



ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

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February 2019



AAUW LC General Meeting February 9

"Get in the Middle of It! Find Your Place in Politics"

Learn about the "ins and outs" of the New Mexico Legislature and how you can get involved. This exciting program will be presented by Merrie Lee Soules. The February meeting will be held at Peace Lutheran Church on **Saturday, Feb.**

9. Socializing begins at 9:30 with the meeting to begin at 10:00. Merrie Lee's presentation will be interesting and informative. Do not miss this opportunity to learn how to become part of the political process.



Merrie Lee Soules of Las Cruces didn't exactly retire after a 30 year career with General Motors and Delphi Corporation. With a degree in electrical engineering and an MBA from the Harvard Business School, and over two decades of executive experience leading financial, technical and strategic business initiatives, she put her considerable talents to work for her community. Most recently she ran for Congress in New Mexico's southern congressional district against incumbent Steve Pearce.

In addition to her advocacy work at the Public Regulation Commission, Soules has served the New Mexico Legislature as an analyst in the areas of Business, Industry, Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources. She has a talent for clarifying complex issues and is often in a position to assist legislators in achieving policy results.

Soules has stated that New Mexico is at a crossroads regarding our energy direction and how it contributes or detracts from our future prosperity. She believes that politics and the government we elect are critical to where we are going. Merrie Lee Soules is a citizen making a difference in New Mexico.

From our President: Christa Slaton

This may be the year in which we see significant progress in achieving our mission “**to advance equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.**” Our new Congress is composed of a record number of women—the largest percentages ever in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are now 24 female senators and 101 women in the House. Many of the new members have experienced the inequities in the pay gap between men and women. The national AAUW office has encouraged all branches to be a part of the national conversation on pay equity and they have provided talking points on their website in the new [strategic plan](#) and [The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap](#) research report. To add to our knowledge and skills, they have also created an online [WorkSmart](#) program that all members can access at aaww.org or by clicking on the two links.

Elvira Masson, our International Liaison, is filling a vital role in our branch to remind us of the commitment AAUW has to promoting equity for women and girls globally. After WWI, AAUW became active in promoting peace and understanding among women across the globe. During WWII, AAUW became involved in assisting female European scholars whose lives were at risk. They helped them find employment and housing in the United States. AAUW has provided more than 3,500 fellowships to women from 140 countries and funded international projects to address the needs of girls and women in advancement of our mission. Elvira is inviting input and ideas about how our branch can create more awareness and engagement of our international focus on **International Women’s Day**, which is **March 8, 2019**.

The 2019 Winter Leadership Team Meeting (LTM) will be held **Sunday, February 10th** at Hotel Santa Fe, 1501 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM. All members of our branch are welcome to attend. Legislative Day is **Monday, February 11th** at the Roundhouse. Members are asked to meet our Lobby Corps team in Room 303 at 8:30 a.m. They will share information on legislation supported by AAUW and ask you to visit your legislator’s office to talk with them about the issues or to leave a note. At approximately 11:00 am Representative Linda Trujillo will introduce AAUW members on the House floor.

If you wish to attend the LTM, please send your registration fee of \$55 (includes meeting rooms, breakfast, lunch, and gratuity) payable to AAUW-Santa Fe with LTM in memo line and mail ASAP to: AAUW Santa Fe, Carol Heppenstall, PO Box 31584, Santa Fe, NM 87594-1584. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Heffron at 202-550-0058.

To reserve a room at the hotel, please call Desiree Greenberg at 505-955-7846. She is the reservation manager and will book your room at the AAUW rate: \$85.00 + tax totaling \$98.02 per night. This applies to both Saturday and Sunday nights, Feb. 9 & 10. The hotel will also provide free shuttle to downtown and to the Roundhouse.

Last month our branch contributed \$100 to our endowed scholarship at NMSU in memory of Jerry Plec and Dr. James Tucker. Our sympathy goes out to **Fran Plec** and **Mary Tucker**.

Special Request: I would really appreciate it if some of our members would be willing to take a few photos at our meetings and events for our OMV newsletter, Facebook page, and press releases. If you are willing to help out, please contact me by email at slatocd@nmsu.edu

Thank you, each of you for support of our organization and mission. It is truly valued.

AAUW Tech Trek wins award



The **Air Force Research Lab Tech Engagement Office** recently announced the winners of the 2019 Excellence in STEM Awards, aka the **STEMYS**. The awards honor those students, teachers, volunteers and

other New Mexicans doing remarkable things in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. **AAUW Tech Trek won the award for Non-profit of the Year**. Tech Trek was nominated by a mother of a recent Tech Trek graduate.

"This is the second year of the event, and we were blown away by the number and quality of nominations we received," said Matt Fetrow, Director of the AFRL Tech Engagement Office. "It is inspiring to see how many people and organizations are dedicated to making STEM learning a priority for our state. We hope that by highlighting their good work, others will be encouraged to get involved and more young people will choose STEM related education and career paths." STEMYS winners will be honored at a ceremony on Friday, Feb. 22 at the Albuquerque Convention Center. For more information, or to attend this event, contact Helena Whyte, President, Tech Trek at mozden08@aol.com.

Are You Ready?

GIRLS CAN! is only **six** weeks away! On March 9th at the East Mesa Dona Ana Community College Campus, AAUW Las Cruces Branch will host the 25th annual **GIRLS CAN!** event. ARE YOU READY?

Here is your check list of possible ways to support this wonderful program that provides ALL 6th grade girls an opportunity to have a career exploration experience with professional women from the community leading hands-on sessions for the participants. We provide a parent workshop in both English and Spanish for adults at the same time. The event begins at 8:00 and ends at 12:30. Have you signed up to volunteer for the event? You can do this by volunteering: girlscan.lascruces25@gmail.com



** Can't be at the event? Then have you signed up to help prepare for the event? You can do this by volunteering at: girlscan.lascruces25@gmail.com

** Have you made a donation to support our premier community project? You

can do this by donating at any AAUW Las Cruces Branch event or send a check (put **GIRLS CAN!** on the memo line) to: AAUW Las Cruces, PO Box 1081, Las Cruces, NM 88004-1081

** Do you want to donate and get a tax deduction? You can do this by making your check to NMNWSE (New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering) our fiscal agent: NMNWSE (put **GIRLS CAN!** on the memo line), PO Box 51926, Albuquerque, NM 87121

** Do you have a friend or business who would like to support our community project? You can do this by asking them yourself and use the information above for delivery of the donation. If you would like more information or have a **GIRLS CAN!** person speak about the project, please send us a message at: girlscan.lascruces25@gmail.com **GIRLS CAN!** is a community project designed to meet the needs of 6th grade girls in our county. We know the need is great (see December OMV). We are proud to host the 25th year of **GIRLS CAN!**

Women's March 2018



*"WHO CAN?
GIRLS CAN!
WHO CAN?
GIRLS CAN!"*

This chant was lead by AAUW members attending the **Las Cruces Women's Rally** on January 19, 2019. **Laura Bemis** introduced the crowd to AAUW Las Cruces Branch and spoke to them about the wonderful programs and events that we sponsor.

In addition, AAUW Las Cruces Branch was front and center with a table with membership materials, GIRLS CAN! information and other AAUW program materials. **Laura Bemis, Shirley Armstrong, Londa Seiffert, and Kay Brilliant** worked the table and responded to questions about our organization. Other AAUW members attending the event were **Joy Goldbaum, and Joanne Ferrary.**

Interest Groups



Anything Goes Book Group

We will meet at the home of **Mary Borer** at 1:30 on February 11 to discuss Pulitzer's Gold by Roy J. Harris Jr. For more information, please contact **Julia Bruner** at julesnewmexico@gmail.com or 522-1685.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group

We will discuss The Millagro Beanfield War by John Nichols on Monday, Feb. 25th at 1:30 at the home of **Lynne Lord**. If you are not already a part of the group, and would like to join us, please contact **Kay Williams** at kwilliams48@msn.com

Daytime & Evening Bridge Schedule

The AAUW LC day-time bridge group meets on the **2nd Thursday of each month** at 1:00 pm to approximately 4:00 pm.

Feb 14 Rae Gundersen

Mar 14 Lavita Costley

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

Feb 26 TBD

Mar 26 Lavita Costley

Contact **Carol Ann Council** at kk-ca_council@msn.com

Great Decisions

Great Decisions will meet on February 25 at 2:30 pm in the Roadrunner Room at Branigan Library. The Middle East: Regional Disorder will be the discussion topic. Contact **Marsha Ogden** at marshaogden@yahoo.com if you have questions.

Laugh and Learn Spanish

Spanish I, II and III are ongoing and classes are full for this year. Contact **Donna Yargosz** at yargoszdonna@yahoo.com for further information.

Dining Out

Dining Out will meet on Thursday, February 28 at 1:00 pm at **Aqua Reef** on Roadrunner, just north of Lohman for lunch. This is an informal group activity letting us get to know other members. Bring a guest if you wish. Please notify **Cathy Quinones** by the day before so she can let the restaurant know what to expect. quinonesc@aol.com or 993-9528.

International Dining

We are having our next dining adventure, our first ever brunch, at the home of **Shirley Armstrong** on Sunday, January 27. We have reached our hosts' maximum seating capacity for this event. For information on future gatherings, please contact **Deanise Marta** at dxmarta@gmail.com

Going Places

Join Going Places on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 8:45 am as we travel down El Paso's Mission Trail. We will first visit San Elizario with sites dating back to 1598 and the arrival of Don Juan Onate. In addition to the Presidio Church we will visit the first schoolhouse in El Paso and the only jail that Billy the Kid ever broke into. San Elizario also has a variety of art galleries. We will travel back on El Camino Real for a stop at the Lincoln Dairy (time permitting) and lunch at El Meson de Onate near the Socorro Mission. Please sign-up by Feb.18 if you are interested. Please call or email **Linda Bennett** at 443-404-1349 or LK.Bennett@yahoo.com . Information regarding meeting time and place will be sent once registered.

Chinese Mahjong

Meets every Wednesday from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the home of **Rita Worrell**. Newcomers are welcome. It is not a difficult game to learn!!! Contact **Rita** at ritaworrell@gmail.com or 571-4363.

All Above Board



Our Branch **Board of Directors** meets monthly, generally on the 1st Monday of the month. All members are welcome. Meetings are held at Peace Lutheran Church beginning at 9:30 am. Your Board of Directors is elected by the membership and serves at your pleasure to establish policy, procedure and programs. If you have input for Board meetings, please contact **Christa Slaton** or just attend a Board meeting!

Annual AAUW Art Contest



Are you looking to showcase your artistic talent? The annual **AAUW Art Contest** is underway, and it's a terrific opportunity to display your work! Enter now and vote later for your favorite entries.



This year, we will give special preference to entries that reflect AAUW's mission, vision and values:

1. Advancing equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy
2. Equity for All
3. Nonpartisan, fact-based, integrity, inclusion and intersectionality

Through February 7, submit an electronic version of your design to the [AAUW Art Contest web page](#). Your entry can be photography, a digital photo of your painting, drawing, sculpture, or any other form of visual art. AAUW members can vote for their favorite images once a day from February 12 until February 26. The winning entries as well as the artists' biographies will be featured on a collection of **AAUW notecards** that will be mailed to members this spring. For more information, to submit artwork, and to see last year's art gallery, please visit the [AAUW Art Contest web page](#).

Membership News

Wednesday, February 20
"New Member Meet-up: Coffee and Conversation",
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Beck's Coffee House, 130 N. Mesquite

Meet your Membership Co-VP's **Laura Bemis** and **Marsha Hokkanen** and other members for an informal coffee. Get to know members and share your thoughts about AAUW and our mission. We'll also answer your questions.

*An RSVP is appreciated via email to lkbemis@gmail.com no later than the day prior to the event.

We now have 117 members

Please welcome these **5 new members** for January! Add their information to your Yearbook and greet them at the February meeting:

Linda Peterson

4402 Nambe Ct., LC 88011

252-337-4926 shelro2@centurylink.net

M.B.A , Healthcare Admin., Lake Forest Grad. School of Management
Nashville, TN

Roseann Hernandez

970 N. Armijo St., LC 88005

575-525-8155 (h) 575-571-2377 roseann797@gmail.com

M.A., Secondary Educ., Univ. of No. Colorado, Greeley

Jean Roach

6815 Alhambra Ct., LC 88007

309-696-3597 jmroach@me.com

M.S. History/Educ., Bradley Univ. Peoria, Illinois

Laura Mandabach

4296 Superstition Dr., LC 88011

575-644-5874 lauramandabach@hotmail.com

M.S., Nursing, Univ. of Texas, Houston

Maggie Reynolds

3003 Karen Dr., LC 88001

575-288-6226 maggiereynolds@gmail.com

M.A., Conflict Resolution, Abilene Christian Univ., Texas

Communications

Many of the comments from the **Roundtable** discussions last Spring focused on Communication with membership. In addition to the Organ Mountain Views, OMV, we maintain a Website and Facebook page. Also, from time to time you will receive an email from either **Christa Slaton**, our President or **Kathy Cooke**, our Email coordinator.

[AAUW Website](#) is maintained by **Becca Galves**. Contact her for comments or questions or additions. (*click on link above: "AAUW Website"*)

A [Facebook](#) Page for AAUW LC is maintained by **Lydia Hammond**. Be sure to like our page so you will get updates. (*click on link above: "Facebook"*)

Save the Date

Every year the Honors College has an author come to campus to give one lecture to the community. This year's speaker is **Janna Levin** (pronounced Levine). She will speak on **March 5** (Tuesday). Usually the speech takes place in the evening in the new theater at Espina and University Aves. She has written several books; the newest is *How the Universe Got Its Spots.*

-AAUW Las Cruces is committed to the Mission of AAUW-
*To advance gender equity for women and girls through research,
education, and advocacy.*



Thinking of you.....

Please contact Judy McGuire by phone (575-932-9905) 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 condolences, offer congratulations or "get well" (*click
on the email address as a direct link to your email provider*)

Of note.....



Tech Trek student nominations due Jan. 31

A special Thank you from **Judy McGuire** to the following members who assisted
with contacting local middle school science and math teachers to encourage
nominations for the 2019 Tech Trek summer STEM camp, June 9-15. **Lynne
Lord, Anne Hubbell, Christa Slaton and Shirley Armstrong.** (if I missed
someone who helped, please forgive me!)



*Cally Williams Pottery
331 Capri Arc, Las Cruces, NM
575-526-5250 callwill@hotmail.com*

Comments and questions

If you wish to advertise in our newsletter, please contact **Judy McGuire** by email. The cost is \$50/year. If you have suggestions for our newsletter or would like to see other changes, please also contact Judy at:

judymcguire2@gmail.com

Thank you for reading



AAUW-LC, PO Box 1081, Las Cruces, NM 88004

Las Cruces Website

New Mexico Website

National Website