

ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

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and advocacy.

Founded in 1923, AAUW's Mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education,

NOTE: If reading this in email or online, click on [view entire message](#) when you get to the end, as the OMV may be "clipped."

****Also, remember that words [underlined in bright blue](#) are links to click on for additional information.****

Karen Dumont, Editor

NO GENERAL MEETING

March 4th - Girls Can!

No General Meeting this month.

RoseAnn Hernández & Barbara Williams, Co-VP Programs

Trivia questions are distributed at the General Meetings. The lucky winner is drawn the next month and receives a special tea towel.

Question #2 was: In the early 1940s, the Las Cruces branch of AAUW started a hot lunch program at a local segregated school where the conditions were substandard. That school was: a) MacArthur Elementary,

b) Central School, c) Alameda Elementary or d) Booker T. Washington Elementary.

Which school was it? All four schools are the oldest in Las Cruces, but only Booker T. Washington served Black students exclusively.

Many Black families came to this area to escape Jim Crow laws in their home states. Unfortunately, many Southerners moved here and brought their preference for segregation with them. In the 1920s, the New Mexico State Legislature allowed local governments to install segregation if they so chose. Thus, local Black children attended Phillips CME Chapel School and/or Booker T. Washington School, both of which housed all grades in one place.

This unequal system ended in 1954 with the Supreme Court decision in Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka.

Donna Yargosz, Special Projects Chair

From our President Anne Chase



We've had a wonderful year. We are growing back our membership, meeting in person again, and getting excited for our Centennial Year in 2023.

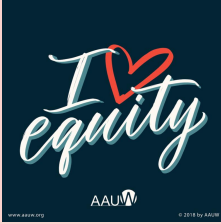
***Girls Can!* is going to be held again at DACC in person. Donna Yargosz and Laura Bemis have been working on this spring centerpiece event. We've had great response for volunteers, but if you haven't offered yet, please do so. If you just have a few hours in the morning, that's enough. And we thank you in advance.**

We held our Holiday Luncheon at Sunset Grill on Saturday, Dec. 10th. We had many members attend and had a great, joyful time. There was a highly successful Silent Auction. Our members are so generous! And we hope they were happy with their acquisitions! There were some great wines, jewelry, and art pieces among other items.

Anne Chase, President

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

In last month's OMV, I reported that Representative Andrés



Romero (D-Bernalillo) was planning to introduce a bill to change high school graduation requirements in New Mexico. He later introduced HB126, proposing to lower the number of credits required for graduation from 24 to 22 and eliminating Algebra 2 as a math requirement. HB126 also gives school boards more flexibility, allowing them to design curricula based on local needs.

HB 126 has passed two committees ⁽¹⁾ in the House. During the first committee hearing, two representatives opposed the bill, expressing concern that it gave too much flexibility to local school boards, which could result in “dummying down” the curriculum. One opposing representative argued that some school boards could make the curriculum so easy students wouldn’t be challenged and would jeopardize their ability to get into higher education institutions.

At the second committee hearing, supporters argued locally developed curriculum will be more engaging and relevant, especially if career and technical education (CTE) courses can count toward graduation. Superintendents and school board associations were among the supporters. Opponents are worried small schools that focus on CTE will not provide enough higher education courses to make their graduates competitive when applying to four-year institutions.

As of February 20, HB126 is waiting for consideration by the House floor. Once HB126 passes the House, it will go to the Senate, where committees and the floor will need to pass it before March 18 when the session ends.

(1) February 1, 2023 – New Mexico House of Representatives, Commerce and Economic Development Committee;

February 9, 2023 – House Education Committee

Ruth Jaure, Public Policy Chair

ACADEMIC OUTREACH

Girls Can! is about opening young girls’ minds to education and career possibilities!



WHY IT MATTERS

Attitudes about how boys and girls perform academically, and behave socially, push children toward certain pathways. From preschool through high school, most children encounter some degree of “gender tracking”- stereotypes and expectations that can set them on a lifelong path. Tracking in early education helps account for why so many professions are still highly gendered, with women disproportionately in lower-paying fields.

Generally, girl and boy students are treated differently and expected to behave in distinct ways. The notion that girls are “good at” certain subjects and boys are “good at” others takes hold early on. Consider: Though girls are on par with boys in math and science throughout most of their education, girls still tend to be steered away

from these fields from as early as the elementary years.

DID YOU KNOW?

Parents are more than twice as likely to Google search “is my son gifted?” than “is my daughter gifted?”

Families influence gender role expectations. Some research shows that higher-income families [invest more in sons](#) while lower-income families [invest more in daughters](#), based on beliefs about their pathways for future earning and job opportunities.

Reference: aauw.org/issues/education (Early Gender Bias)

“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.”--John Dewey

Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair

[TECH TREK Readers Needed](#)

Tech Trek, a STEM education project of AAUW, needs readers to screen the applicants for this year’s *Tech Trek* to be held in June.

The essays are short, and each reader would only be reading a few letters.

We would like to have at least a couple of volunteers from our branch – after all, we are the largest branch and have many intelligent women who could do this.

If you are willing to help with this, please contact Judy Prono at: djprono@msn.com



[Preparing for our Centennial Celebration in 2023](#)

Past Perfect Presidents – An imaginary meeting in 1923

At our February general meeting, members were treated to a “meeting of the minds” portrayal of our branch’s spiritual predecessors. The imaginary meeting is set in early 1923 and brings together four far-sighted women who ponder the status of women – Mary Lizzy Curtis Foster (Rorie Measure), Jesse Casad (Carol Ann Council), Leah Newberry (LaJune Smith), and Matilda Gallegos (Shirley Armstrong).

Rorie Measure wrote the script, based on women who were attending NMSU between 1891 and 1920. The women were strong advocates for moving us forward. For example, in 1891, Ms. Casad and Ms. Newberry helped create the Cordegian Society, the first campus literary group for women. Ms.

Newberry became president in 1900.

In 1895, Ms Casad was the college's only female graduate. During her college years, she was the first woman admitted to the all-male Columbian Literary Society. Later, she was elected the Society's vice president and played a role in the campus newspaper's issue that debated the merits of "The New Woman" that year.

Matilda Gallegos was one of only a handful of women with Hispanic surnames who attended the college between 1890-1920. In 1895, she was enrolled in business classes at the college.

Mrs. Foster or "Lou" as she liked to be called was AAUW-LC's first president in June 1923. During the enactment, she proudly tells the group that "forty-nine women (had) graduated by 1920." They were working as teachers, school principals, college professors, and assistant librarians, moving women beyond the traditional factory workers, farmers laborers, and domestic servants.

As the group concluded their fictional meeting, they reflected on women's status and "predicted" the future, with Ms Casad saying, "We are making steady progress but there is a long road ahead."

Ruth Jaure, Historian

Rorie Measure, Branch President 1988-1991



In the 1980s the public was invited to AAUW-LC's monthly programs. Rorie Measure attended an AAUW-LC talk presented by Clyde Tombaugh, and she decided to join but waited for one more member to join first so she could be the 100th member of the branch.

She is grateful to the women of AAUW for their generosity in guiding and encouraging their youngest member. Audrey Winkler (president 1979-1981) was especially influential and encouraged some of Rorie's wild ideas. A few of those ideas became Branch community projects, including the Mother's Moral Support Group (recruitment of young women) and Cougar Community Connection (enrichment for middle schoolers).

Careers from A to Z, inspired by some high school boys' outmoded attitudes and girls' lack of knowledge of non-traditional opportunities in their own community, was a collaboration with local TV station KASK-TV to create 26 public service announcements featuring outstanding women in their workplaces. It accompanied a six-part career exploration curriculum.

Careers from A to Z were adopted by AAUW-NM to share with every high school in New Mexico. *Good Housekeeping Magazine* featured Las Cruces and Careers from A to Z in their Volunteerism in America issue. The Las Cruces branch received the AAUW Public Service Award and Rorie received the Grace Barker Wilson Award which is given by AAUW-NM annually to a woman who through her actions has initiated positive societal change in the areas of women's equity, education, or self-esteem.

During Rorie's time as president, our branch partnered with the NMSU Music Department to celebrate the university's Centennial with an evening of women in music featuring NMSU's female musicians playing the works of female composers of New Mexico.

Girls Can!

Girls Can! was at the Las Cruces Downtown Farmers Market

Members **Jeanette King, Marsha Hokkanen, and Laura Bemis** brought a fun science project to the Las Cruces Farmers Market in February.

Parents and students of all ages learning and challenging buoyancy. This was a great way to attract walkers and share our **Girls Can!** event and information about our branch.

Laura Bemis, Girls Can! Coordinator



Membership Matters

Please consider bringing a guest to general meetings and Interest Group meetings (with an OK from the host).

Click here for a pdf of the [2022-2023 Membership Brochure](#) that you can give to prospective members. Note: Anyone joining after March is joining for the rest of this year and all of next year (through June 30, 2023)

Lynne Lord & Lori LaPlanche, Membership Co-VPs

"Bits of News"

Please take the time to check in on AAUW's New Mexico page at [AAUW - NM](#). It is full of information for members or prospective members, including legislative issues, AAUW projects, education and public policy.

AAUW-LC PROGRAM CALENDAR

Here is our program calendar for the **2023** year. Meetings normally are held on the second Saturday at the DACC Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada Ave. The program begins at **10:00 am** preceded by a "social time" from 9:30 - 10:00 am.

March 4th - Girls Can
No General Meeting

April 8th
Equal Pay or Gender & Sexuality Studies

Our presenter will be **Dr. Sawssan Boufous**, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business. Check the April OMV for more information on our April program.

Please note that due to NMSU's Spring Holiday, this meeting will be held at Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano St

May 13th
Election of Officers for 2023-2024

Lynn Gallagher - Mental Health and Self Care

June 10th
Year-end Luncheon at La Posta de Mesilla

Per AAUW policy, we will be requiring pre-payment for any payment-required events. This will come into effect with our June 10th End-of-the-Year Luncheon at La Posta.

RoseAnn Hernández & Barbara Williams, Co-VP Programs

Interest Groups

Please use your Yearbook for member addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses.



Anything Goes Book Group will meet on March 13 at 1:30 pm at the home of Shirley Armstrong to discuss *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn. Contact: **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on March 27 at 1:30 pm at the home of Kay Brilliant to discuss *Dinners with Ruth* by Nina Totenberg. Contact: **Kay Williams**

Daytime & Evening Bridge Our daytime bridge group will meet on March 9 at 1:15 pm. A second bridge group will meet on March 23 at 1:15 pm. NOTE THE CHANGE IN SCHEDULE. Contact: **Carol Ann Council**

Great Decisions will meet Monthly at 7:00 pm via ZOOM to discuss the most thought-provoking foreign policy challenges facing Americans today. Contact: **Susan Hychka** for a briefing book and further details.

Going Places

Contact: (this Coordinator position is open, contact Anne if interested). This is a fun group that visits interesting local places!

Chinese Mahjong

Hong Kong Style, or Chinese Mahjong, meets on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 pm at Rita Worrell's home. Instruction is available for beginners. Contact: **Rita Worrell**

International Dining

meets periodically at member homes to enjoy a home-cooked meal and good conversation and will resume soon. Contact **Suzie Ostrem** to volunteer your home and cooking talent.

Want to know more about an Interest Group?

Contact the named "**contact**" for each Interest Group described above. Interest groups offer an opportunity to get to know other AAUW LC members in a more relaxed and informal environment. All are welcome.

Thinking of you.....

When you learn of a member who has medical issues, personal loss, or a reason for celebration or recognition, please contact **Judy McGuire** by phone or text at 575-932-9905 or email judymcguire2@gmail.com so she can show our support with a personalized card. (click **on the** email address as a direct link to your email provider)



All Above Board



Click here for your copy of the 2022-2024 elected and appointed leadership team.

[2022-2024 Officers](#)

Your elected and appointed **Board of Directors** meets monthly on the 1st Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Once the Board approves meeting minutes, they are made available to you by clicking on the **link** in the following month's OMV.



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(click on the underlined link)

Other AAUW Membership Benefits

Access to member benefits at AAUW.org with your membership number assigned by AAUW and located inside the cover of your Yearbook. Benefits include discounts at UPS, Office Max, Travel companies (Hertz, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Thrifty car insurance, Colette Tours, Cruises Only, TNT Vacations), and Insurance (Geico, Pet insurance, LTC Insurance, Identity Insurance, and others).

The AAUW website is also chock full of helpful information for girls and women including access to numerous scholarships and grants. For details, see AAUW.org. (click the link)

Communications

In addition to the *Organ Mountain Views* (OMV), we maintain a Website and Facebook page. All Branch emails will be sent by **Anne Chase**, President, and/or **Kathy Cooke**, Email Coordinator.

[AAUW-LC Website](#) is maintained by **Judy McGuire**. Contact her with comments, additions, or questions.. (click on the link above: "AAUW-LC Website")

A [Facebook](#) Page for AAUW LC is maintained by **Laura Bemis**. Each of us may contact Laura with suggested additions, photos, etc. Be sure to "like" our page so you will get updates. (click on the link above: "Facebook")

*NOTE: There are three **green tabs** at the end of this newsletter that will take you directly to our website, AAUW NM website, and/or National AAUW's website.*

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dumontkm@gmail.com

Thank you for reading



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

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