

ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

ISSUE 4 : VOL: XXVIII

December, 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

General Meeting Informaion

If you missed our November General Meeting, you missed a very informative and interesting presentation by Michael R. Ray, Director NMSU American Indian Program. He explained that there are ~ 700 indigenous students from different states and countries attending NMSU. He took us on a virtual tour of their student center. The center serves as a place that offers a variety of support to the students. You also missed meeting and hearing from two of our scholarship recipients, Aryanna Llanez and Anna Madrid.

Our Holiday Luncheon is scheduled for **December 9th at 11:30** at the **Sunset Grill**. We will again have a silent auction with items donated by members. Funds raised are for our scholarship fund. Also, you can pick up your 2023-24 Yearbooks.

Mr. Jamar Cotton will be the speaker for our **January 13th** General Meeting. Mr. Cotton is the Doña Ana County coordinator of the Martin Luther King Jr.

Commission Youth Leadership Program. Mr. Cotton, a native of Irvington, NJ, came to NMSU on a football scholarship and made Las Cruces his home after graduating in 2010. He has devoted thousands of hours to public service as a mentor, fitness instructor, and motivational speaker.

Please start thinking about serving on the AAUW-LC board. We have several board members whose terms are ending in 2024.

Wishing you a joyous holiday season! Let's celebrate the end of the year with happiness and love. We look forward to seeing you in 2024. *(The link to the board member list is in another section of the OMV)*

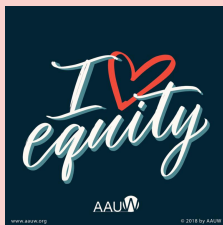
RoseAnn Hernández Program VP

From our Co-Presidents Anne Chase and Donna Yargosz



Can we be already in December and nearing the end of 2023? The Fall seems to have zipped by, as usual. Our AAUW-LC Fall was especially busy with the fabulous Tea Party and two well-attended General Meetings with exciting speakers. And remember the trivia contests with great prizes. As we move into December, remember to order a wreath or centerpiece from Lynch Creek Farm. See you at the December Luncheon and Silent Auction!

Anne Chase & Donna Yargosz



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

In 2018, the landmark lawsuit Yazzie/Martinez vs. State of New Mexico required New Mexico to repair the inequities in its K-12 education system. It was ruled that the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) had failed to provide a sufficient education to all New Mexican children, and in particular to Native American students, English Learners, low-income students, and students with disabilities. The order gave the state until 2019 to adequately fund reform efforts.(1)

Unfortunately, improvement has been slow. For example, according to the National Assessment for Education Progress (NAEP), in 2022, 4th and 8th graders ranked last in the nation in literacy and math scores, and only 20% of New Mexico's students were proficient in reading.(2) The high school graduation rate is 76%, while the national rate is 87%.(3) The PED has had five Secretaries in the last five years and is understaffed.(4)

The good news is that the 2023 NM legislative session passed laws that expanded instructional time in schools and allocated millions of dollars for early childhood education and teacher preparation in reading and math.

AAUW Las Cruces has a long history of helping students, such as getting more

young women into STEM fields. We hope the 2024 legislative session will improve education for all New Mexican students.

1 “Yazzie-Martinez Decision,” NM Center on Law and Poverty, 2018. nmpovertylaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Graphic-Yazzie-Martinez-Decision.pdf

2 “New Mexico Overview,” Nations Report Card, 2022. nationsreportcard.gov/overview

3 “New Mexico Graduation Rates Show Slight Dip in 2022,” nmeducation.org

4 Prokof, Danielle, “New Mexico’s Long Road to Give Yazzie/Martinez Students a Quality Education,” Oct. 20, 2023. Source: New Mexico. sourcencm.com

Kate Mangelsdorf, Public Policy Chair

ACADEMIC OUTREACH

This year, AAUW-LC was able to award eight NMSU Endowed Scholarships for the 2023-2024 academic year. The scholarship recipients are:



NMSU:

- Zoe Burn, majoring in Physics and Mathematics
- Aryanna Llanez, majoring in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering
- Anna Madrid, majoring in Biology
- Esmeralda Triviz, majoring in Mathematics and Spanish

DACC:

- Hannah Blachford, majoring in Respiratory Therapy
- Selegna Gomez, majoring in Nursing
- Yadira Lugo, majoring in Sociology
- Lesley Dayanara Mez, Medical Assistant program

Two of the scholarship recipients, **Aryanna Llanez** and **Anna Madrid**, attended our Nov. 11th meeting, met members, and spoke about their educational journeys. (see picture above)

** Do you know... For 2023-2024 the minimal cost of being a full-time (12 credit hours) student is

- at NMSU, \$278.60 per credit hour for NM residents (\$3,343.20/ 12 hr. semester), \$907.10 for non-residents (\$10,885.20/ 12 hr. semester).
- at DACC \$76.75 per credit hour for Dona Ana County residents (\$921/ 12 hr. semester), \$85 for NM residents outside of DA county (\$1,119/ 12 hr. semester), \$236.75 for non-residents (\$2,940/ 12 hr. semester).
- Books & and supplies average \$1,240 per academic year.
- These costs don't include food, housing, transportation and so much more!!

Thank you to all who support our AAUW-LC scholarship and award programs. You are making a difference in women's lives!

“The holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us.” -Anonymous.



Countdown to Girls Can! 2024

Girls Can! March 23, 2024, will be the 28th year that AAUW-Las Cruces members unite to offer 6th-grade girls in Doña Ana County an all-girl career exploration conference.

The location, Doña Ana Community College, East Mesa Campus, offers the girls a real college experience. We expect to host 300 girls.

Each girl will receive a t-shirt and backpack with inspirational goodies and a light breakfast. Girls will arrive in groups on buses with school counselors and individually with their parents. With our volunteer presenters, student volunteers, students, counselors, and parents, AAUW-Las Cruces members will play a major role in the event's success.

Volunteers have the choice to work on a variety of tasks: greeters, registrars, guides, workshop facilitators/assistants, girl lunches, girl and adult t-shirts, and more. It takes a village to get this day off to a great start. It takes many supportive, enthusiastic women to carry this fantastic event to Noon on March 23rd. Are you signed up to volunteer for Girls Can!? We are counting on our members. Please contact [Jeanette King](#) or [Laura Bemis](#) to volunteer.

Laura Bemis, Girls Can! Coordinator

Membership Matters

Please welcome new member:

Anna Madrid (NMSU student and scholarship recipient)

The Board of Directors has taken steps to guarantee your online safety. Now the OMV will include only 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.

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.

Lynne Lord & Michele Rasch, Membership Co-VPs

AAUW-LC PROGRAM CALENDAR

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 am to 10:00 am.

See "General Meeting Information" above for further information about the January program.

RoseAnn Hernández Program VP

Interest Groups

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



Anything Goes Book Group will meet December 11 at 11:00 am for their Holiday Luncheon and to make next year's book selections. Contact: **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet December 11 for their Holiday Luncheon and to make next year's book selections. 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 Topics for 2024 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 prepare for monthly discussions by reading a nine-page briefing paper written by a subject matter expert.

The Great Decisions interest group is recruiting additional AAUW members to join our group for Great Decisions 2024. The discussions are interesting and thought-provoking. Participants say that our monthly discussions encourage them to consider international issues and how they affect all of us. Contact: **Susan Hychka**

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.

[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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(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, 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.*



Hand made Pottery

by

Barbara Williams

Displayed at *Agave Artists Coop Gallery*, 2250 Calle de San Albino, Mesilla. Open: 11-5, Friday - Monday

(Item to the left is 4" Sugar Bowl with Lid)

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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](#)

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

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