



ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

ISSUE: VIII VOL: XXVIII

APRIL, 2023



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

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



Dora Jasso, NM Chair
Distinguished Young Women



Sandy Smith, Co-Director Cruces
Creatives

General Meeting, Saturday, April 8th

9:30- 11:00 am

Thirty-eight (including 1 via Zoom) members participated in the February program presented by Annamarie DeLovato, Deputy Director of NMSU's Office of Institutional Equity. She informed us about the history of Title IX of The Education Amendments of 1972 and cited several legal cases stemming from

Title IX. She emphasized that Title IX is not gender specific and is not limited to athletics. **No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.** (see HER Story below for background information)

On April 8, three speakers will present the program. **Dora Jasso** is the New Mexico Chair of the Distinguished Young Women program. The Distinguished Young Women organization is the oldest and largest scholarship program for high school girls in the country. In addition to this volunteer work, Dora is a speech therapist with Mountain View Hospital.

Mari Blacker and **Sandy Smith** will discuss the programs offered at Cruces Creatives (CC). Sandy is Youth Program Co-director and she will inform us about the STEAM after-school educational program for grade school students funded by New Mexico State University's STEM outreach. Sandy is also Community Share Project Specialist, working to help teachers get more project-based learning into their classrooms. Mari is a volunteer facilitator with CC at the Art Corner. Mari has a master's degree in community art with the aim of helping a marginalized community.

Please note that the April general meeting will be held in the sanctuary at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 2000 S. Solano. There is parking on the north side of the building as well as plenty of parking on the south side. Enter the church through the doors near the east side of the building. The entrance is adjacent to the large stained glass window which celebrates Clyde Tombaugh's life.

RoseAnn Hernández & Barbara Williams, Co-VP Programs

The follow-up to Trivia Question #3

Trivia Question #3 asked: Which country has the highest percentage of women in government (i.e.: in the equivalent of Parliament or House/Senate)?

Choices were: a) Norway, b) Chile, c) Rwanda or d) the United States. All four choices are reasonable, but the answer is Rwanda. In 2003 by law in Rwanda, women must hold at least 30% of Parliamentary seats. In 2013 women made up $\frac{2}{3}$ of Parliament.

In Norway, the percentage of women in government is 40%. In Chile, it is 22%. In the United States, it is 28%.

(Disclaimer: These numbers change all the time, so if you search today, you may find somewhat different results.)

Trivia Questions are distributed at General Meetings.

Donna Yargosz, Special Projects

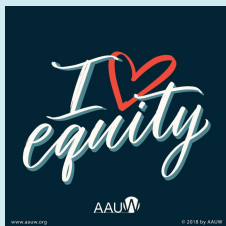
From our President Anne Chase



Our Girls Can! event was a great success. We hosted 170 girls and had 19 presenters. I would like to thank all our members who volunteered to help. You were wonderful. And a huge shout out to Laura Bemis and Londa Seiffert and Kay Brilliant. It never would have happened without their leadership.

We are now in the midst of interviewing 7th-grade girls in our area for the state-wide Tech Trek, which will be held in Socorro on the NMSU campus. This is a STEM Camp held in June for a week. It is sponsored by the State organization, with girls from all over the state participating. There are classes and field trips led by women who are working in the professions. There are 60 openings and 97 applicants. It is going to be a tough decision.

Anne Chase, President



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

The high school graduation requirements bill (**HB 126**) that we have been tracking through this year's NM state legislature is sitting, as of March 18, on the governor's desk waiting for her signature. The House passed it on February 22 (with a 64-3 vote) and the Senate, on March 16 (with a 40-0 vote). This bill makes major changes in New Mexico's high school graduation requirements for the first time since 2007.

Think New Mexico, a non-partisan advocacy organization, and AAUW-NM, worked diligently to urge lawmakers to strengthen the bill as it moved through the legislative process. They encouraged lawmakers to include financial literacy education as a graduation requirement and to require all high schools to offer world languages (i.e., languages other than English) and career technical education (like health, film, and teaching).

HB 126 now explicitly incorporates personal financial literacy into the curriculum, ensuring that every high school student receives at least some education in the basics of financial literacy. It also requires all high schools to offer standalone courses in financial literacy, world languages, career technical education, and several other subjects, ensuring that students will not lose access to important classes. (Think NM)

However, the bill originally reduced the number of required graduation credits from 24 to 22. This requirement did not change as it worked its way through the legislative process.

Ruth Jaure, Public Policy Chair

Special Projects Committee Report



Unexpectedly, but happily, there are lots of new members, and they want name-tag lanyards. In just two months, we have taken in over \$100. That indicates that we should continue to offer them for sale at General Meetings.

In addition, for Girls Can! the **beading group** made and donated 300 memory wire bracelets and 600 backpack "purse pals." The group also donated bookmarks, beaded pens, and keychains as gifts for Girls Can! presenters.

Between new members and the depletion of our stock of beaded items, the beading group will be busy and is grateful to have a full year to produce Girls Can! items.

Again, primarily because of new members, we can offer beaded items (bookmarks, earrings, "icicles," bracelets, and "purse pals") at the October and November General Meetings.

As always, proceeds go 90% to Scholarship Fund and 10% to the chapter.

P.S. If you know you will want some of these items, you may order in advance. You can specify the item(s), color palette, theme (if any), and when you would need it/them. Advance ordering helps us know, for example, how many bookmark blanks to keep on hand. Just email Donna with any requests.

Donna Yargos, Special Projects Coordinator

TIME TO RENEW YOUR AAUW MEMBERSHIP!



Renewal of your AAUW annual membership for **2023-24** is now open!

The 2023-24 dues are \$110.

National \$72 (\$69 of the national dues are tax deductible)

State \$18
LC Branch \$20

Total: \$110

NOTE! Current and new members who wish their names and contact information to be included in the Las Cruces Branch 2023-24 Yearbook must pay their dues no later than **June 30, 2023**.

We strongly encourage members to pay online.
However, you may renew in either of the following two ways:

- 1) **Send a check** - payable to AAUW-Las Cruces Branch, PO Box 1081, Las Cruces, NM, 88004-1081, or give your check directly to Christine Long.
- 2) **Pay online** - an e-mail reminder with a link to complete your renewal online will be sent out by AAUW National in April and May. Be sure to look out for it, thank you!

Note: AAUW National is in the process of updating its Community Hub Website. We have been asked to request that existing members who plan to renew please wait to do so until AFTER April 1st, 2023, or wait for the aforementioned reminder e-mail before attempting to renew online.
Thank you!



HER-Story

The “Godmother of Title IX” **Bernice Sandler** was an advocate for women’s rights for over fifty years. Denied a number of teaching positions, after receiving her Ed.D., because “she came on too strong for a woman,” Sandler partnered with Representative Edith Green in gathering the evidence through hearings and other mechanisms that documented the discrimination that women faced in employment and education. These efforts led to the passage of Title IX and her nickname as its Godmother. Dr. Sandler holds many firsts in the fight for gender equity. She has been inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame.

Thanks to **Carol Ann Council** for submitting the previous two stories about noteworthy women and this one. More to come.....



Carol Ann Council, AAUW-LC President, 1994-1996

Carol Ann Council, originally from Cleveland, OH, attended Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX, where she majored in mathematics/minored in Physics and met her husband, Konrad. After graduating with master's degrees, she & her husband traveled extensively-including a year in Europe where she taught math to US soldiers at the Univ of MD in Berlin, Germany. They settled in Las Cruces in early 1973, both working at White Sands Missile Range. The wife of one of Carol Ann’s bosses belonged to AAUW and invited Carol Ann to a meeting sometime before 1975. Carol Ann,

a young professional, found the women interesting, friendly, and old! She did not join at the time.

Later, as a young mother, she was again invited to attend the AAUW-NM convention which was being held in Las Cruces and happened to be the 50-year celebration of the formation of AAUW-NM. Carol Ann remembers the 50 cakes, contributed by the AAUW-NM various State Branches – many more than now exist – that was used to symbolize the event and were auctioned to raise funds.

Carol Ann joined AAUW-LC at that convention (1983) and soon became the AAUW-LC Branch Finance Chair. That began her many years of active involvement with AAUW-LC. She served in various board positions for the next 37 years, including as president, until she retired from our board in 2020. During Carol Ann's term as president, the first Girls Can!! was held in 1995 following its precursor the previous year, Expanding Your Horizons. She also worked with the AAUW-El Paso Branch and held a joint-states AAUW-NM-TX convention in El Paso.

Carol Ann served on the AAUW-New Mexico board for many years including 4 as our State AAUW president and many more as the NM state finance chair. She has received several awards over the years including the *Legacy of Leadership* (2010) and the *Woman of Distinction* (2018). She has formed close friendships with many AAUW members here and throughout the state. Currently, Carol Ann coordinates the Past Presidents(PPP) and the bridge interest groups.

Shirley Armstrong, Past President

Membership Matters

The Las Cruces Branch of AAUW would like to welcome new member:

Nancy Siddens

197 Happy Trails N.

Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005.

802-557-7121

nans4tune@yahoo.com

BA in Spanish 1977

MA in Applied Linguistics (ESOL) 1986,

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

Please consider bringing a guest to general meetings and Interest Group meetings (with an OK from the host). Our branch is the largest in NM.

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, 2024)

Lynne Lord & Lori LaPlanche, Membership Co-VPs

"Bits of News"

The annual **AAUW-NM Convention** will be April 14-15 at the Santa Ana Star Casino and Hotel in Bernalillo, NM. We will begin at noon (with lunch) on Friday and end at 4:00 pm on Saturday.

Check out the website for more information: <https://aauw-nm.aauw.net>

AAUW-LC PROGRAM CALENDAR

Here is our (tentative) program calendar for the **2023** year. Meetings 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.

May 13th

Election of Officers for 2023-2024
Lynn Gallagher - Mental Health and Self Care

June 10th

Year-end Luncheon TBA

RoseAnn Hernández & Barbara Williams, Program Co-VP

Interest Groups

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



Anything Goes Book Group will meet on April 10 at 1:30 pm at the home of Jean Roach to discuss *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder .
Contact: **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on April 24 at 1:30 pm at the home of Paula Sorenson to discuss *Stiff - The Curious Lives of Cadavers* by Mary Roach. Contact: **Kay Williams**

Daytime Bridge A daytime bridge group will meet April 14 at 1:15 pm. A second bridge group will meet April 26 . Contact: **Carol Ann Council**

Great Decisions will meet 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 a copy of the 2022-2024 elected and appointed leadership team.
[2022-2024 Officers](#)

Elected and appointed **Board of Directors** meets monthly on the 1st Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.



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(click on the underlined link)

Your Name

Title 1

Title 2 (optional)

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 chocked 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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Comments and questions

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dumontkm@gmail.com

Thank you for reading



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



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[New Mexico Website](#)

[National Website](#)