



ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

ISSUE: 1 VOL: XXVIII

September, 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

From our Co-Presidents Anne Chase and Donna Yargosz



Welcome, all, to the start of the 2023-24 AAUW year!

One hundred years ago, our chapter was founded, only two years after women were granted the right to vote. We will celebrate the occasion with a special Tea Party on October 14. Watch for a save-the-date announcement, and sign up to attend.

We will jump right in to fundraising and other support for our Scholarship Fund, Girls Can!, and Tech Trek, all of which encourage girls and women to further their education and ensure their future.

Don't forget to attend our always-interesting *General Meetings*. The first one is on *September 9 (see notice below)*. Attendees always learn a lot from these sessions and enjoy seeing chapter friends and new faces. Bring a guest!

It will be a year full of activities. We'd love to have you join us for all of it!

Co-Presidents Anne Chase and Donna Yargosz

GENERAL MEETING

September 9, 2023

Our September speaker is *Ms. Martha Estrada*, NMSU CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program) Director.



Ms. Estrada is the granddaughter of a Bracero from Jalisco and a first-generation Mexican-American. She has dedicated her professional career to serving students and families in higher education. For 7 years, she served as the NMSU CAMP Academic Advisor before making her way to Seattle to serve as the founding CAMP Director at the University of Washington.

She returned to New Mexico to serve as CAMP Director at Northern New Mexico College. She has served as the College & Career Readiness Coordinator for the NM Higher Education Department's GEAR UP Program. Nationally, she has served as the Western Stream Representative for the HEP (High School Equivalency) Association, the HEP CAMP Association's Internship Selection Committee and the HEP CAMP National Conference Planning Committee.

Ms. Estrada holds bachelor's and master's degrees from NMSU in Journalism and Spanish and Educational Management and Development, respectively. She is passionate about working with students and their families to ensure that they have the tools and resources necessary to succeed throughout their college career.

RoseAnn Hernández, Program VP

AAUW-LC PROGRAM CALENDAR

Here is our (tentative) program calendar for the **2023-2024** year. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month 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.

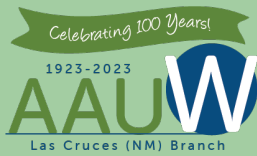
October 14 we will celebrate AAUW Las Cruces Centennial with a Tea Party!

November 11 - Mr. Michael Ray, Director, NMSU American Indian Program

December - Annual Holiday Luncheon.

March 23 - Take part in Girls Can! in place of the General Meeting.

RoseAnn Hernández, Program VP



Preparing for our Centennial Celebration in 2023

The *Las Cruces Bulletin* carried the following excerpted story featuring Las Cruces AAUW's Centennial. Our thanks to Mike Cook for his permission to carry it.

With a mission "to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy" and many good works accomplished, the American Association of University Women-Las Cruces Branch (AAUW-LC) turns 100 years old June 25.

"The 100th birthday of AAUW-LC allows our members to reflect on the vibrant history of our organization and the impact we have had on the Las Cruces community," said AAUW-LC President Anne Chase. "We proudly continue the legacy of those women who came before us."

"Preparing for this 100th birthday celebration has been both exciting and challenging," said AAUW-LC Centennial Celebration Committee Chair Ruth Jaure. "We have much to celebrate but it is difficult to choose the most important highlights of our very active history. The exciting part has been to see the continuation of important work started years ago, in which we still participate."

...At nearly 90 members, Las Cruces has the largest – and the oldest – AAUW branch in New Mexico. It was formally recognized as an AAUW affiliate June 25, 1923 ... Mary Lizzy Curtis Foster was a founding member of AAUW-LC and its first president ... Records show AAUW-LC had 38 members in 1932-33. It led the way for other branches to be accepted into the national network, including Albuquerque (1927), Carlsbad (1928), Santa Fe (1933) and Roswell.

AAUW-LC sponsored hot lunches for children attending Booking T. Washington School in Las Cruces 1941-48. During the World War II years of 1942-45, AAUW-LC members worked in Red Cross surgical dressing rooms, on war bond drives and relief drives as well as helping with parties for servicemen stationed in the area.

One of AAUW-LC's early initiatives was to get a woman appointed to the NMCAMA [New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, now NMSU] Board of Regents. That happened in August 1954. Mrs. Earl Corn of Dexter, New Mexico was appointed to the board. She served until 1965....

AAUW-LC began honoring outstanding high school girls in 1955 with a "Girl of the Month," program, which continued for 23 years.

AAUW-LC joined other organizations in 1975 to fight bills introduced in the New Mexico Legislature to rescind the state's ratification of the federal Equal Rights Amendment and attempts to initiate actions to repeal the constitutional amendment that New Mexico voters had already approved.

In 1985, AAUW-LC created a video entitled "Careers A to Z," which featured 26 outstanding women in fields from astronomy to zoology. The video was distributed to New Mexico schools and was recognized in Good Housekeeping magazine in an article entitled "Volunteerism in America".

The NMSU AAUW-LC Endowed Scholarship began in 1988 and became fully endowed in 2003. Since 2000, 32 scholarships valued at more than \$31,000 have been given to qualifying college women.

The AAUW-LC True Grit Awards were also started in 1988 to provide financial awards to graduating high schoolgirls who have overcome significant obstacles to graduate. During the last two years, eight awards have been given.

The national AAUW hosts a leadership conference for female college students each June. AAUW-LC sent two students to the 2023 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in College Park, Maryland.

AAUW-LC has hosted GIRLS CAN! every March since 1996. The one-day career exploration event for sixth-grade girls in Doña Ana County is held on the DACC East Mesa campus. Each participant attends sessions led by local professional women who create hands-on demonstrations of their work. More than 200 local sixth-grade girls attend each year.

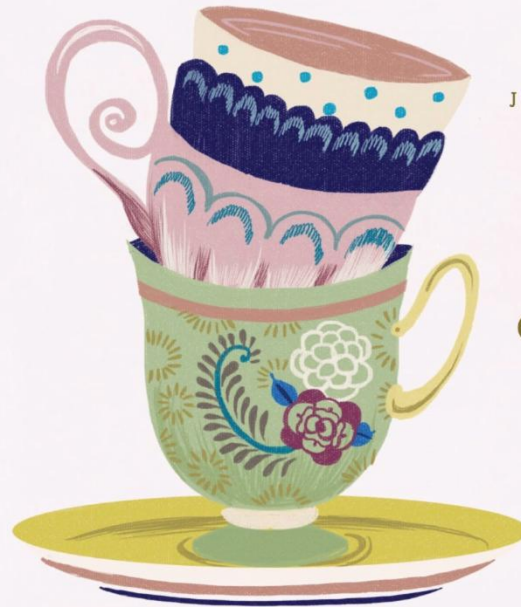
A parents' workshop is offered at the same time to present information about maneuvering through the systems to help parents get girls into institutions of higher education.

AAUW Tech Trek is a one-week STEM summer residential camp for eighth-grade girls from throughout New Mexico, held at New Mexico Tech in Socorro. AAUW-LC distributes camp applications, assists in selecting participants and provides financial assistance."

Ruth Jaure

**Don't
miss the
celebrati
on of our
100
years**

with a
Tea
Party,
October
14



JOIN US FOR A COZY CUPPA TEA!

AAUW Las Cruces
100th Anniversary Tea

SATURDAY
Oct.14th | 2PM - 4PM

Double Eagle Restaurant
2355 Calle De Guadalupe
Mesilla, NM 88046

Text or Call RSVP to
Donna Yargosz 575-312-2145
by Friday, Oct. 6th

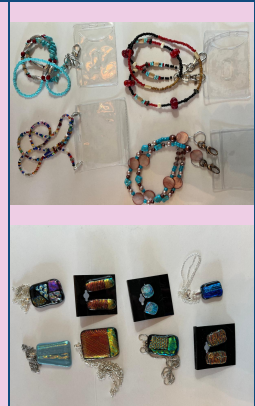


BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

It's the start of a new year for AAUW-LC, and we have a lot of new members. With that in mind, we will be offering name tag lanyards and dichroic pendants and earrings for sale at the September 9 General Meeting.

Name tag lanyards are \$10, dichroic pendants are \$30, and dichroic earrings are \$25. Cash or check only, please. Checks should be made out to AAUW-LC.

All items were made by members of this chapter plus our artist-instructor. We can make or reserve items just for you. Contact Donna Yargosz (dyargosz@gmail.com or 575-312-2145). All proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund.



Membership Matters

AAUW Membership is happy to announce these new members and rejoining members, since May 1, 2023. Their names are:

Nancy Siddens, email: nans4tune@yahoo.com

Jennifer Olguin, email: jechavez@NMSU.edu

Sue Riba, email: ssalaman5@gmail.com

Antoinette Terrell, email: tonit123@gmail.com

Sonia Walterbos, email: s.a.walterbos@gmail.com

Pamela Fields, email: funkyearrings@yahoo.co

Barbara Robinson, email: robinson651@live.com

Rashni Anandawansa, email: rashni15@yahoo.com

Alexandra Ortiz, email: lexie.ortiz118@gmail.com

Welcome to you all.

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 [2023-2024 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 & Michele Rasch , Membership Co-VPs

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

Mark your calendar now!

Girls Can! 2024 will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024.

AAUW-LC Branch will host the 28th Annual **Girls Can!** Career Exploration event for 6th grade girls in partnership with Doña Ana Community College East Mesa Campus.

Here are a few things our last **Girls Can!** girls and parents had to say about this extraordinary event:

From the girls: “The coolest thing about this workshop”
...recycling paper to make it into something cool.
...that you can explore the body with Sonography
...learning how to suture on an orange
...we got to hear our heartbeat and see X-rays
...we got to use photo editing tools
...burning the elements and seeing different colors
...making cavity candy and learning how to avoid cavities
...we got to debate

From the parents: “Topics or aspects of the workshop you found most useful?”

...Cyberbullying & Adolescent Mental Health
...New Mexico Lottery Scholarship
...How to support my child in her college years
...How to build trust with my child so she will talk to me
...That college is affordable & Financial Aid
...How to help my child choose a college
...”It motivated me to possibly return to college”

Laura Bemis, Girls Can! Coordinator

Here is a sample of the fun had by volunteers and students:



HONORING OUR PAST PRESIDENTS

Dr. Christa Slaton, President and Co-President AAUW-LC 2017-2020

Born in South Carolina just 5 years after the Supreme Court's *Brown vs the Board of Education* decision that declared segregated schools unconstitutional, she attended segregated classes until she entered the 11th grade. Her young mind wondered why it took so long to implement the Court's decision and why injustice was perpetuated long after the Court's ruling. These concerns later influenced her academic research, which focused on breaking down barriers to political participation and creating processes to more effectively engage citizens.

Christa received a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Tennessee and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Hawaii. Christa's political science career began at Georgia Southern University. Three years later she relocated to Auburn University where her husband was a professor. She spent the last 3 years of her 17-year career at Auburn serving as Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts. In 2010 Christa moved to Las Cruces to become NMSU's Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The university was in the midst of significant budget cuts and construction of the ASNMSU Center for the Arts was stalled. In spite of multiple budget cuts, Christa increased college resources through fundraising, tripling distance education revenue, and overseeing completion of the Center for the Arts.

She has been the key-note speaker at several international conferences, written books and articles, run programs in New Zealand and the Philippines, and trained election officials across the United States.

Christa is a true Renaissance woman who has a passion for advancing civil discourse, promoting gender and racial equality, and enhancing democracy.

Christa first heard of AAUW when she discovered and wrote about a 1992 2-year research study published by AAUW on how schools unknowingly shortchange girls throughout the educational process. But it was in Las Cruces that Christa first joined AAUW in 2016. A year later she agreed to serve as co-president with Beverly Chambers. Beverly became president of AAUW-NM several months later and Christa completed the term alone. During her presidency, our branch achieved its largest ever membership, held the AAUW-NM State Convention, and increased scholarships. Christa credits the dedicated branch membership with the steady forward-movement in our branch and helping achieve victory in 2018 elections that saw a dramatic increase in women being elected to governmental positions at all levels of government.

REMEMBERING MARY BERRY

Dr. Mary Berry recently suffered a stroke and died four days later in an El Paso hospital.

Mary was coordinator of AAUW's Las Cruces branch's teen esteem 1988-1990, chaired the state's legal advocacy fund 1993-1995, then served as AAUW NM State President 1995-1997.

First a teacher in Fairfax, VA, she became Dean of Education at New Mexico Adult Correctional System, Las Cruces, 1984-1988; coordinator of secondary student teaching, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, 1988-1990; administrative assistant to the dean of the College of Education, 1990-1993; director of Public school administration internship program, 1994-1997; director vocational-technical in-service in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics, 1995-1996; director new student orientation, and Statistical analyst El Paso (Texas) Community College, 1993-1995.

Dr. Berry earned her Ph.D. at New Mexico State University in 1993.

In addition, to her academic work, she served as Deputy voting registrar in Dona Ana County and on the Board of Directors of Butterfield Park Mutual Domestic Water Association. Mary was named Corrections Education Teacher of the Year, State of New Mexico, in 1985, and Distinguished New Mexico Woman by New Mexico Governor, Gary Johnson, in 1997.

She is survived by her husband, Bill.

REMEMBERING RUTH BENJAMINS

Ruth Benjamins, AAUW-LC President from 2002-2004, died at age 95 in Henderson, NV in September, 2022.

Ruth was a beloved and active member of our branch where she also served as treasurer (3 years), public policy chair (6 years), and one year each as parliamentarian, academic



chair and bylaws chair. Additionally, she served on the board of AAUW-NM as their finance chair (treasurer) for 5 years.

Ruth participated actively in AAUW interest groups: Anything Goes, International Gourmet, Bridge and Going Places. She was active in the Picacho golf community and an involved participant in the League of Women Voters.

The branch held a goodbye luncheon for Ruth when she moved in 2017 to be close to family in Nevada. In lieu of a parting gift, Ruth asked that members make a contribution to Tech Trek. Over \$1,000 was donated at the lunch, a wonderful parting tribute to Ruth's active participation. Ruth strongly supported STEM for girls as she received her M.S. degree in Math Education from the University of Michigan.

Interest Groups

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



Anything Goes Book Group will meet in person and on Zoom on September 11 at 1:30 pm to discuss *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger. Contact: **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on September 25 at 1:30 pm to discuss *The Glass Palace* by Amitav Ghosh . Contact: **Kay Williams**

Bridge The bridge group will meet at 1:15 pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. Contact: **Carol Ann Council**

Great Decisions will resume on Tuesday, September 19, at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The topic will be, "Famine: a Renewed Threat in the 21st century?" October's discussion topic will be "Iran at a crossroads." The year will end with a November discussion entitled "Climate change, environmental degradation, and migration". 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 2023-2025 elected and appointed leadership team.

[2023-2025 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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[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. 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



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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



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

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