



## ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

Issue 3: Number XXVIII November 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

Meetings are held the second Saturday of the months of September through June 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.



Our speaker for November is **Michael R. Ray**. Mr. Ray is of Laguna Pueblo and Red Lake Chippewa Heritage. Living on the Laguna Indian Reservation for most of his childhood he attended all of the educational programs that the reservation offered, from Paraje Head Start to Laguna - Acoma High School. Michael attended various higher education institutions including New Mexico State University – Grants, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, University of Pennsylvania, and New Mexico State

University.

Currently, Mr. Ray is the Director of the American Indian Program at New Mexico State University. At NMSU, he has been able to help students find their path in higher education, be it in the undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral levels, while helping students feel accepted and that they have a community away from home here at NMSU.

Also joining us will be AAUW-LC scholarship recipients. We will introduce these students prior to our guest speaker.

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

December - *Annual Holiday Luncheon.*

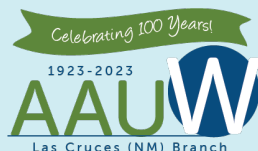
*RoseAnn Hernández, VP Programs*

**From our Co-Presidents**  
**Anne Chase and Donna Yargosz**



The very good news for this chapter is that the much-anticipated Centennial Tea Party took place on October 14. A year and a half of planning by Ruth Jaure's committee culminated in a lovely event. Marsha Hokkanen and Laura Bemis coordinated with Double Eagle on the room and beautiful decorations. Kay Brilliant provided tea cups, saucers, and favors for each of the almost 60 attendees. A timeline booklet of the activities of the 100 years since the founding of our chapter, created by Donna Yargosz, will be a lasting memento. Julia Brown (from National) and Lynn Heffron (from State) spoke to the group. Other committee members were Anne Chase, Londa Seiffert, Shirley Armstrong, and Jennifer Olguin, who all contributed time and ideas. Laura Bemis gave a toast to our chapter. And several lucky attendees went home with raffle prizes of a decorative teapot and Feisty Women tea towels.

And we're not done yet! Please plan to attend the November General Meeting on November 11 and the annual December luncheon December 9.



**Centennial Celebration Tea Party**

Reminiscent of 100 years ago, a delightful social event unfolded in Mesilla that captured the essence of women's rights, grace, and comradery. A tea party, organized exclusively for AAUW-LC members, took place at the Double Eagle on October 14th, drawing together women from various walks of life for an afternoon of classic celebration.

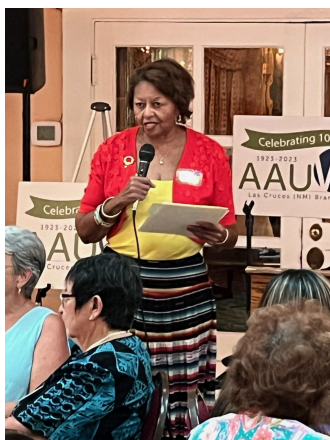


Attendees were transported into a world of refined elegance. Dressed in the fashions of the current and former era, they showcased stunning hats, dresses, scarves, jewelry and white gloves. The atmosphere buzzed with laughter, animated conversation and the clinking of delicate tea cups. The venue, with tables draped in white tablecloths, was adorned with fall foliage and vintage tea pots. Fine china teacups and saucers, meticulously chosen, graced place settings and were offered as gifts to attendees.

The event's highlight was, of course, women's progress in the past 100 years and the role AAUW has played in moving women's rights forward. Our own honored member, Julia Brown, Chairwoman of AAUW-National, reminded us that women had recently won the right to vote in 1923. (Read [Julia Brown's Letter](#) here). Honored guest, Lynn Heffron, Co-President of AAUW-NM, traveling from northern New Mexico for the celebration, praised our leadership as the first branch in New Mexico and recognition as the largest branch in the state.

The celebration served as a testament to the strength of female friendships, and the power of women coming together to support and uplift each other. Its tie to the past was a glimpse into the future of how women will continue to break barriers and redefine their roles in society, all while cherishing the timeless tradition of sharing a cup of tea.

*Ruth Jaure, Chair of Centennial Celebration Committee*



AAUW-National Chair and Las Cruces branch member, Julia Brown



Celebration Committee Members, Ruth Jaure, Laura Bemis, Kay Brilliant



Lynn Heffron, Co-President of AAUW-NM

## ACADEMIC OUTREACH



**GRATEFUL** is a word often associated with the month of November. Recognizing something each day that we are grateful for helps to add a positive note to one's life. I am continually grateful for the generosity of our AAUW-LC members who make the continuation of our scholarship and award programs possible! Every year we make a difference in womens' lives, as they strive to achieve higher education and success in life.

I am happy to announce that for the 2023-2024 academic year through our NMSU AAUW-LC Endowed Scholarship fund, we have funded EIGHT scholarships for undergraduate women at NMSU-Las Cruces and Dona Ana Community College in the amount of at least \$500 each. Our endowed scholarship fund is administered through NMSU Foundation and NMSU Scholar Dollar\$.

The NMSU AAUW-LC Endowed Scholarship recipients have been invited to attend our November meeting, to meet our members and to have the opportunity for us to recognize and honor them. Come to the meeting at 9:30 to have a chance to visit with them!

Don't forget to vote on November 7th and support GO bond issues for DACC/NMSU!

"Giving is an expression of gratitude for our blessings."--Laura Arrillaga-Andreessen

*Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair*

***"To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy"***

Welcome to 2023 **Lynch Creek Fundraising** fun! This is a very easy and wonderful way to complete your gift buying with beautiful gifts for friends and family. We have a \$1000.00 goal. **This year's efforts, along with the famous 'donation jars', will go to support our Scholarships, GIRLS CAN! and Tech Trek programs and events.**

Go to [www.lynchcreekwreaths.com](http://www.lynchcreekwreaths.com) to find a variety of items made with holiday greens. You will find wreathes, centerpieces, garlands, swags. Shop to your heart's content!

While ordering, please check the bottom right corner of the page to see if the item you selected is eligible for our fundraising efforts. It should say, "AAUW-LC OH JOY". If it doesn't say that, please enter that name. I discovered that our fundraising name from last year was still in my computer. Enter Campaign ID **#301076** during checkout! Our branch gets 15% back on all sales that are eligible for fundraising.

This company allows you to select the delivery date, has **free** shipping and allows you to send these lovely items directly to friends as well.



Order online, pay online and your purchase ships directly to address(es) you provide! It could not be easier! We know that with your support we will meet our goal in no time!

Thank you! Happy Holidays! The staff at Lynch Creek Farms are wonderful, so if you have a question, please do not hesitate to call. 1-888-426-0781.

*Kay Brilliant, Chair*

## AAUW-Las Cruces Fundraising 101

With so many new members and with plenty of great programs to support, it is probably time to tell all members about our fundraising efforts and the use of those funds.

Let's start with the budgeting process. The membership votes in May of each year on the new budget for the upcoming year. Our budget year is July 1-June 30. From there, the board of directors is responsible to monitor and track the use of dues dollars (the local dues collected annually). This part of the budget is primarily used for our day-to-day operations.

**ALL** other expenses related to programs come from our fundraising efforts. Our members are very generous and we are grateful. A simple directory of those programs are as follows:

The *monthly donation jar* is one way we solicit money. At each membership meeting, we have a donation jar dedicated to one of our programs. The board of directors establishes the recipients for the jar each month. They are: September: GIRLS CAN!, November: Scholarships, January: GIRLS CAN!, February: TECH TREK, April: Scholarships, May: TECH TREK

In addition to the donation jar, we also raise funds through the *Lynch Creek Farms* fundraising effort. (See update elsewhere in this issue of *Organ Mountain Views*.) At our December social event we also have a *Silent Auction*. Items donated by members are collected and are available at that December luncheon event. Those two events provide members different ways to give! It is important to note, that 10% of fundraising efforts goes to our operating portion of the annual budget.

GIRLS CAN! is supported by members of AAUW-LC with events like Lynch Creek Farms Fundraising and community donations as well. We are always grateful for businesses and individuals that support our GIRLS CAN! event.

Because TECH TREK is a state-based AAUW event, donations are solicited through our donation jar as well as through the TECH TREK website.

AAUW-LC Scholarship donations come through the donation jars AND can be made directly to the NMSU Foundation. More information about that opportunity will be forthcoming.

We are always thankful for our member's time, talent and treasures. Any questions? Please feel free to speak with Kay Brilliant.

## Clearance Sale: Beaded Items at Even Better Prices!

The November 11 General Meeting will be the last chance to scoop up popular beaded items, all at reduced prices. The items make nice gifts, stocking stuffers, and table favors. They include bookmarks (\$3), beaded pens (\$3), "icicles" (multi-use strands of sparkly beads) (\$1), earrings (nice!! only \$1), and purse charms (\$3).

Name tag lanyards remain at only \$10.

Cash or check only. All proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund. The beading group is closing up shop and concentrating on preparing special items for Girls Can! So this really is your last chance to snag some beaded bargains. Come and shop with us!

## Girls Can!

**SAVE THE DATE & VOLUNTEER**  
to be a part of **GIRLS CAN! 2024**  
to be held **Saturday Morning, March 23, 2024**  
at **DACC East Mesa Campus!!**



We need your help in various capacities before GIRLS CAN! as well as on the day of the event.

You can volunteer to be a part of the School Contact Team, Registration Team or Food Team before the event.

OR you can volunteer for a couple of hours or the whole morning on the day of the event. We need various help with: greeting the buses, t-shirt and backpack distribution, food stations for volunteers, and workshop facilitators. Lots of fun to be had by all at this energizing community event!

Please contact [Kay Brilliant](#) if you can help with contacting the schools:  
[k.brilliant@gmail.com](mailto:k.brilliant@gmail.com)

Please contact [Londa Seiffert](#) to volunteer in the classroom or with our adult facilitators: [londarenae@gmail.com](mailto:londarenae@gmail.com)

Please contact [Barb McGuffey](#) if you can help with the food:  
[bamcguffey@gmail.com](mailto:bamcguffey@gmail.com)

We will be taking sign ups at all of our meetings. We look forward to another great event by AAUW-Las Cruces.

## REMEMBRANCES

Kay Brilliant's mother, Virginia, passed away on August 30, 2023 at the age of 103. She had been living with Kay. A Celebration of Life was held on October 2, 2023.

Virginia was a stay-at-home mother to Kay and her brother in El Paso. But when they were grown, she got her bachelor's degree in Sociology from UTEP in 1972 at the tender age of 52!

Now we know where Kay gets her zeal and determination!

\*\*\*\*\*

Marvel Eacret ("Dee" to friends and family), 80, passed away peacefully from this life on Friday, August 25, 2023, in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Dee moved to New Mexico in 1961 and began attending Western New Mexico University. She later attended Arizona Western College and graduated with a B.S. in Nursing and became a registered nurse. She then became a Certified Diabetes Educator, which was her true calling and love.

Dee Eacret was a member of AAUW for several years and served as secretary for two years.

\*\*\*\*\*

AAUW-LC member Ann McCullough's husband, Erick Richardson, passed away August 19, 2023. He served as a social worker and civil servant and as volunteer, board member and interim executive director for Dona Ana Humane Society (DACHS). He also served as a member of the US Army. Donations in memory may be sent to the Spay and Neuter group, SNAP, at 2405 W. Picacho Ave., Ste. 107, Las Cruces, NM 88007.

## Membership Matters

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

## AAUW-LC PROGRAM CALENDAR

Here is our initial program calendar for the **2023-2024** 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.

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

December 9 - *Annual Holiday Luncheon.* \*

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\* Our holiday luncheon and silent auction are scheduled for December 9 at 11:30 am at the Sunset Grill. We will have a signup sheet at the November meeting. The unrefundable cost for the buffet is \$20 due by November 30.

RoseAnn Hernández, Program VP

## Interest Groups

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



**Anything Goes Book Group** will meet on November 13 at 1:30 pm to discuss *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. Contact: **Anne Chase**.

**Anything Goes Fiction Book Group** will meet on November 27 at 1:30 pm to discuss *On The Bright Side* by Hendrik Groen. Contact: **Kay Williams**

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

**Great Decisions** The final discussion for Great Decisions 2023 will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, November 14, at 7:00 pm Mountain Time. The topic is "Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and Migration."

Topics have been announced for 2024. They are Mideast Alignment, Climate Technology and Competition, Science across Borders, U.S. - China Trade Rivalry, NATO's Future, Understanding Indonesia, High Seas Treaty, and Pandemic Preparedness.

We are recruiting additional AAUW members to join our group for Great Decisions 2024. The discussions are interesting and thoughtprovoking. If you think you might be interested in joining our group, please let **Susan Hychka** know. If you'd like to experience a discussion before you sign up for 2024, let Susan know and she will send you a Zoom link for our discussion on November 14.

### **Going Places**

Contact: (This coordinator position is open; contact Anne Chase 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](mailto: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.

### [2023-2025 Officers](#)

Your elected and appointed **Board of Directors** meets monthly on the 1st Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at 2324 Nevada Ave East. All members are welcome to attend.



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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 by **Rashni Anasnawansha**. 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](#)

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](mailto:dumontkm@gmail.com)

**Thank you for reading**



Las Cruces (NM) Branch

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[New Mexico Website](#)

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