



ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

VOL. XXIII, Issue 3

March 2018

2018



GIRLS CAN! 2018 Saturday, March 10 at DACC

On March 10, AAUW Las Cruces will celebrate 24 years of Girls Can! The career exploration conference for 6th grade girls will again be held at Doña Ana Community College East Mesa Campus. We thank DACC President **Renay Scott** and the faculty and staff for making it possible.

If you haven't signed up to volunteer for this year's event, there is still time. **Londa Seiffert**,

Volunteer Coordinator, would be happy to hear from you. We still have jobs available that only take an hour or two on the morning of the event.

Girls Can! Coordinator, Ann McCullough would like to thank those who have donated money and time in the past, as well as those who have joined us this year. They include **CALCULEX**, **Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine**, the **FEW (Federally Employed Women)** and several **AAUW-LC members**. A complete list of donors will appear in the April issue of the OMV.

It's not too late to make a donation to Girls Can! 2018. One option is online. Go to our branch website (lascruces-nm.aauw.net) or [click here](#) to go there instantly. Then scroll down to **Girls Can!** and click on **Donate**. It's that easy to donate online. Thanks go to Becca Galves and the New Mexico Network for Women in

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Science and Engineering, which has agreed to let us use their tax-exempt status for a 5% handling fee to make **your donation tax-deductible for 2018 taxes.**

If you don't care about the tax deduction or just want all of your donation to go to Girls Can! you may also **send a check made out to AAUW-LC with Girls Can! in the memo line at the bottom. And please send it to our new PO Box 1081, Las Cruces, 88004.**

We salute the School Contact Team members, with the outstanding leadership of **Kay Williams and Kay Brilliant**, who have been working hard and smart to get the 6th grade girls involved from all over Doña Ana County. Thanks also to **Kathy Cooke** and the registration team for their work.

Last year, we offered Parents' Workshops in both Spanish and English. **Rorie Measure and Shirley Armstrong** are working with the faculty and staff at DACC to produce two outstanding workshops, as well as a tour of the campus.

There are **17 workshops** lined up for 2018, including presenters who are members of our AAUW-LC branch: **Bonnie Schranz** (theatre), Municipal Judge **Joy Goldbaum** (law), **Panjola Coney** (medicine), and **Martha Mitchell** (green slime, I mean chemical engineering). A new member, **Lydia Hammond**, is ready to step in if an additional workshop is needed with a session on starting your own business.

We also have a new T-shirt design for the girls. To purchase a shirt, contact **Londa Seiffert**, who will handle the sale to AAUW members and other volunteers for only \$10.

Thanks to everyone who is working on Girls Can! this year! Together we are making a difference in the lives of 6th grade girls. **See you on March 10.**

Rita Stopa is making arrangements for a **no-host lunch after Girls Can! at the restaurant at Sonoma Ranch Clubhouse.** You can sign up for lunch at registration Saturday morning.



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Upcoming General Meetings & Events

Sat., March 10
8 am - noon
GIRLS CAN!
Career Exploration
DACC East Mesa

Monday, April 2
Equal Pay
Proclamation at
the LC City
Council

Wed., April 4
EQUAL PAY DAY

Saturday, April 14
10 am
Peace Lutheran
Church
General Meeting
Program: What is
Title IX and Why
Should I Care?"

New to the
OMV?

Join Our
Mailing List

[CLICK
HERE!](#)

From our Co-Presidents

Beverly Chambers & Christa Slaton

Dear AAUW-LC Members,

We are so proud of our AAUW branch and all that it does "to advance equality for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research."

We attended the state meeting in late January and learned that we have the largest membership of any branch in the state and our numbers keep growing at each general meeting. As noted in the previous newsletter, we are also an extremely active branch with programs, projects, and outings that appeal to our diverse membership.

AAUW-LC is thrilled to welcome our newest officer, Christine Long, who has accepted the position as Treasurer. Christine is Sr. Vice President/CFO of Calculex, Inc., an organization that is a major sponsor of Girls Can! She has been immensely helpful in researching and advising the branch on the best software program to use for our bookkeeping, which will make the transition from one treasurer to the next seamless. Please give her a warm welcome when you see her.

It was marvelous to connect with women across the state in Santa Fe - women who are passionate about our mission and who nurture each other as we act on behalf of you. The NM AAUW meeting was scheduled to coincide with the legislature. We received training on lobbying, tracking legislation, and working together to promote legislation consistent with our mission. Then we headed to the state capitol to visit our legislators' offices to discuss the state legislation that has been endorsed by our national office.

Kudos to Sonya Berg and Nina Thayer for educating us about the current legislation that is being advocated by AAUW and also for teaching us how to follow legislation through the process. A link that will open a list of bills in this brief legislative session supported by AAUW is listed at the end of this article.

Please consider attending the upcoming AAUW-NM state convention in Carlsbad, April 20-22, with the theme "Back to the Future: Connecting Our Past to Our Future." In addition to very informative sessions, the organizers have planned many fun events, such as a river boat ride, art activities, and a banquet at the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens. Early Bird registration of \$45 continues until April 7. After that the fee is \$55.

Next year Las Cruces will host the AAUW-NM state convention, which is being planned by Kathie Davis. She will need lots of assistance with the planning and asks that members contact her if they are willing to lend a hand. Email her at kdavis@lcps.net

This year, **Public Policy Chair Christina Little** has done excellent

work in promoting **Equal Pay Day, April 4**. Please pay close attention to her report (coming in the April OMV) and attend the events if possible. This is such an important issue related to our mission.

Thanks to all of you for making this branch the largest and most active in New Mexico!

Warm regards,
Christa Slaton and Beverly Chambers

[CLICK HERE](#) to see a listing of bills that are AAUW priority issues coming before the New Mexico Legislature this session.



Advocacy in Action

Current Issues before the New Mexico Legislature and Their Impact on AAUW's National Mission

If you have clicked on the link found at the bottom of the Co-Presidents' letter above, this is a new OMV column that will interest you. Suggested by Co-President Beverly Chambers, this is a place where you can look to see what action has passed or is pending in the New Mexico Legislature pertinent to the Mission of AAUW National.

This month features a commentary by Beverly Chambers regarding recent action of the NM State Legislature. It begins:

"We (the AAUW Lobby Corp) applaud the New Mexico house of Representatives for sending bipartisan budget bill (House Bill 2) to the Senate with increased support for New Mexico public school students. The increase does not make up for decades of short-changing our students, but it is a positive move toward a more prosperous New Mexico."

To read the remainder of the statement that also includes a comment on proposed House Bill 147 regarding allocation of state lottery funds to the benefit of New Mexico students rather than special interest vendors, **[CLICK HERE](#)**.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the AAUW-NM Lobby Corp, please contact **Sonya Berg** at berg.sonya42@gmail.com.

All Above Board

Board meetings are open to all members. The Board will meet in a special session on Monday, March 12 at 9:30 am at the home of Beverly Chambers (Good Samaritan was not available for our use on that date). Anyone planning to attend who is not a regular board member should RSVP to Beverly.

MEMBERSHIP

We are happy to welcome our newest members, **Lydia Hammond** and **Daria Ringo** who joined our Branch in February.

NEW MEMBER MEET-UP EVENTS IN MARCH & APRIL

All AAUW new members recruited since Spring 2017 are invited to "meet-up" with your Membership Co-VP's (Marsha Hokkanen & Kay Williams) for an informal coffee or happy hour March 20 or April 5. Contact Kay or Marsha for more information. Please come w/ questions about "all things AAUW".

We'll do our best to provide you with answers and/or resources where you can "dig-in" on your own to explore the various topics AAUW cares about and pursues to provide equality for women and girls. We look forward to meeting w/ you and learning more about your interests as well.

Celebrate SPRING'S arrival: Tues., March 20 10 - 11:00 am

Meet us for COFFEE/TEA at International Delights Café,
1245 El Paseo Rd., 88001.

Celebrate the 26th Anniversary of a March on Washington, D.C., to support women's reproductive rights:

Thursday, April 5 5 - 8 pm

Meet us for HAPPY/HOUR at the Pecan Grill & Brewery,
500 S. Telshor, 88011.

***Please RSVP via email to: kwilliams48@msn.com no later than the day prior to the event!**

ROUND TABLE CONVERSATIONS!

Woohoo! We are up and running again! With the Round Table Conversations held in February, we are half way to our goal of 60 participants. We will be scheduling more opportunities after we complete our important work with GIRLS CAN!

The challenge is coordinating to meet times and days when our members can come together. Watch for email blasts with times and dates and/or you will receive a personal phone call from **Kay Brilliant** to get scheduled. We are excited about the information to guide our Branch that we are gathering. So, stay tuned and let us hear your voice.

SUPPORT TECH TREK NM 2018

**June 10 - 16 at New Mexico Tech
Socorro, NM**



Tax-deductible donations to 2018 Tech Trek NM can be made at techtrek-nm.aauw.net. Be sure to select the fund name: Tech Trek NM under the tab: Donate. All major credit cards and PayPal are accepted. Alternately, checks, payable to Tech Trek-New Mexico can be mailed to PO Box 251, Placitas, NM 87042-0251

NMSU AAUW Student Organization Update

A meeting to welcome interested students and recruit new members for the New Mexico State University AAUW student organization will be held at the University on Friday, March 2. Guest speaker for the occasion will be Julia Brown, AAUW National Board Chair and member of the Las Cruces branch.

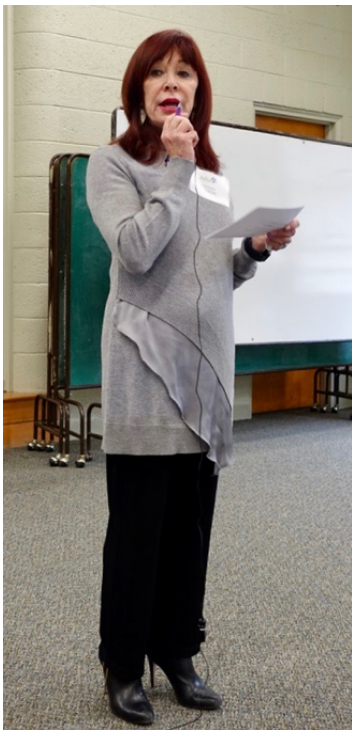
WOMEN GRADUATES-USA

Commission on the Status of Women

Twenty Woman Graduates-USA members will be heading to New York to attend the **United Nations Commission on the Status of Women from March 11-24, 2018. The priority theme for CSW62 is: Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls.** The review theme is: **Participation in and Access of Women to Media and Information and Communications Technologies and their Impact on and use as an Instrument for the Advancement and Empowerment of Women.** Following both the priority and review theme, WG-USA will present a panel on "Intersecting Grassroots Radio and New Technology to Reach Rural and Refugee Women."

[Click here](#) to read a thought-provoking update on the status of action against Female Genital Mutilation, which still is practiced in several countries. This information was originally published by Women Graduates-USA and shared with us by branch International Liaison Carol Ann Council.

February Branch Meeting was Full of Heart!





Co-President **Christa Slaton** (top left) welcomed members and guests to the February branch general meeting, **Londa Seiffert** called for volunteers for Girls Can! 2018, and presenters **Regina Lanier, RN BSN, Chest Pain Program Coordinator for MountainView Regional Medical Center (left)** and **Amy Avalos, Stroke Program Coordinator for MVRMC** gave sound advice for maintaining good heart health. (photos by Carol Ann Council and Londa Seiffert)

INTEREST GROUPS

Anything Goes Book Group

17 book lovers meet on the 2nd Monday each month at 1:30 pm to discuss a wide variety of reading selections, both fiction and non-fiction. New members are always welcome. The next discussion will be on March 12 at the home of Julia Bruner to discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. Contact Julia Bruner at 522-1685 or julesnewmexico@gmail.com to join this lively group. See Branch website for upcoming selections.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group

This group of 13 meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 1:30 at different homes. FOR THIS MONTH ONLY THE MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY, March 27 and will be held at the home of Susan Schmutge. The book to be discussed is *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante. Contact Kay Williams, 521-9279 or kwilliams48@msn.com to join this fun group. See Branch website for upcoming selection.

Daytime & Evening Bridge Summer Schedule

The AAUW Daytime Bridge Group meets on the *2nd Thursday of each month* at 1 pm to approximately 4 pm.

Mar	8	Lavita Costley
Apr	12	Mary Berry

May 10 Jo Ann Vincent

The AAUW Evening Bridge Group meets on the *4th Tuesday of each month* (except December) at 7:15 pm

Feb 27 Ann Wheeler Kaiser

Mar 27 Lavita Costley

Apr 24 Mary Berry

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

Great Decisions

Great Decisions meets on the 4th Monday of each month. The next meeting is **March 26** in the Roadrunner Room of Branigan Library. China's Geopolitics will be the topic of discussion. Contact Marsha Ogden marshaogden@yahoo.com

Laugh & Learn Spanish

Spanish I and II are continuing to meet every Wednesday. Contact: Donna Yargosz 312-2145 or yargoszdonna@yahoo.com

Dining Out

Dining Out will be eating lunch at **Sparky's** in Hatch at 1 pm on **Thursday, March 22**. We will carpool from the parking lot at the Walmart on Valley Drive. Please park in front of Walmart at the far left (when facing the entrance to Walmart) and towards the restaurant area where the Golden Corral used to be. We will gather between 12:00 and 12:15 and take Valley Drive north along the *scenic route* to Hatch. Departure will be at 12:15. Please email Cathy Quinones at quinonesc@aol.com if you are planning to attend. Let her know the day before so we can expect you for our caravan.

Going Places

Going Places will not have an outing in March, as part of our every-other-month plan. We enjoyed a fun and informative tour of the Farm and Ranch Museum in February. Details of the April 15 outing will be in next month's OMV. The theme will be environmental in nature and we are exploring several possible venues. We encourage everyone to attend Girls Can In lieu of a March event.

International Gourmet

The next dinner will be **March 3** at the home of Kathleen Cordova. Please contact Beverly Chambers at flagbab@mac.com with any questions.

Mahjong, Hong Kong Style, meets every Wednesday at 3:00 pm at the home of Rita Worrell. Contact Rita at ritaworrell@gmail.com if you would like to join this group.

Southwest Studies is continuing historical research in preparation for a trip to a selected area later in the year. Trips are limited to members who have participated in the research and planning for the trip. The group will be open to new members next year.



THINKING OF YOU...

Please contact **Judy McGuire** by phone or email judymcguire2@gmail.com when you hear of another AAUW-LC sister who would appreciate a card from AAUW-LC to cheer her up, provide sympathy, offer congratulations or get well.

Of Note...

Historic Monument to Women Veterans Officially Dedicated

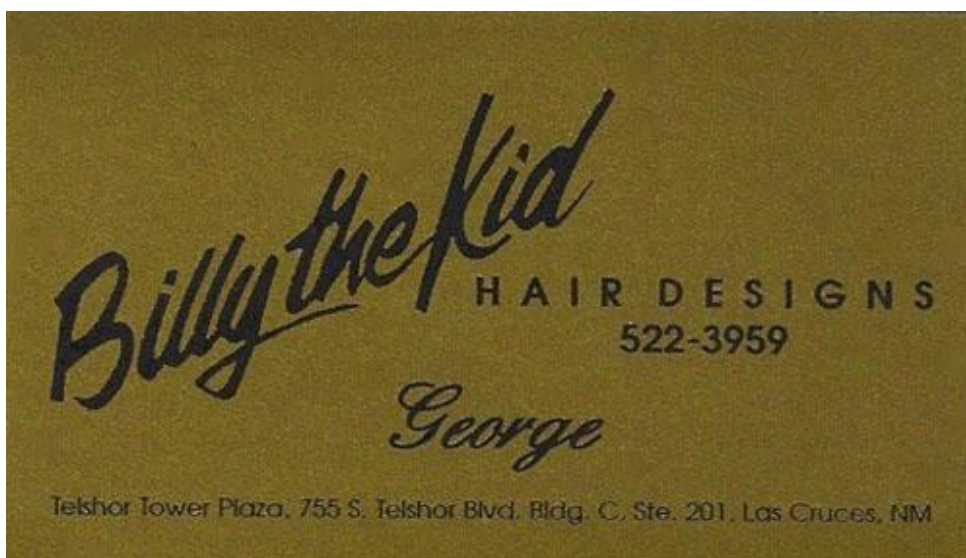


The City of Las Cruces and the United Military Women of the SouthWest (UMWSW) will officially dedicate the Women Veterans Monument at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 10, at Veterans Memorial Park, 2651 Roadrunner Parkway, Las Cruces.

The historic monument, one of only a few such tributes honoring military women of the United States Armed Forces, features six life-size bronze statues representing Army, Marine, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Army National Guard women in detailed uniforms from World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Cold War and current eras. Among the special guests expected to attend include Captain Betty Somppi, a centenarian who served as an original member of the first Women Auxiliary Army Corp (WAAC) from 1942-1945.

In collaboration with the UMWSW, The City of Las Cruces Museums has created a temporary photo exhibit of local women veterans which can be seen at the monument during the dedication. In addition, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library will feature a special section dedicated to women veterans in its month-long Women's History Month display.

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