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STEM Programs for Women & Girls Saturday, Feb 14 General Meeting

At our **Saturday, Feb 14** General Meeting, AAUW members and guests will have the opportunity to learn more about **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) Initiatives in Southern New Mexico** from an expert on the topic, **Rebecca Galves, a member of our branch** in addition to her many accomplishments at NMSU and in the Las Cruces community. The meeting will be held at **10 a.m. in the Roadrunner Room of Branigan Library.**

The meeting will also include a short segment by **Co-President Mary Rita Chapman**, who will explain where our branch funds go - including money raised from fundraisers and donations.

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Upcoming General Meetings & Events

Tuesday, Feb 3, 2 pm
Poster Party for Girls Can!
Bonnie Eisenberg's residence

Feb 9 - A Day at the Legislature,
with AAUW Day
& Rally, Santa Fe

Saturday, Feb 14 - 10 am
Branigan Lib Roadrunner Rm
STEM Programs for Women

Rebecca Galves served as the **director for Tech Trek at New Mexico State University, sponsored by Las Cruces AAUW last July and has been a frequent presenter for our Girls Can! Career Conference.**

She will speak on program initiatives to promote STEM-related disciplines in and out of school for women, girls and underrepresented minorities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. **This is a national priority for AAUW and a major area of emphasis in both the area public schools and New Mexico State University.**

She is currently managing efforts within the Center of Research Excellence in Design of Intelligent Technologies for Smart Grids (iCREDITS), the Computing Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institutions (CAHSI), the Young Women in Computing (YWiC) program, and Youth Growing Up Thinking Computationally (YoGUTC).

Rebecca has won numerous awards and honors for her creative outreach ideas. She also serves as President of the PTO at her youngest daughter's elementary school, Parent Leader with the Girl Scouts of America, and acts as the state lead for the NM Girls Collaborative, the NM Expanding Your Horizons Conferences, and NM Network for Women in Science and Engineering.

Tech Trek 2014 was a very exciting event in the life of both our branch and AAUW-NM. Find out what this movement is all about at what will prove to be a highly motivating meeting. Bring a friend!

* To find out how your donation to Tech Trek 2015 could make a difference, read the article below in this OMV.

From Co-Presidents

Mary Rita Chapman & Bonnie Eisenberg

Dear Friends,

As usual, our branch has quite a few projects going this time of year, so there are many ways for you to get involved, meet new friends and give back to the community. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about **Girls Can! Career Exploration Conference coming up next month on March 14**, and opportunities to be involved with **Tech Trek STEM summer camp in July**. In addition to those terrific programs, our branch is also planning to hold a **public forum in late April or early May** to present information to the community about the

and Girls - Becca Galves

Saturday, March 14
8 am - noon, Lynn Middle School
GIRLS CAN! Career Conference
AAUW and Community
Professional Women

Saturday, April 11 - 10 am
Location Peace Lutheran Church
Restoration of the Rio Grande
Ecosystem
Beth Bardwell, Audubon Society

Tuesday, May 5 - 6 pm
Mountain View Regional
Medical Center cafeteria
Harvey Girls: Opportunity Bound
documentary film

JUNE - END OF YEAR PARTY

You're Invited!
Upcoming Events Hosted
by El Paso AAUW

Saturday, Feb 21
CENTENNIAL LUNCHEON

The El Paso AAUW Branch is holding a Centennial luncheon from 11 am -1 pm on Saturday, Feb 21. Tickets are \$25, and a fabulous meal of brisket, coleslaw and ranch beans from Great American Steakburger will be served. Sarah Johns will give a presentation of El Paso women and their stellar contributions to the ELP community over the past 100 years! The MC for the luncheon is El Paso television personality Estella Casas.

Saturday, April 11
SCHOLARSHIP FASHION
SHOW

April 11 is slated for the El Paso Branch's semi-annual

NM Fair Pay for Women Act, passed by the NM legislature in 2013. Planning for this event is ongoing, so if you are interested in getting involved, please contact Bonnie Eisenberg.

We want to again thank everyone who helped make our December fundraiser such a great success. At our January board meeting, we discussed how to allocate the funds raised (\$2500 total): **\$500 will go toward our scholarship endowment at NMSU; \$500 will go to AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/legal-resources/>); \$500 to AAUW Fund and \$1,000 will be used for our branch special projects.** Of the amount for special projects, we allocated **\$300 to be used for the NM Fair Pay For Women Act Public Forum** - for travel expenses for the presenters, and **money remaining to go to Tech Trek-NM**. We did not allocate any of the funds for Girls Can! because fundraising for that project has been so successful this year, no additional funds were needed at this time.

Like paying taxes, money donated to AAUW funds comes back to us in a big way. This year alone, AAUW-NM will receive \$11,000 in grants from AAUW for Tech Trek and for Public Policy Implementation, so **your contributions are amplified by the Association and returned in a variety of ways.**

Our contributions also help fund **NCCWSL**, the AAUW student leadership conference held in Washington DC in June each year. Applications for this conference are available now and due by **March 15**. If you know any promising college women at NMSU or other institutions in NM, encourage them to apply at <http://aauw-nm.aauw.net>. Our branch can provide additional assistance for those wishing to attend.

Best Regards,

Bonnie & Mary Rita

INTEREST GROUPS

ANYTHING GOES BOOK GROUP

Anything Goes Book Group will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, **February 9**, to discuss *Runaway* by Alice Munro. We will meet at the home of Katrin Sumpter. For more information, please contact Julia Bruner at julesnewmexico@gmail.com or at 522-1685.

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ANYTHING GOES 2 - FICTION

Scholarship Fashion show. The event is from 10 am - 2 pm, with fashion shows at 11 and 1. Also included are vendors-door prizes and a silent auction. All proceeds go to branch scholarship funds. This year the branch would like to give three \$1,000 checks to any deserving juniors or seniors enrolled in an accredited college or university.

Events take place at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere, El Paso.

For more information or reservations for either event, **contact Alesia Griswold** 915-691-9168 or alesiagriswold@yahoo.com.

Visit Our Branch Website

Information about our Branch is available on our website.

Check it out!

Look for it to develop as the year goes on, giving us a strong presence on the web.

To access it, click on this link:

<http://lascruces-nm.aauw.net/>

You can invite a friend to join the OMV Mailing List

Forward this issue to a friend by clicking on the **Forward this email** link at the very bottom of the page.

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Do you have an article, photograph or other information you would like to share with AAUW members in the OMV?

Please send it by email

Anything Goes 2 - Fiction will meet next on Monday, Feb 23, at the home of Nancy Carlson to discuss *Gemini* by Carol Cassella, a medical mystery written by an anesthesiologist. Contact Shari Glassman smaxgem@centurylink.net or 253-861-6758.

by the middle of each month to
bonnie.schranz@gmail.com
or call 575-640-8328

* Click on the link below to see and print out the group's reading selections for Jan- June, 2015.

[Anything Goes 2 - Fiction Reading List Jan - June 2015](#)

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DAYTIME BRIDGE - Second Thursday of each month

1 pm to approximately 4 pm.

Hostesses for up & coming games:

Feb 12 - Jo Ann Vincent

March 12 - Jo Bloom

EVENING BRIDGE

- Fourth Tuesday monthly, 7:15 pm.

Jan 27 - Lavita Costley

Feb 24 - Carol Ann Council

Contact: Carol Ann Council, 522-3313

email: kk-ca_council@msn.com.

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GOING PLACES

The next Going Places event is a visit with **Bob Diven** on Thursday, **Feb. 19**. Diven will share the **Creative Life and Process of a Multi-Media Artist**. Meet at 10 am at the Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Downtown Mall. Lunch will follow at the Main St. Bistro & Ale House, 139 N. Downtown Mall. **RSVP** to Marie Reilly mareillynm@gmail.com, 525-9775 by Tuesday, Feb.17

*To see and print out what has been planned for Going Places for the remainder of the year, click on the pdf link below.

[GOING PLACES 2015 SCHEDULE OF EXCURSIONS](#)

New Coordinator for Going Places is Needed

A new coordinator for Going Places is still needed. If you are interested in taking over the position, contact Fran Plec at fplec@comcast.net or 202-5459.

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DINING OUT

Dining Out will gather on Tuesday, **February 17** at 5:30 pm at **Ms AJ's Taste of Soul**, 1605 S. Solano Drive. It is on the east side of the street between Boutz and Montana Streets. across the street from Family Dollar. Guests are welcome.

Contact Cathy Quinones at quinonesc@aol.com

by Monday evening Feb 16 so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect.

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INTERNATIONAL DINNERS

The International Dinners group's next event will be held on

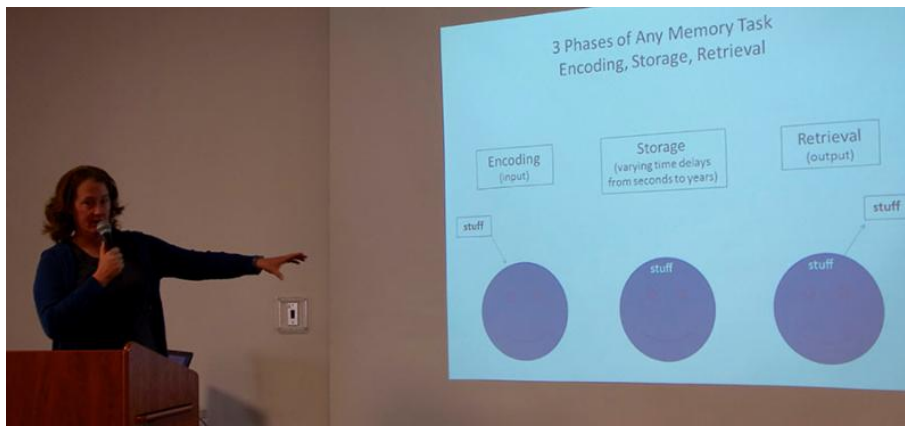
Saturday, Feb 21 at the home of Shirley Armstrong.
Valentines Day is this month's theme.

"AGING GRACEFULLY"



A large turnout of members and guests at the January meeting had a great opportunity to learn about the importance of taking good care of both body and mind, as Drs. Bob Wood and Melissa Guynn of NMSU gave us inspiration and instruction in managing balance and memory.





SUPPORT TECH TREK 2015!

AAUW - New Mexico is organizing the second year of our very successful Tech Trek camp for 8th grade girls. Of course, we need your help to make this possible, and the Las Cruces branch has very generously offered to match any donations from our branch members (up to a limit of \$1,500 total). All donations are 100% tax-deductible.

So, every dollar you donate is doubled!!

How do you donate?

Make a check out to **AAUW**, in the memo line, put **Tech Trek-NM**

Mail to:

Tech Trek

AAUW

P.O. Box 6572

Las Cruces, NM 88006

For those not familiar with Tech Trek:

In July 2015, AAUW New Mexico will bring between 32 and 48 middle school girls from throughout the state to the New Mexico Highlands University campus for AAUW Tech Trek, a weeklong, immersive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) camp program for girls entering the eighth grade. A wildly successful program in California for the past 15 years that is now expanding nationally, **Tech Trek is a chance to ensure that girls are engaged in STEM.** In 2013, AAUW piloted this program at four sites nationwide, and in 2014 expanded to an additional three new states, including NM. **In 2015 the NM Tech Trek camp will be held on July 12th through 18th at the New Mexico Highlands University campus in Las Vegas, New Mexico.**

Tech Trek works. Long-term surveys of alumnae demonstrate the following results:

- * Alumnae take more science and math courses (including AP) in high school than the national average.
- * Alumnae attend college at higher rates than average.
- * All respondents credited Tech Trek for encouraging their interest in STEM careers.
- * Seventy-eight percent of respondents indicated that they plan to attend graduate or professional school, many in fields related to math or science.
- * A post-camp evaluation of the 2013 national pilot program showed that the camp has already had a statistically significant, positive effect on girls' self-confidence and attitudes toward STEM.

Campers pay just \$50 to attend Tech Trek. In order to provide this one-of-a-kind experience at such a low cost, we rely on support from people like you to bring this experience to our state. The actual costs of the camp are almost \$900 per camper.

***Mary Rita Chapman,
Tech Trek Fundraising Chair***

ALL ABOVE BOARD

The AAUW-Las Cruces Board meets on the first Monday monthly at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Co-President Bonnie Eisenberg. Meetings are open to all members. Highlights of reports and actions of the meetings can be found in this column, based on Secretary Fran Plec's board minutes. The Board will meet next on **Monday, Feb 2.**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Our membership continues to grow - we're up to 106!

Welcome to AAUW-LC is extended to our new members **Gale Wiley and Susan DeMar** and a returning member, **Renette Melander**. Please add their information to your yearbook.

Gale Wiley

2510 Rolling Hills Lane

Las Cruces NM 88011

575-522-2893

cell 575-635-2690

wileyd@earthlink.net

MS, Educational Administration

New Mexico State University

Susan DeMar

5032 La Cueva Mine Tr

Las Cruces NM 88011

575-202-5402

demar.susan@gmail.com

Assoc., Psychology

Syracuse University

Renette Melander

2984 Daffodil Ln
Las Cruces 88007
650-4370

careerwoman35@yahoo.com

Bachelor of Arts
San Diego State University

A GIRLS CAN! UPDATE

from coordinator Ann McCullough:

Girls Can! is shaping up nicely for **Saturday, March 14.**

* Soroptimist International of Las Cruces is providing the breakfast volunteers, as well as their generous financial support.

* Mr. Estrada has graciously agreed to provide us once again with delicious breakfast burritos.

* Our own Julia Brown will be the welcome speaker at the breakfast.

* We have 15 presenters signed up to give interesting workshops for the girls; the parents' workshop is also going to be great, and the brochure is going to the printer this week.

* **Bonnie Eisenberg will host the last poster party at her home on Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 2 pm. Everyone is invited.**

* Sign-ups for Girls Can! were impressive at the last AAUW meeting, and **we need just a few more volunteers for specific jobs. Please email or call me.** Thanks! Ann McCullough (524-2601) anniemac_37@Q.com.

It's going to be a great year (21st year!) for Girls Can!

Public Policy

Our Public Policy Chair **Ruth Benjamins** brought to the attention of the Board that funding is lacking for victims of sexual predators, and that we should look for a program in this area to support. Minnesota and Florida have good funding programs; some other states support programs but do not provide funding. This issue is both a state and national AAUW major priority.



Several members of our branch, and friends, attended the first session of the Tai Chi for Balance class mentioned by Dr. Wood at the January general meeting. Pictured are friend of the branch Jackye Meineke, and members Ann Palermo, Lynn Mulholland and Rorie Measure. Not shown is Bonnie Eisenberg, who is also taking the class.

Women Graduates - USA

International Liaison **Carol Ann Council** shared several excerpts from the January 2015 issue of *The Flame*, the newsletter of Women Graduates - USA. The first explains a new working group of the WG-USA for which new members are sought: **Prevention of Violence Against Women. To read more about this working group click on the pdf link below.**

[WG-USA Preventing Violence Against Women](#)

A second announcement from WG-USA concerns the upcoming **2015 UN Commission on the Status of Women Conference** scheduled for **March 8 - 21 in New York City.** Read more about it by clicking on the pdf link below.

[2015 UN Status of Women Conference](#)

OF NOTE:

AAUW-New Mexico Annual State Convention in Santa Fe "Artists, Authors, & Advocates" April 17-19, 2015 Santa Fe Drury Plaza Hotel

Speakers include:

**National AAUW President Patricia Fae Ho
NM Supreme Justice Honorable Petra Jimenez Maes
Author and former CIA officer Valerie Plame**

Bring a friend to attend the convention. All are welcome. They do not have to be AAUW members to attend.

Make your hotel reservations by March 16 for the \$119/night rate for a room with two queen beds, hot breakfast included and happy hour snacks.

Santa Fe Drury Plaza Hotel
228 East Palace Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501
Phone: [\(505\) 424-2175](tel:5054242175)
More Details to come

From the most recent AAUW Washington Update:

Lisa Maatz, AAUW's top policy adviser wrote:

Women's Economic Concerns Take Center Stage in State of the Union

"The term, which [loomed large](#) as a theme of President Barack Obama's 2015 State of the Union address, may be new, but the issues aren't. These are policy issues that AAUW has been working on for more than 130 years, including ending gender pay discrimination, expanding child care tax credits, establishing paid sick days and paid family leave, making college more accessible and affordable, improving retirement savings, raising the minimum wage, and making investments in education."

(To read more, click on the words "loomed large" above.)

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