

ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

ISSUE 10: VOL: XXVII

JUNE, 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 the 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.****

This is the last OMV until Fall, have a wonderful summer!! Karen Dumont, Editor
Judy McGuire, Photo Editor



ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The AAUW-LC June luncheon is scheduled for June 10 at 11:30 at La Posta in Mesilla. Thanks to the enthusiastic response, reservations are now closed.

As our 2022-23 year is ending, we would like to thank our AAUW-LC members for the support and encouragement they gave us.

We worked to bring a variety of programs and presenters to bring informative and interesting programs, a task that was sometimes challenging, but always rewarding. If you have suggestions for programs or presenters for 2023-24, please send

them to one of the VP Programs.

We wish you a healthy, relaxing, and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

RoseAnn Hernández & Barbara Williams, Co-VP Programs

From our President **Anne Chase**



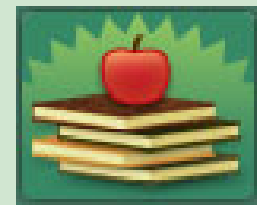
I want to thank all the Board members for the great jobs they did this year. I also want to thank our members. Because of all of you, Girls Can! was a huge success. And because of our members, we have been able to award more scholarships and send two young women to AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). (See article below.)

Welcome to all our new Board members. I want to especially welcome Donna Yargosz to the Co-President position. She is going to do a great job I know!

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our June luncheon. And I wish everyone a happy summer. See you in September!

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Chase, President

ACADEMIC OUTREACH



I am happy to announce that we are sending two impressive young women from NMSU to NCCWSL May 31-June 3!

AAUW NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) brings together hundreds of women from colleges across the country for 3 days of leadership networking, education, and inspiration, this year at the University of Maryland, College Park.

They will tell us about their NCCWSL experiences at the June luncheon.

Alexandra “Lexie” Ortiz

Lexie graduated from NMSU this May with a B.S. in Communication Disorders and is planning to attend graduate school at Towson University in MD. She has a special interest in research relating to autism in adolescents. While at NMSU Lexie was a NSSLHA officer and volunteered for Girls Can!, along with many other activities including being president of the College of HEST student council and working as a Registered Behavioral Technician at

Mariposa Autism Center. She is a NMSU Crimson Success Scholar and won a '22-'23 Outstanding Undergraduate Award.

Rashni Anandawahsha

Rashni is a graduate student working on her PhD in Physics at NMSU. She has a special interest in becoming a geophysics research scientist. Rashni is an international student from Sri Lanka. She works as a graduate assistant and anticipates finishing her doctorate in the Spring of 2024. She is a member of the Physics Student Organization and volunteered for Girls Can! She won the NMSU '22-'23 "Preparing Future Faculty" award and mentors undergraduate students.

**Your donations to our AAUW-LC scholarships fund helped to make this possible. Thank you!

"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish."-- Michelle Obama

Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair

Lexie



Rashni



TRUE GRIT

AAUW-LC True Grit Awards are given annually to recognize senior high school girls who have overcome obstacles to achieve academic success, earn a high school diploma and pursue post-secondary education. The selection is made by a committee based on a three-part essay application. This year's recipients each received a \$500 award.

Emma Ronga graduated from Las Cruces High School. She was in an Academic Career Experience (ACE) program which allowed her to intern at places that featured her main interests of psychology and vet science. Emma has worked in various restaurants and has participated in many extracurricular activities including community service, sports, and the National Honor Society. She will probably attend NMSU and major in criminal science or forensics.

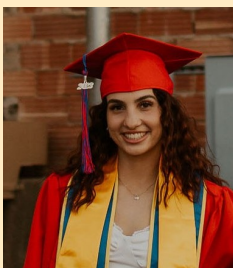
Katrina Cuylear graduated from Las Cruces High School. While keeping her grades high, she participated in varsity basketball and ran at State two years in a row with her relay team. Her volunteer work involved working with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and participating in the Veterans Stand Down event. She plans to attend UNM in Albuquerque and major in biology with a minor in journalism. Her drive is to "give back to the world."

Joelyssa Marquez graduated from Rio Grande Preparatory Institute. She has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity since grade school and worked for Boot Barn as well as the City of Las Cruces as a summer intern. Joelyssa assisted in all aspects of the K-5 Summer Youth Program. She will attend Dona Ana Community College and finish a pre-business program. She would also like to be an X-ray technician.

Gabrielle (Gaby) Libby graduated from Rio Grande Preparatory Institute ranking first in her class. She was a member of the RGPI Student Council and the National Honors Society and Skills USA. She has worked as a Host for Andele's restaurant as well as an intern for the City of Las Cruces at City Hall for Economic Development. Gaby is in the process of choosing a college and a major and is graduating a year ahead of schedule.

Lori LaPlanche, True Grit Selection Committee Chair

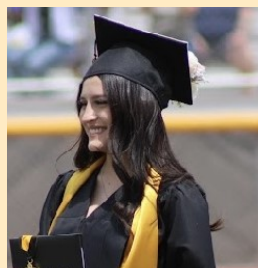
Emma Ronga



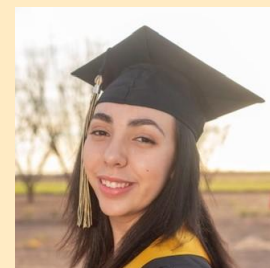
Katrina Cuylear



Joelyssa Marquez



Gaby Medrano



DEANISE MARTA,
AAUW-LC President 2008-2012

Deanise Marta is one of two past-presidents who served consecutive 2-year terms, and she did so as a newer member and one of the youngest in the branch.



When Deanise and her husband, Michael Allen, relocated to Las Cruces in 2002, they purchased a home across the street from Ruth Benjamins, then our AAUW-LC President. Ruth immediately invited her new neighbor to a meeting, and that very day Deanise felt she had found her Las Cruces home. She was taken by the spirit of this group of like-minded women, and she strongly endorsed AAUW's work to support girls in our community where she felt AAUW's mission was making a difference.

Deanise joined AAUW and immediately volunteered with Girls Can!. She served as Board secretary from 2003 to 2005 followed by three years as a Girls Can! co-chair. At the same time, Deanise served on the state AAUW Board as secretary and newsletter editor.

As president Deanise had a goal to recruit younger members. At the time, she worked in the NMSU Advancement Office, a good place to share her enthusiasm for AAUW. She recruited several younger members but learned that retention was a concern with younger, working women. She encouraged our membership chairs to begin some social and mentoring programs to help new members feel a part of the group. Deanise's other main goal as president

was to expand our Girls Can! and scholarship programs.

Because Deanise was President for four years, she also served four years as past president, two of those years coincidental to her second term as president. While president, she also served one year each as yearbook editor, courtesy secretary, and Girls Can! Chair. From 2015 until 2020, Deanise continued on the Board as Co-Vice President of Programs, Academic Chair, Vice President of Membership, and website manager for both state and local AAUWs. She was active in the International Dinner Interest Group and chaired it for several pre-Covid years.

In 2017, Deanise was honored by Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest as a Las Cruces Woman of Distinction award recipient for community service. Deanise, a lifelong animal advocate, also volunteered at the animal shelter and was employed as the Director of the Humane Society. She served on the NMSU Honor's College Advisory Board, for many years as its chair.

Although health issues have precluded Deanise from being as active as in years past, she still enjoys her many AAUW friendships and says that AAUW is a highlight of her life.

Shirley Armstrong

AAUW NM Tech Trek

Tech Trek is a week-long STEM camp for girls entering 8th grade held in June at NM Tech. The event is funded with donations and grants. This year AAUW LC members have donated nearly \$1,600. Tech Trek costs over \$1,000 per student and more donations are needed. Donate at the website:

.techtrek-nm.aauw.net. 9 girls from Southern NM have been selected to attend this year.



Preparing for our Centennial Celebration in 2023

Mark your calendars with the following dates and come join us!!

In commemoration of our 100th anniversary, the Doña Ana County Board of Commissioners, the City Las Cruces Council, and the Mesilla Town Board of Trustees will be presenting AAUW-LC with proclamations. The proclamations will declare June 25, 2023, as a day to celebrate our centennial.

Our co-presidents, **Anne Chase** and Donna Yargosz, and past president, **Marsha Hokkanen**, will be accepting the proclamations on behalf of AAUW-LC.

Your ***attendance at these events is highly encouraged!*** Please show your support for our mission and significant contributions over the past 100 years.

Doña Ana County Board of County Commissioners

845 N. Motel Blvd
Las Cruces NM
Tuesday, June 13 at 9:00 a.m.

City of Las Cruces

700 N. Main
Las Cruces NM
Tuesday, June 20 at 1:00 p.m.

Mesilla Town Board of Trustees

2231 Avenida de Mesilla
Mesilla NM
Monday, June 12 or Monday, June 26 at 6:00 p.m. (To be confirmed)

Ruth Jaure, Historian

2023-2024 Yearbook

The next Yearbook is in the planning stages, please look at your listing under membership, beginning on page 20, and send me any corrections:

judymcguire2@gmail.com

Membership Matters

Today the Board of Directors took steps to further guarantee your online safety. From now on, the OMV will only include the **names** of new members and the rest of the information (address, phone, email, and highest degree and school) will be provided to you in a quarterly e-blast. (memo)

We have welcomed 17 new members so far this year. Please welcome the seven new members:

Terrell, Antoinette (Toni)

Riba, Susan

Siddens, Nancy

Olguin, Jennifer

Walterbos, Sonia

Fields, Pamela

Richman, Rosalyn

Corrected email for Gina Eidell: ginaeidel@icloud.com

Remember, our membership data is confidential to members, so please do not share this list with non-AAUW LC members. Thank you

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: If you used the linked brochure to recruit a new member, please change the national AAUW dues to \$69 and the total dues to **\$110.00**. A new Membership brochure will be available this Summer or Fall.

Lynne Lord & Lori LaPlanche, Membership Co-VPs

Interest Groups

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



Anything Goes Book Group will meet on May 12 at 1:30 pm to discuss *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich . Contact: **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on June 26 at 1:30 pm to discuss *One Step Too Far* by Lisa Gardner. Contact: **Kay Williams**

Daytime & Evening Bridge One daytime bridge group will meet at 1:15 pm on June. A second daytime bridge will meet on June 22 at 1:15 pm. Contact: **Carol Ann Council**

Great Decisions will meet on June 20 at 7:00 pm via ZOOM and will focus on Politics in Latin America. 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.

Interest Group Highlight

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the video series, and meeting in a Discussion Group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Each year, eight topics are chosen by a panel of experts.

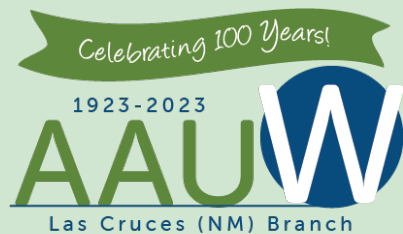
AAUW-LC's next Great Decisions discussion will focus on Politics in Latin America. We meet via Zoom at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday, June 20.

Then we will take a summer break and have no meetings in July and August. We will restart our third Tuesday evening schedule with discussions in September, October, and November.

We plan to meet in person in early to mid-December for fun and fellowship and to decide how and when we will meet for Great Decisions 2024.

If you think this group might be for you, either now or in 2024, you are welcome to attend a session this year to try it out.

Contact **Susan Hychka** for more information.



LAST REMINDER

**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

Current undergraduate students 18.81

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!

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 **2023-2025** newly elected and appointed leadership team.

New [2023-2025 Branch Leadership Team](#) **New**

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.



Work Smart Online

Increase Your Potential

<http://salary.aauw.org>



Your Name

Title 1

Title 2 (optional)

Order your personal Name
Badge at [AAUW Name
Badge](#). Just \$10.00.

(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 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")

Check out our [Facebook](#) Page for AAUW LC. We are in need of a Facebook editor. (Contact Laura Bemis for more information) 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.*

Please, Support our Advertisers



VOTED BEST  **ACUPUNCTURIST**
IN LAS CRUCES

CROSSROADS ACUPUNCTURE
575-312-6569

BOOK ONLINE: CROSSROADSACUPUNCTURE.COM
FULLY VACCINATED STAFF

Ryan Bemis
Acupuncturist
Doctor, Oriental Medicine



2250
Calle de
San Albino,
Mesilla

11am-5pm
Friday
to Monday

1-575-339-9870 • <https://agaveartists.com>

Comments and questions

If you have suggestions or comments about the OMV or wish to advertise here (cost is \$50/year), please contact **Karen Dumont**, the editor.

dumontkm@gmail.com

Thank you for reading



Las Cruces (NM) Branch

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

Las Cruces Website

New Mexico Website

National Website