



## ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

VOL. XXII, Issue 9

November 2017

### "Immigration: the Human Perspective" Branch General Meeting Saturday, Nov 11

November's branch general meeting will be held on **Saturday, Nov. 11** with the compelling program, "Immigration: The Human Perspective" presented by **Ida M. D'Antonio-Hangen, Special Agent with the FBI, and Lauren Armstrong, Attorney at Law with Noble & Vrapì**, Las Cruces. Gather for conversation at 9:30 a.m. followed by AAUW announcements and the program starting at 10 a.m. in the Bethlehem Room at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave.

**Ida D'Antonio-Hangen** has been a Special Agent with the FBI for 21 years. She is currently assigned to work with Violent Crimes in Las Cruces. She has worked extensively with issues of human trafficking. In 2009, she formed the New Mexico Human Trafficking Working Group. Previously, D'Antonio-Hangen served for three years as a Police Officer/Firefighter for three years at the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. She also served as an Adult Probation Officer in Dallas, TX.



**Lauren Armstrong** is a local immigration attorney with experience in both private practice and the non-profit sector. She obtained a dual degree in Law (J.D.) and Latin American Studies (M.A.) from the University of New Mexico in 2009 and spent several years in Washington, D.C. before returning to the state to provide direct legal services. She has handled hundreds of immigration cases and has particular expertise on protections for children and crime victims under the Violence Against

Women Act. Armstrong provides advice and representation on a broad range of issues out of the Las Cruces office of Noble & Vrapì, P.A.

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**Quick Links**  
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AAUW-NM website

AAUW National website

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To send the  
Organ  
Mountain  
Views to a  
friend,

**Shape the Future of AAUW**  
Bring a guest to any of our 2017 meetings.  
If your guest is new to AAUW,  
he/she may join &  
SAVE \$24.50.

When our branch has 2 new members,  
we earn 1 FREE membership!

## AAUW-LC November Co-Presidents' Letter

Dear AAUW LC branch members,

**Co-President Beverly Chambers** and I attended the Fall 2017 Past Presidents' brunch on Oct. 4, hosted by immediate Past Co-President, **Shirley Armstrong (2015-17)**. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear the reflections of **Freddie Finkner (1962-65)**, **Beverly Stiles (1983-85)**, **Rorie Measure (1987-91)**, **Carol Ann Council (1994-96)**, **LaJune Smith (1998-2000)**, **Phoebe Pierce (2006-08)** and **Deanise Marta (2008-12)**. This was inspiring! They all offered their support to Beverly and me whenever it was needed. Moreover, their long-standing membership was testimony to the AAUW mission, to advance equality for women and girls through advocacy, education, research & philanthropy, to our branch commitment to national AAUW, to our community through several major existing programs such as Girls Can! and the long-standing NMSU scholarship program.

There were comments in support of **increasing our visibility** in the community by forming partnerships with community organizations. Many comments confirmed that the various interest groups and membership meeting speakers were important for **interaction among members**. The comments included reflections on the **growth, change and balance of activities for our AAUW branch over its history** spanning the 1960s to the present. Also mentioned was the value of the board's current **round table discussion groups** for members, designed to help the board with long-term planning.

The year is moving forward with one **major change to our fund-raising efforts**. Thanks to **Rebecca Galves, AAUW- LC board member and president of NMNWSE** (New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering), that organization has offered to act as our fiscal agent. What this means is that AAUW LC will be able to use the NMNWSE 501 c) (3) under NMNWSE for **Girls Can!** This is a tremendous step for AAUW from past years, as all donated funds will be fully tax deductible for 2018. Many companies and individuals are more willing to donate if they can deduct their contributions.

**Julia Brown, branch member and Chair, National AAUW**, attended the October LC branch board meeting to provide insight and

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Upcoming  
General  
Meetings &  
Events

Sat., Nov 11  
9:30 am  
Peace Lutheran  
Church  
General  
Meeting  
"Immigration:  
the Human  
Perspective"

information about the possibility of the branch pursuing its own 501 (c) (3) status. This would be a separate entity to our existing 501 (c) (4) status. There were many questions and lots of discussion about the process and the value of having this status. For example, as to continue to co-sponsor with NMSU (thanks to Megan McQueen), it would allow us to seek additional funding for all of our outreach programs, including NMSU scholarships, other branch initiatives from corporations and individuals. This will be an ongoing discussion as more detailed information is gathered.

*I am writing this as my last co-president's letter for the OMV. My husband, David, and I are moving to the Tucson area much sooner than expected! It has been my privilege to be a member since January 2010 and to have participated on the board as treasurer and co-president. It is an organization of which you may all be proud and can all enjoy.*

Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving from Beverly and me.

**Donna Rea**  
**Co-President**



It is with sadness that we bid farewell to Co-President Donna Rea, who will move in mid-November to the Tucson, AZ area.

**??? Do You Know? ???**

**There's a wealth of useful and interesting information available on national, state and local AAUW websites.**

Membership Co-Vice Presidents **Kay Williams** and **Marsha Hokkanen** encourage all members to take a few minutes to review any of our

organization's websites. **You can access all three of them from this issue of the OMV.** Simply look at the right hand column of this newsletter and scroll down a little to "Quick Links." Click on the website of your choice...and you will instantly go there!

When you find something interesting that you think is worth sharing with our members, write it down on a small card. Put your name and date on the back. Bring the card to our next meeting and drop it in the **Do You Know?** jar. If your card is shared and you are in attendance, we'll "thank you" with a small gift.

## INTEREST GROUPS

### **A NEW INTEREST GROUP - Mahjong!**

Learn Chinese-style Mahjong. The group meets on **Wednesday afternoons at 3 pm** at the home of Rita Worrell. Please contact Rita at 702-373-3451, or email [ritaworrell@gmail.com](mailto:ritaworrell@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining.

### **Anything Goes Book Group**

Anything Goes will meet at the home of Londa Seiffert on Nov. 13 at 1:30 pm. *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi will be the subject of discussion. For more information about this book club, please contact Julia Bruner, [julesnewmexico@gmail.com](mailto:julesnewmexico@gmail.com). New members are welcome.

### **Anything Goes Fiction Book Group**

Anything Goes Fiction will meet at the home of Judy McGuire on Monday, Nov. 13 at 1:30 pm to discuss *The Storyteller* by Jodi Picoult. Please contact Judy at 575-932-9905 if you would like to join the group.

### **Daytime & Evening Bridge Fall Schedule**

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

9 Nov.	Mary Berry
14 Dec.	Jo Bloom

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

28 Nov.	Ann Kaiser
December	Merry Christmas!

**Contact Carol Ann Council 649-8122 or [kk-ca\\_council@msn.com](mailto:kk-ca_council@msn.com)**

### **Dining Out**

Due to everyone's busy schedules during the upcoming holiday season, Dining Out will not be meeting until January 25, 2018. Location to be announced in the January issue of the OMV.

### **Going Places, Southwest Studies and Great Decisions groups:**

Find up-to-date information on our branch website. Click on the blue link to go directly to the website: <http://lascruces-nm.aauw.net>



## **International Gourmet**

A second dinner group is being formed. Contact Beverly Chambers at [flagbab@mac.com](mailto:flagbab@mac.com) if you desire additional information.

## **All Above Board**

**Board meetings are open to all members.**

***Minutes come to us compliments of 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, if desired.***

**[AAUW-LC Board Minutes of August 28, 2017](#)**



## **MEMBERSHIP**

**We are happy to welcome our newest member, Laura Bemis.**



## **WE ARE LISTENING**

As we move through this year we are taking stock of our local AAUW Las Cruces Chapter. 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 are holding round table discussions.**

We are structuring conversations of no more 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. We are limiting these round table conversations to one hour.

We are gaining the rich ideas and conversations that emerge from open interaction and dialogue. All comments and opinions are confidential. The information gathered throughout this year will go to the leaders in order to support changes and new ideas. Do you have questions? Please feel free to contact **Kay Brilliant** at 505 469 3317 or email her at [kay.brilliant@gmail.com](mailto:kay.brilliant@gmail.com).

### **SCHOLARSHIP**

Those who attended the October meeting learned many important details about our award and scholarship programs from **Scholarship Chair Cathy Quiñones**. If you missed that presentation or would like to know more, contact her at [quinonesc@aol.com](mailto:quinonesc@aol.com).

### **CAROL ANN COUNCIL TO FILL AAUW-NM POSITION**

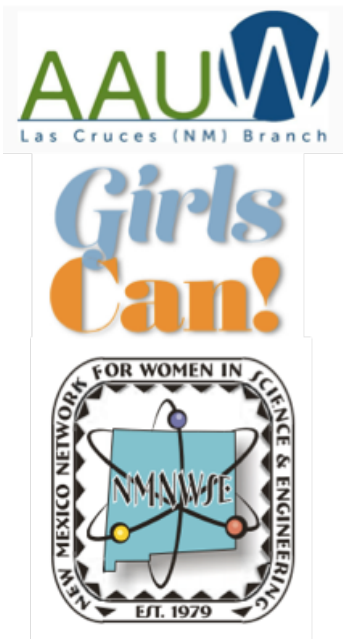
A vacancy in the office of AAUW-NM Finance Officer will occur when Donna Rea moves to Tucson in mid-November. Carol Ann Council has agreed to fill that position until the election of new officers is held during the AAUW-NM Convention this coming spring.

### **AAUW NMSU Student Affiliate**

The **AAUW-NMSU Affiliate organization** officers and AAUW-LC branch liaison **Susan DeMar** recently submitted an application to AAUW-National for a Campus Action Project (CAP) grant for \$5000, which will be awarded to 10-12 campus organizations nationally to implement initiatives that promote women's leadership. The focus of the NMSU project submission is **Diversity at NMSU Begins with You**.

Susan also participated in a Fall Student Leader Conference call in September, allowing her to facilitate the second **AAUW-NMSU Start Smart Workshop** in conjunction with national Equal Pay Day on Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

### **Girls Can! Donations Are Now Tax Deductible**



**Girls Can! is now a special project fund within the NM Network for Women in Science and Engineering (NMNWSE or Network).** As a fund within the Network, it falls under their 501(c)(3) status, which will allow all donations to be tax deductible.

**To donate to Girls CAN!,** make the check payable to NMNWSE, and add Girls CAN! in the notes section. Submit donations directly to NMNWSE, PO Box 51926, Albuquerque, NM 87121.

## **MUNICIPAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOV 7**

**The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces shares the following information regarding the upcoming election:**

**Candidate Forums** open to all certified candidates were held at the KRWG studios in Milton Hall of the NMSU campus in October. To hear a re-broadcast, go to <http://krwg.org>.

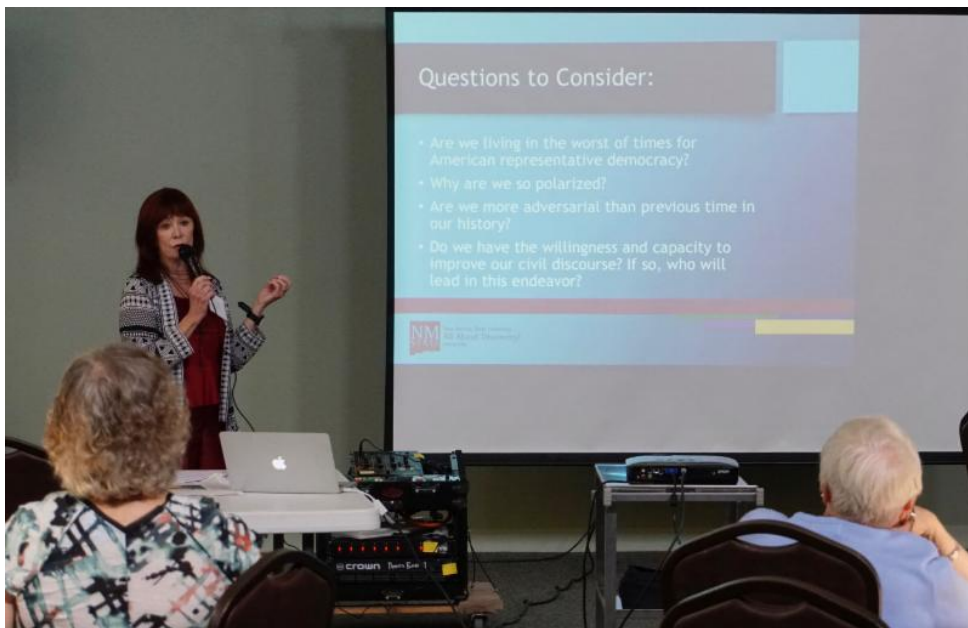
**The League's Voters Guide** was published in the Las Cruces Sun-News on Oct. 27. After that date, the Guide is available on the League's website <http://www.lwvglc.org/>.

Other Municipal Election information is available at the **City Clerk's Office**. Call 575-541-2114. For Voter Registration information, call 575-647-7427.

**Polling locations on election day will be open from 7 am - 7 pm.**

[Click here to open a pdf list of polling locations.](#)

## **AAUW has a Place in Our National Discourse**



**Dr. Christa Slaton involved members and guests in an important discussion about the need for Americans to listen and learn about all sides of issues that are so important to moving forward in the Democratic process. Her extensive research supports the idea that the place to start the conversation is at the local level.**



**Christa Slaton, NMSU Faculty, is also a member of AAUW-LC. She met before the meeting with Co-President Beverly Chambers.**





This month's program called forth a large turnout of branch members.



## Of Note...

### **AAUW-NM and the LC Public School System Support Maintaining High Standards in Science Education**

Both **AAUW-NM** and the **Las Cruces Public School Board** and **LCPS School Supt. Gregory Ewing, Ed.D.** recently wrote letters to Christopher N. Ruszkowski, Acting Secretary of Education, New Mexico Public Education Department, expressing concern about adoption of new science standards that include omissions of some scientific terminology. To see a copies of the letters, click on the links below.

[\*\*AAUW-NM Letter to New Mexico Acting Secretary of Education  
Christopher N. Ruszkowski\*\*](#)

[LCPS Letter to New Mexico Acting Secretary of Education  
Christopher N. Ruszkowski](#)

**Call for Volunteers to Assist for Science Education!**

Branch member **Donna Yargosz** announced at our recent general meeting the need for volunteers to assist in a variety of local projects related to science education through the Asombro Institute. There is no minimum time requirement and it would be an excellent application of your skills and talents to make a difference for local youth.

[Click here for information of how to volunteer!](#)

**FALL AAUW-NM Roadrunner**

Did you miss reading the **Fall edition of the AAUW-NM Roadrunner**, the newsletter published by our state organization? You can do so by clicking on the link below that will take you directly to a pdf version of the Roadrunner to read and print out if desired.

[AAUW-NM Roadrunner, Fall 2017](#)

**Homeless Court Program - an Option for Las Cruces?**

Branch member **Joy Goldbaum** shared this information with us at our recent general meeting:

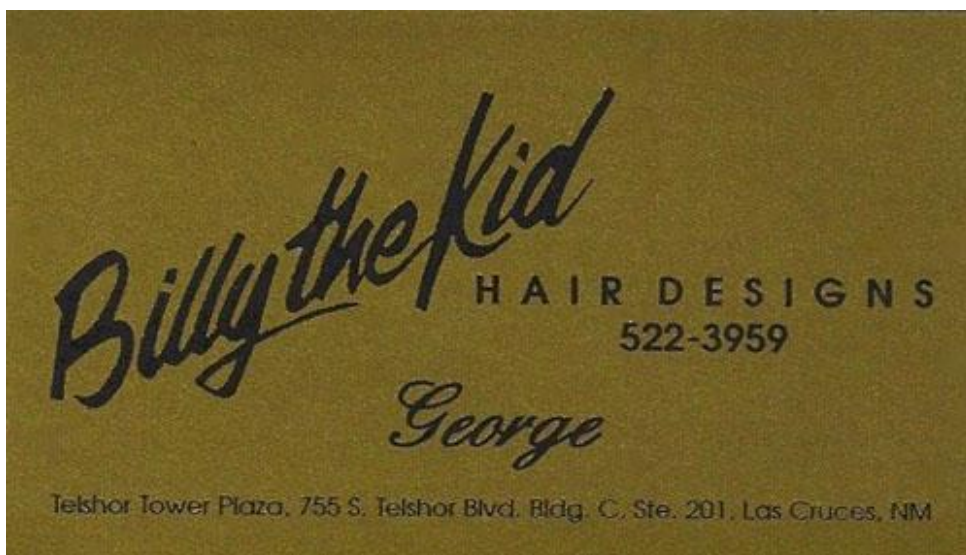
**The Homeless Court Program (HCP)** makes concrete the promise of our democracy to provide justice for all through a vibrant partnership between the county court system, shelter providers and homeless defendants. A model for this type of program exists in San Diego, CA. You can also google HCPs in Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

**For information about how to enact a Homeless Court Program at the Community of Hope through the Las Cruces Municipal Court, contact Joy at 575-520-1817 or joybaum@aol.com.**

For more information about HCP, the American Bar Association article is available at this link - click below for a pdf.

["The Homeless Court System: Taking Court to the Streets"](#)

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