

**You Can Still Get a Ticket for Saturday's "Divas 2017!"
Call 575-646-1420 to Reserve Your Seat!**



Las Cruces (NM) Branch

ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

VOL. XXII, Issue 7

September 2017



AAUW-LC Branch Will Kick Off 2017-18 at Brunch Meeting Saturday, Sept 9, 9:30 am

**You don't want to miss the first meeting of the 2017-2018 year!
We'll meet at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9 at Peace Lutheran
Church, 1701 Missouri Ave. A continental breakfast will be
provided by the Board.**

Meet and mingle with members, new members, and guests.

New members will have **blue ribbons**.

Guests will have **red name tags**.

Pick up your new clip-on name tag - there's one for everyone!

Pick up your 2017-2018 yearbook.

Sign up for new interest groups.

In This Issue

From Our Co-
Presidents

Deanise Marta
is Woman of
Distinction; and
Letter from
National Board
Chair Julia
Brown

Interest Groups

La June Smith -
A Life in AAUW

All Above Board

June Potluck
Photos

Of Note - Susan
DeMar is
"Wonder
Woman"

Branch
Roundtable
Discussions
Planned

Quick Links
AAUW-LC
website

AAUW-NM

Enjoy remarks from our own **Julia Brown**, newly elected Chair of the AAUW National Board of Directors.

Learn about plans and priorities for the coming year. Bring a friend who might become a future member, and this is the perfect time to join! **Guests joining at any general meeting or event open to the public that supports our mission are able to participate in AAUW's "Shape the Future" program. National dues are "half-price." With state and local dues included, a membership is available for \$62.50.**

From our Co-Presidents Donna Rea & Beverly Chambers

Welcome to the 2017-18 AAUW Las Cruces year!

Our mission statement says it all: To advance equality for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. We are appreciative of your membership in our branch and welcome your participation in our activities!



Beverly Chambers & Donna Rea

Thirteen incoming members who bring innovative ideas and lots of energy have joined us this past 2016-17 year! The most recent are listed later in this newsletter. Our Membership Co-vice presidents, **Marsha Hokkanen** and **Kay Williams**, have planned a number of activities to introduce them to our branch during this coming year.

Our Program Co-vice-presidents, **Julia Bruner** and **Londa Seiffert**, have planned an exceptionally strong, interesting and educational program series this year. Various programs include "The Challenges of Democracy" by member **Christa Slaton**; Immigration; Osteopathic Medicine (Burrell College); Cardiovascular Disease; and Title IX by member **Kay Brilliant**. There will be social occasions as well!

Girls Can! 2018, under the leadership of **Ann McCullough** and her team, promises to continue its history of success with a program next March 10 on the Doña Ana Community College (DACC) campus, with the support of new AAUW member and DACC President, **Renay Scott**. The workshop leaders, many from our membership, introduce the 6th grade girls to careers that they may not have thought of for themselves. A parents' workshop is also included.

Tech Trek 2017 was another tremendous success! Thanks to the incredible generosity and passion of AAUW-WOMEN throughout NM,

[We Want to Hear From You!](#)

In the life of a volunteer organization, every few years or so, it is important to find out what the members think about what is going on and design a means to listen to them.

In an effort to provide an opportunity for each member of AAUW LC branch to be heard, we have designed a method of listening to all members.

[In lieu of a paper survey or one on one conversations with leaders and friends, we will hold round table discussions throughout this year.](#)

[We are structuring conversations of no more](#)

sixty 8th grade girls from all over New Mexico gathered on the NM Tech campus for 10 days to gain experience and explore fun challenges in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. Tech Trek 2018 planning is already underway.

Our Interest Group Coordinator, **Marsha Ogden**, describes a number of such groups for your consideration in this OMV. These include groups for book discussion, games and food; fellowship and learning are always included.

Our branch has several ways to communicate, including our website (thanks to **Rebecca Galves**); our Organ Mountain View newsletter (thanks to **Bonnie Schranz**); our yearbook (thanks to **Judy McGuire**); and occasional emails (thanks to **Lori LaPlanche**). Please refer to them to keep posted on our activities and schedules!

The next two AAUW state conventions will be held in Southern New Mexico! Our recent state convention was held in Los Alamos in 2017. We are very excited that we, here in the southern part of the state, will be hosting the next two conventions. In 2018 the convention will be held in Carlsbad, and in 2019 we will be hosting the convention right here in Las Cruces! Plans are already underway for our southern region.

Your ideas and concepts are welcome and encouraged as we move forward. Some new initiatives are being explored that include additional outreach programs in the community and potential co-sponsorships with groups that are in keeping with our AAUW goals. We look forward to an exciting, enjoyable, productive year. With your participation, we can accomplish that and more!

DEANISE MARTA TO BE HONORED AS WOMAN OF DISTINCTION Thurs., Sept 21

AAUW member Deanise Marta will be honored at the annual Women of Distinction luncheon sponsored by the Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest on Thursday, Sept. 21 at the Hotel Encanto 11:30 am - 1 pm. The cost of the luncheon is \$35, with Friday, Sept. 8 the deadline to make your reservation.



This year's event is the fifth luncheon to spotlight ten women annually from our region for their outstanding contributions to our community. Deanise was nominated for the award by our branch. Other AAUW-LC members who have

than six members at a time for an open dialogue about AAUW.

We will provide a facilitator and a scribe...you need only attend and bring your enthusiasm, thoughts and ideas.

Although this method is based loosely on a focus group model, we will not be gathering actual scientific data.

We will limit conversations to one hour and will be scheduling them in various times of the day to accommodate members' availability.

We look forward to listening for the rich ideas that emerge from open interaction and dialogue.

All comments and opinions will be confidential.

been honored at past luncheons are **LaJune Smith, Ann Palormo, Juliet Williams, Phyllis Franzoy, Suzanne Maddox** and **Jo Tice Bloom**.

To make your reservation, send a check for \$35 written to Rita Stopa. Mail it to her home at 2812 Cloudcroft Circle, Las Cruces, NM 88011.

The luncheon is always well attended by AAUW-LC members. If you would like to sit at a table of AAUW branch members, or any specific person making her reservation with Rita, please send a note with your check making that request. Rita will send a check to the GSDSW making a reservation for tables to accommodate us. We will meet 15 minutes prior to the start of the program for seating.

There is no question that Deanise is a worthy candidate for this award. A Las Cruces branch past president, she has also served as secretary, Girls Can! coordinator, and Programs Co-VP. She has supported AAUW-NM as secretary, Roadrunner newsletter editor and website manager for both the branch and the state websites.

Beyond our organization, Deanise has been dedicated to the Las Cruces community, most notably as a board member for the NMSU Honors College Circle of Excellence and as president and secretary of the Spay and Neuter Action Project (SNAP).

a letter to our branch from AAUW-NATIONAL BOARD CHAIR JULIA BROWN

Hello My Sisters:

First let me say thank you again for your support in the recent election. I'm very humbled to be serving as national board chair and will be working very hard over the next two years to move the needle and the organization forward. I think it is imperative that we heighten our visibility as an organization, both allowing us to expand our member base (diversity and inclusion); and to expand in some program areas. I'm thinking about launching the new "3 R's." I'll tell you more about that in the coming weeks!

I believe there are numerous opportunities for us to collaborate with a number of organizations. I'm working on a list now to begin the outreach effort. If you think of national women's organizations that you believe it would make sense for us to partner with on projects or initiatives, be sure and clue me in to them.

Finally, we need to update the National Strategic Plan, so that effort will commence in the next few weeks. It's going to be a busy but exciting two years. Lots of work, but its all a labor of love!

Your Board Chair, Julia

Information gathered throughout this year will go to the leaders in order to support changes and new ideas.

Please join us for a quick listening event and tell us about your relationship with AAUW!

We will be scheduling roundtable conversations at meetings, email and through the website.

Please contact Kay Brilliant or Donna Rea for more details.

We will be HEARING from you soon!

∞∞∞∞

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



At the 2017 AAUW National Convention in Washington, D.C., representing AAUW-NM at the event (l. - r.) Cassie Marrs, Roxanne Lara, Julia Brown, Sylvia Fink, Helena Whyte and Lynn Heffron. The photo is reprinted from the AAUW-NM Summer 2017 Roadrunner newsletter.

A press release from AAUW-National about Julia's election as Board Chair has been submitted to media across the country. To read that article, [click on the pdf link below](#).

[Press Release Announcing Julia Brown, AAUW Board Chair](#)

INTEREST GROUPS

Please let Interest Group Coordinator Marsha Ogden know if you are interested in forming a new interest group. Additional information about existing and proposed groups will be available at the Sept. 9 brunch general meeting. Call 575 532-5466 or email marshaogden@yahoo.com.

Anything Goes Book Group

Anything Goes book group will meet on **Monday, Sept 11** at 1:30 pm. Rollie Antiput is the hostess. *Immortal Irishman* by Timothy Egan will be discussed. Please contact Julia Bruner at 575-522-1685 or julesnewmexico@gmail.com if you are interested in joining our group.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on **Monday, Sept 25** at 1:30. *Still Life* by Louise Penny is the selection. Please contact the hostess, Susan Schmutge, 575 522-4546 for additional information.

[Click Here to see a list of titles and hostesses for the remainder of 2017 for Anything Goes Fiction](#)

Daytime & Evening Bridge
DAYTIME

Upcoming General Meetings & Events

Sat., Aug 26
Divas Concert
AAUW-NMSU
Fundraiser
7:30 pm
NMSU Center for
the Arts

Sat., Sept. 9
Welcome Meeting
9:30 am
Peace Lutheran
Church Hall

Thursday, Sept 21
Women of
Distinction
Luncheon at Hotel
Encanto, 11:30 am

Sat., Oct 14
General Meeting
Program:
"Challenges of
Democracy,"
Dr. Christa Slaton

Saturday, Nov. 11
General Meeting
Program:
"Immigration:
the Human
Perspective,"
Molly Graver and
Ida Dantonio-Hagen

**New to the
OMV?**

**Join Our
Mailing List**

**[CLICK
HERE!](#)**

2nd Thursday of each month at 1 pm to approximately 4 pm

8 June	Rita Worrell
13 July	Lavita Costley
10 August	Shirley Armstrong
14 Sept.	TBA

EVENING

4th Tuesday of each month except December at 7:15pm

27 June	Carol Eggers
25 July	Lavita Costley
22 August	Rita Worrell

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

Laugh and Learn Spanish I and II

Laugh and Learn Spanish I and Laugh and Learn Spanish II will begin meeting on **Wed., Sept. 13**. Contact Donna Yargosz, 575 312-2145 or yargoszdonna@yahoo.com for further information regarding the courses and proper placement.

Dining Out

If you are interested in meeting other members in a relaxed atmosphere, please join us on **Thursday, Sept. 28** at 1 p.m. for lunch and conversation. We will be dining at **Chalas**, located at 2790 Avenida de Mesilla, one block north of University Avenue. Bring a guest if you wish. We choose a different place on the fourth Thursday each month. Let **Cathy Quiñones** know no later than the day before if you are coming so we can give the restaurant the number of persons to plan for. Call her at 993-9528 or e-mail her quinonesc@aol.com.

Going Places

Going Places in September will take us to the **Sept. 21 annual Women of Distinction Luncheon** at 11:30 am at the Hotel Encanto sponsored by the Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest. AAUW-LC member **Deanise Marta is among the 10 honorees for 2017**. See **the article above** which gives specific details for making your reservation to attend. You should also have received an earlier email from the branch with that information.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions will meet on **Monday, Sept. 18** at 2:30 pm at Branigan Library. Latin America's Political Pendulum will be the topic of discussion. Contact Marsha Ogden, 575 532-5466, marshaogden@yahoo.com for information about joining the 2018 discussion group.

International Gourmet

International Dinner Group will hold its first dinner in October at the home of Beverly Chambers. If you are not a member and would be interested in being on a substitute list, contact Beverly Chambers, 575 405-0052, flagbab@mac.com or Jo Bloom, 575 382-0722 jotbloom@comcast.net. If you would be interested in forming a new group, please let them know.

NFL Fans

Fans of NFL teams meet, eat and watch NFL games at local sports bars with friends. If you are interested in participating, contact Phoebe Pearce. pierce1@zianet.com or call 524-8320.

LaJune Smith - A Life in AAUW

This article is part of 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

"You must give back to the community, wherever you go."

This was told to **LaJune Smith** many years ago by an important mentor when she was a college student embracing a career as an educator. The words obviously resonated, as Lajune has embodied our mission of Advocacy, Education, Philanthropy and Research, to which she has added Lifelong Learning.



LaJune had every intent of becoming a charter member of a new AAUW branch being planned by a group of teachers in Grants, NM in the 1960s, but before their first meeting, her husband got a job transfer, they moved, and that opportunity was lost. It was several decades later, after 30+ years as an elementary school teacher, that LaJune worked for New Mexico State University as a supervisor of student teachers. Dr. John Thomas headed that University program. Interestingly, **Romayne Thomas** was a member of the Las Cruces branch. But at

that time, LaJune says, she didn't know she would be anything beyond "Mrs. Smith and Mommy."

It was **Leona Gordon**, Las Cruces branch president in 1986, who told LaJune, "You're retired. You need this." Probably what was meant was that the branch needed LaJune! Not so surprising, she was charmed by then Program VP **Rorie Measure** (see a pattern here?). LaJune took on a string of volunteer actions for the branch that started with simply folding and mailing newsletters. Then when the membership VP moved away, LaJune took over the unfinished term, then did a full one of her own. "Over the years," she says, "I did everything - and some jobs twice (but not treasurer!)."

Lajune served as our branch president in 1999-2000. She explains that Rorie convinced her that she would certainly want to be president at the turn of the century! It was a time for personal growth, she says. "I was shy - I didn't know the rules - I had never led anything." She learned how to do that pretty rapidly with help from mentors Beverly Stiles, Sharon Wooden, Delores Halls and others.

A gift of that period, she says, was being our representative to the AAUW National Convention held then, like this year, in Washington, D.C. As the only Las Cruces member who attended, she met people from everywhere and attended workshops she recalls were amazing. What she learned there improved her leadership skills as branch president and provided information to share with others in a running column in the branch newsletter.

Last year LaJune was our nominee to be among the Women of Distinction and was honored by the Girl Scouts of the Desert S.W.

What LaJune continues to love about our branch are its mission and programs like Going Places and Girls Can! She says, "While some other women's organizations are forced to disband, AAUW grows with new members who bring fresh ideas, like Tech Trek, and finally an NMSU Affiliate. We're not static. As an organization, we will prevail."

All Above Board

The AAUW Board meets on the second Monday of each month September through June, with exceptions of holiday months and March (due to Girls Can!) annually. Other exceptions to this schedule will be announced. The Board will meet next on Monday, Aug 28 at 9 am at the Good Samaritan conference room. Board meetings are open to all members. Minutes come to us compliments of Secretary Fran Plec.

MEMBERSHIP

We are happy to welcome our newest members who joined the branch since June 2017. They are **Patricia Johnson, PonJola (P.J.) Coney, Rosalyn Richman, Kathleen Albers, Renay Scott, Patricia Wojahn, and Janet Hampton**. Their contact is not published in this newsletter because you will find it in the **new yearbook** that will be distributed at the **September 9 branch Welcome meeting**.

AAUW-LC NMSU SCHOLARSHIP WINNER NAMED

Scholarship Coordinator Cathy Quiñones has learned from New Mexico State University that **Samantha Bubak has been selected as the 2017-18 recipient of the AAUW-LC scholarship**. The value of the scholarship is \$1,300, half of which will be distributed for the fall semester and the remainder in the spring.

Samantha is a junior seeking a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education. She has been invited to our February 2018 general meeting for formal recognition of her achievement.

AAUW - NMSU AFFILIATE

The AAUW NMSU Affiliate organization met on Tuesday, Aug. 22 to kick off the new semester. Those who attended were very excited to learn what AAUW has to offer. We will follow the development of the student organization throughout the year and welcome their members to our meetings and events.

For more information, contact our **NMSU Liaison Susan DeMar**.



GIRLS CAN! - Report from Ann McCullough

Planning for the March 10, 2018 Girls Can! is well underway. It will be held again at DACC East Mesa Campus. The girls will once again have a great choice of workshops with career women from the community, and parents will have their choice of a parents' workshop in either Spanish or English, followed by a tour of the campus.

Kay Brilliant and Kay Williams joined me in a meeting recently with Dr. Greg Ewing, Superintendent of Schools in the Las Cruces School District, and Maria Flores, President of the School Board. It was a very productive meeting, and we will be getting terrific help from our own school district. More on that later. Meanwhile, **think about how you would like to participate in Girls Can! 2018.** We always need facilitators to help and then evaluate the workshop leaders, people to assist with registration both in advance and the day of the event, and people to do other tasks like greet the buses, help serve the breakfast and help direct students and parents to the right buildings at DACC. We'll be counting on you.

AAUW - ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2018

Save the date for our biennial RMR Conference, **June 22-24, 2018 in Salt Lake City, UT.** Still in the planning stages, there will be more conference details to follow! It's not too early to think about attending what will be a great event.

WOMEN GRADUATES-USA

- from International Liaison Carol Ann Council

The Women Graduates-USA will celebrate their 10th anniversary at their General Meeting in Milwaukee-Westin, WI, Oct. 13 - 15. The Conference theme, "Beyond Borders, Turning Commitment Into Action," reflects the organization's commitment to raise awareness locally while reaching across borders to support women and girls around the world, particularly those who have been displaced due to war and conflict.

Good Food, Fellowship & Officer Installations at 2017 Branch Potluck Dinner



Outgoing Co-President Shirley Armstrong (right) installs new Co-President Beverly Chambers at the branch annual potluck dinner.



Marsha Ogden (left) received a Presidential Award from Co-President Donna Rea for her

outstanding job as both
Scholarship Coordinator
and Interest Group
Coordinator from the past
year.



Marsha Hokkanen received a Presidential Award for her amazing job of updating the Las Cruces Branch By-Laws and Procedures.

Of Note...

SUSAN DEMAR NAMED "WONDER WOMAN" IN SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY ARTICLE

Susan DeMar, our NMSU Liaison, is in the news again! This time it's from her alma mater Syracuse University (NY) in a publication of the College of Arts & Sciences.

The headline reads:

Wonder Woman; New Mexico State's Susan DeMar...tireless crusader for women, underrepresented minorities in STEM.

The article goes on to describe the many contributions Susan has made both to NMSU and the Las Cruces community, including AAUW and her role in establishing the new AAUW NMSU Affiliate organization. To read the article in its entirety, click on the link below:

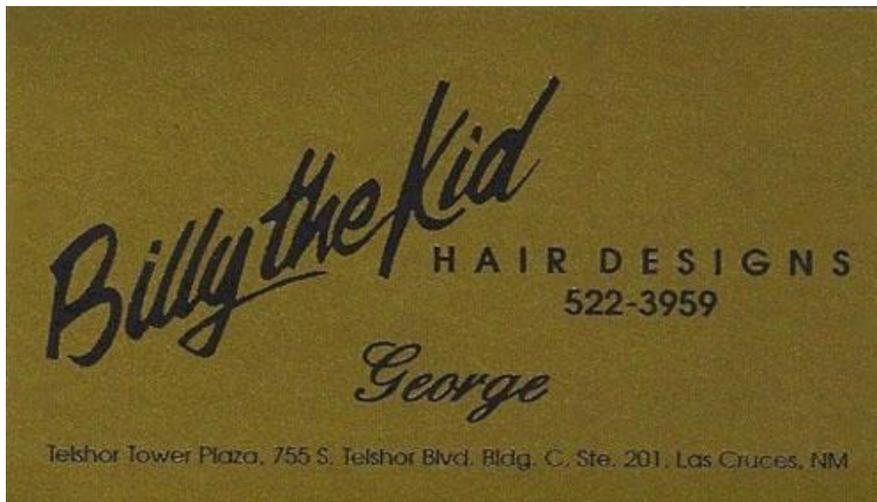
[Susan DeMar "Wonder Woman" Syracuse University article 2017](#)

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