10, 11:30 am at the Hotel Encanto. **Carrie Hamblen** of the Green Chamber will be the emcee and Sylvia Acevedo will be the keynote speaker.

Juliet is in good company with other members of our branch who have been honored in previous years, including **Jo Tice Bloom, Carrie Hamblen and Phyllis Franzoy**. As a child, Juliet was a Girl Scout in Wantagh, NY. She says it was in the Girl Scouts that she learned to become "goal oriented."

Juliet's impressive biography includes a career as a high school science teacher, named Fairfax County (VA) Science Teacher of the Year. She is a past president of the Fairfax County Soroptimist International and the Fairfax County Interservice Council. In Las Cruces for the past decade, she has been a Master Gardener with the Dona Ana County Extension Service.

She also is instrumental in training young 4-H Club members in horticulture, preparing them for competitions. Her work with children also includes the Kids, Kows and More program. Her awards include Friend of 4-H for outstanding work in New Mexico and another for Outstanding Volunteer Service in the Master Gardener program.



CONGRATULATIONS to Rebecca Galves, a member of AAUW-LC, who is one of 17 women selected for the upcoming New Mexico Women of STEM calendar. As the NMSU Young Women in Computing program manager, she is shown here teaching a middle school girl how to use Scratch Animation, a tool for designing a video game she will design as part of the YWiC summer camp held at New Mexico State University.

To read the full article: [CLICK ON THIS LINK](#)

Of Note

The purpose of this column that traditionally ends the newsletter is to give a time for reflection upon ideas of many kinds that are important to our members. To date it has included snippets from AAUW-National publications, cuttings gleaned from other worthy publications, and announcements and commentaries submitted by our members. This month's first note is a personal message to you from our newest Co-President, Shirley Armstrong.

Greetings,

As a new co-president this year, I want to share a few thoughts.

I joined AAUW 20 years ago this month so I could meet new people in Las Cruces and play bridge. I was hooked at the first meeting after viewing a heart-wrenching video that chronicled the employment challenges faced by two separate women and how AAUW took on their legal efforts to achieve fair job advancement and pay justice for them both.

Since then I have not paid much attention to what our organization stands for, but in assuming this new task I am again focusing on our mission, and I assure you it is worthy of your membership. I also have to offer praise for your board - this is a hard-working, talented, devoted group of ladies - not unlike each of you - who all share the responsibility of making our amazing Las Cruces branch function as well as it does. I am honored to be part of this organization and board and look forward to the opportunity to work with you!

Shirley



Recently in the news...

YES! GIRLS CAN!

Capt. Kristen Griest and 1st Lt. Shaye Haver made history this month as the first two women to graduate from the U.S. Army's elite Ranger School. They received their tabs as part of Ranger Class 08-15 at Fort Benning, GA, marking a historic moment in the integration of women in the U.S. military, after completing weeks of grueling physical training across woods, mountains and swamplands.

****If you have anything to share in the Of Note column, please send it to me at bonnie.schranz@gmail.com or call 640-8328 by the 20th of the month prior to publication.****

SUPPORT OUR MEMBER ADVERTISER!

The advertisement features a central graphic of a smiling mouth with a pink tongue. To the left of the mouth is a toothbrush and a tube of toothpaste. To the right is a dental chair. The word "Smile!" is written in a cursive font above the mouth. Below the mouth, there are fields for "Name", "Date", and "Time". To the right of the mouth, the text reads: "Kathleen J. Cordova, D.D.S.", "1425 Telshor, Las Cruces 88011", "Cosmetic & Preventive Denistry", and "575-522-1314". Below the mouth, there is a small box with the text "Dr. Kathleen Cordova" and "(575) 522-1314".

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