

ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

ISSUE:IX VOL: XXVII

MAY, 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
Judy McGuire, Photo Editor*

General Meeting

For our May general meeting, Dr. Rebecca Reiss, Professor Emeritus, Biology, NM Tech, will speak to us on Genetics and Sexuality. She will discuss the common misconceptions about genetics. The belief that gender can always be accurately determined at birth is just one of the misconceptions that is easily challenged by recent discoveries in human genetics.

Dr. Reiss has her B.S. Biology from the University of Colorado, Boulder, her M.S. Biology from the University of New Hampshire, her Ph.D. Genetics from Cornell University and has Post-Doctoral Experience at the University of California Irvine and the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks.

She has done extensive studies and research on DNA and genetics and is the founder and owner of LifeScience Testing and Analysis, LLC. She is writing a book, tentatively entitled, "My Genes, Your Genes, We All Have the Same Genes."

Dr. Reiss is one of our own. She is the college/university chair for AAUW-NM and runs one of the Tech Trek workshops for middle school girls. Currently, she is on the board of the NM Coalition for Excellence in Science and Math Education (CESE).

We are looking forward to meeting and being enlightened by Dr. Reiss.

RoseAnn Hernández & Barbara Williams, Co-VP Programs



ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The AAUW-LC June luncheon is scheduled for June 10 at 11:30 at La Posta in Mesilla. The cost for the meal, drinks (other than wine or cocktails), dessert, tax, and tip is \$25. To reserve your participation call or text RoseAnn @ 575-571-2377 and send a \$25 check made out to AAUW-LC to RoseAnn Hernandez at 970 N. Armijo St., Las Cruces, 88005. You can also sign up at the May meeting and bring a \$25 check or cash. The deadline for signing up and paying is May 31st.

From our President Anne Chase



Greetings to all,

We are closing in on what has been a successful year. Our branch has welcomed many new members and successfully gotten back to normal.

Our Annual Meeting is this month. Elections for new officers will be held and we will present our Proposed Budget.

We are also inviting our 2023 True Grit recipients to attend the May meeting so we can meet them. It will be good for us to meet each other and for us to meet some of the recipients of our fund-raising efforts.

AAUW NM Tech Trek, a summer STEM residential camp is being held at NM Tech in Socorro June 18-24, 2023. You can support it with your donation on the website: techtrek-nm.aauw.net

Some of us have already begun traveling to summer destinations. We wish everyone safe travels.

Anne Chase, President

ACADEMIC OUTREACH



AAUW-LC support of young women's post-secondary education and leadership will be highlighted soon. We will grant four \$500 True Grit Awards to graduating high school seniors and two scholarships to fund two NMSU students to attend AAUW's NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). 8 young women submitted applications for the True Grit Awards. This year's NCCWSL scholarship applications are still being accepted. NCCWSL is being held this year in person from May 31-June 3 at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Many thanks should be extended to **Lori La Planche**, **Lynn Mulholland**, and **Carole Jarden** for their hard work on the selection committee for our True Grit Awards. They have done an excellent job for the past two years! Our True Grit Advocacy team members (**Jan Hampton**, **Kara Wicksell**, **Michele Rasch**, and **Mary Ulrich**) soon will be paired up with True Grit Awardees to "champion" them as they prepare for their first year in college. This will be the second year of our advocacy pilot project. We are developing some guidelines and outcome data.

Thanks always for your support of our scholarship opportunities! Watch for more information about our True Grit Award and NCCWSL scholarship recipients in the June OMV.

"The highest result of education is tolerance."-- Helen Keller

Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair



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!

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Dichroic Jewelry - Last Chance until the Fall



Dichroic necklaces and earrings will be sold at the May General Meeting (May 13) and then put away until the Fall. So this is your last chance for now to purchase any of these unusual and gorgeous pieces. Necklaces are \$30, and earrings are \$25. We will accept cash or checks.

Beaded name tag lanyards will also be available for \$10.

Proceeds, after the local artist is reimbursed, will go to the Scholarship Fund.

Donna Yargos, Special Projects Coordinator

CELEBRATING OUR PAST PRESIDENTS



LaJune Smith, AAUW-LC President 1998-2000

One word to describe LaJune Smith, our AAUW-LC branch president from 1998-2000, is 'spunky', but that barely defines our amazing 93-year-young member. LaJune's AAUW-LC life began in 1986; since she has served as our branch as president, vice president (twice), secretary, treasurer, and membership chair (twice). She has also helped with Girls Can! every year since it began, worked on many fund-raising activities, and attended several national and regional conventions as our branch delegate.

LaJune is active in The Las Cruces Association of Educational Retirees (president, vice-president, secretary) and worked on legislative issues at the state level. At the 2005 state fall convention she was named Las Cruces Branch Outstanding Member. LaJune didn't just join organizations; she became a vital member. For six years she was on the board of the Dona Ana County Advocates for Families and Children, assisting people needing social services, and starting a program called Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. She worked on improving voting methods in Dona Ana County with The League of Women Voters and helped United Way in obtaining funding from various agencies.

Peace Lutheran Church has been central to LaJune for years. There she was a volunteer for Jardin de los Ninos when it began and was instrumental in starting a program called Welcome Baby that was later taken over by Memorial Hospital and renamed the First Step program. She has tutored at Conlee Elementary, read stories at Hermosa Heights, served lunch for the NAACP Juneteenth Celebration, studied Spanish, and SO MUCH MORE.

One highlight for LaJune's volunteering involved attending the 1999 AAUW Biannual Convention in Washington, DC. There she was not only impressed with speeches by Janet Reno, Senator Thomas Hartley (IA), and Jane Fonda, she made the effort to locate and talk with our NM Representative, Joseph Skeen, about an issue AAUW and League were lobbying for: maintaining a 'lock box' on social security funds. Senator Skeen listened to LaJune's logic, and responded by saying, 'Well little lady, I'll just take care of that for you', whereupon he entered the chamber and voted No! One is hardly surprised that LaJune bristled at being referred to as 'little lady'!

LaJune learned about AAUW when attending college in Iowa when a dean explained the organization to the women graduates. At a time (1957) when not that many women received 4-year degrees, the dean's advice was, "You have received an education and now you pay it back." LaJune moved to New Mexico and first joined AAUW when she was teaching in Grants in 1959. She has been paying back ever since.



Centennial Trivia Question #4

Trivia Question #4 (on orange card stock) said: In 2021, the first Native American was sworn in as US Secretary of the Interior. She is an enrolled member of Laguna Pueblo and claims to be 35th generation New Mexican. Her name is: Sharice Davids, Deb Haaland, Wilma Mankiller, or Susan LaFleche Picotte.

The correct answer is Deb Haaland. She previously served as chair of the New Mexico Democratic Party (2015 to 2017), and as the US Representative for New Mexico's First Congressional District (2019 to 2021).

Sharice Davids is one of the first two Native American women elected to the US Congress. She is a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin.

Wilma Mankiller was the first female Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation (1985-1995). She died in 2010 after leading her tribe to make great progress in their quality of life.

Susan LaFleche Picotte (1865-1915) was the first Native American woman to earn a medical degree. Her ancestry was Omaha, Ponca, Iowa, French, and Anglo-American. She worked to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis and the effects of alcoholism in Native Americans.

The drawing for three winners of the tea towels will take place at the May General Meeting, May 13. We will take a break over the summer and renew our trivia contests in September.

Girls Can!

2023 Girls Can! Hosts Record 272 Girls!

March 4, 2023 was the 27th Girls Can! Career Exploration event and saw a record **272** girls attend workshops. Girls selected from a variety of unique and inspiring workshops offered by women professionals from our community. **Presenters from DACC, NMSU, Burrell College of Medicine along with businesswomen from across Doña Ana County offered many choices for the girls to select from.**



New and popular this year was Self-Defense & Law Enforcement presented by two FBI Agents. 12 Workshops highlighted STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), including Chemistry, Biology, Environmental Science, Medicine, Digital Media, and Robotics.

DACC Staff presented our Parent Workshop which included conversations about how to choose a college and how to budget for college. **Two topics were selected to help increase parent awareness about Adolescent Mental Health issues and Cyber Bullying.** Cyber Bullying and Internet Safety were also discussed at length with the girls that attended the Self-Defense and Law Enforcement Workshop. A total of 46 parents attended either the Spanish language or English language Parent Workshop.

Our School Contact Team made strides in building relationships with the Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) counselors and principals. Girls represented 26 schools throughout Doña Ana County including Gadsden, Hatch, LCPS, and several smaller schools.

Girls Can! is successful because of the time and talent our volunteers bring before the event and the day of. Our members always come through by taking on the preparation tasks starting in September of each year. **In addition to coordinating the big three areas, volunteers, school contact, and fundraising, the event requires t-shirts to be ordered and made ready, back-packs to be ordered and 'stuffed' with goodies, preparation for the Parent Workshops, Girl's Registration, and Food Coordination, logistical coordination, signage, and a variety of appreciations that are prepared**

ahead. Each volunteer logs countless hours and made many 'trips' to make Girls Can! ready. **Member volunteers for Girls Can! totaled 48.**

Branch members were supported by several NMSU athletic teams and 7 student organizations. The Three Crosses Chapter of Federally Employed Women also brought several volunteers to help with Workshops. Among the most supportive and valuable volunteers was the staff from our host Doña Ana Community College. Dr. Monica Torres welcomed the girls and then the parents and stopped by to congratulate AAUW-LC for offering such a unique and wonderful program. Adding together this **247** Grand Total of volunteers – tells us we are doing something very special.

This year was our 27th annual Girls Can! Congratulations to each and all of you for your support by donating and/or volunteering. With the help of our Fundraising Chair, Kay Brilliant, we raised over \$3,200 from the branch and community.

Thank you to all who support Girls Can! A few of the many photos are shown below.

Laura Bemis, Girls Can! Coordinator



Membership Matters

Please welcome new members:

Gina Eidell
9076 Flecha Doble Court
Mesilla Park, NM 88007

ginaeidell@icloud.com

Gina has rejoined our chapter.

Evicta L. Harvey

112 Palmilla Avenue

Mesquite, NM 88048

Ptolemy.7.elh@gmail.com

Evicta was an AAUW member in Tennessee.

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, 2023)

Lynne Lord & Lori LaPlanche, Membership Co-VPs

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

Dr. Rebecca Reiss, on Genetics and Sexuality.

June 10th

Year-end Luncheon at Posta de Mesilla

RoseAnn Hernández & Barbara Williams, Program Co-VP

Mark your Calendars Now!

Our centennial celebration will culminate in a 100th Anniversary Tea Party on **Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** at the Double Eagle. Details will be shared later. Stay tuned!

More Membership Matters

Kathy Cooke has moved and would like to give you her change of address so you can note it in your AAUW Yearbook. Her new address is **5587 Charles Russell Rd, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88011**

"Bits of News"

Dr. Elaine Hampton, a retired science and education professor at the University of Texas at El Paso, will provide an *Author Talk* on Monday, May 15, at 1:30 in the Roadrunner Room of the Branigan Memorial Library.

Dr. Hampton has taught and researched on both sides of the border for decades. Her extensive publication record addresses education in our bi-national, bi-lingual wonderland. She will be joined by *Anay Palomeque*, a Mexican woman who overcame abuse and extreme poverty to create a nationwide Mexican nonprofit for abuse prevention.

She also will discuss her recent book, *The Allure of the Border: Fifty Years of Investigations, Friendship, and Wonder*.

Interest Groups

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



Anything Goes Book Group will meet on May 8 at 1:30 pm at Karen Dumont's home to discuss *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams. Contact: **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on May 22 at 1:30 pm to discuss *While Justice Sleeps* by Stacy Abrams. Contact: **Kay Williams**

Daytime Bridge A daytime bridge group will meet on May 12 at 1:15 pm. A second bridge group will meet on May 24. 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 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.



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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 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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dumontkm@gmail.com

Thank you for reading



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

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