

ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

ISSUE:5 VOL:XXVIII

January, 2024



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

Happy New Year! ¡Feliz Año Nuevo! Bonne Anné! and Frohes Neues Jahr!

We closed out our 2023 year with a successful, tasty luncheon and profitable silent auction at the Sunset Grill. We were fortunate to have 53 of our "seasoned," new and renewing members attend.



Our January 13th program will feature Mr. Jamar Cotton. He is the coordinator of the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission Youth Leadership Program in Doña Ana County. The MLK Commission operates a Youth Ambassador program for students ages 14-21. Youth

become knowledgeable about the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and how his principles of nonviolence affect their lives, the fundamentals of community service, advocacy and leadership skills. The goal of the organization is to motivate kids to be leaders. Quoting Mr. Cotton, "I want to get more kids involved in something positive...and make them successful. It's about empowerment, so they know their voice is important." The organization has chapters in Hobbs, Farmington, Albuquerque and Roswell. We look forward to Mr. Cotton's presentation as we prepare to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 15th.

In celebration of National Girls & Women in Sports Day (February 7th), our speaker will be Dr. Amber Burdge, NMSU Senior Associate Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator.

To help us remember AAUW-LC meeting dates and events, expect a reminder call or text from one of your board members and an eblast. We want to visit with you and want you to take advantage of the interesting and informative programs that we offer. Looking forward to seeing you at our first meeting of 2024.

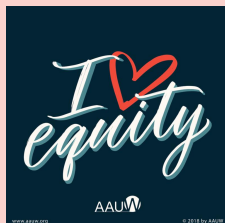
RoseAnn Hernández, Programs Chair

From our Co-Presidents Anne Chase and Donna Yargosz



It feels like December flew by, and here we are in a new year. This is a time when our thoughts actually turn to March 23rd and Girls Can! We were so pleased in June to hear a father at the City Council meeting thanking us for the event and saying how much his daughters enjoyed it, and how much he got out of the session for parents. So the event is in fact big, and we do have an impact on the community. But it's also complicated and has a lot of moving parts. To that end, we will be asking for donations, certainly, and we need your physical help. There are plenty of jobs both large and small that need to be done from January through March. Please watch for announcements and pleas for help, and respond however you can.

Donna Yargosz and Anne Chase



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

The New Mexico 2024 legislative session, which runs from Jan. 16-Feb. 15, will focus on budget, appropriation, and revenue. Additionally, it will also take up the Governor's "calls," or special focuses, which this year are for affordable housing, gun safety, and paid family and medical leave. While we won't know about specific bills until

January, AAUW is prepared to support reforms in these areas, in particular gun safety and the Paid Family and Medical Leave Act (PFMLA).

According to Meredith Machen, AAUW-NM Public Policy Chair, AAUW will also support bills to modernize our state legislature. New Mexico is the only state in the country whose state legislators do not receive a salary, which limits citizen participation in the legislative process. The bill will require that a constitutional amendment be put to voters to establish a commission to determine a fair salary. AAUW will also support a bill for a constitutional amendment to increase all legislative sessions to 60 days.

Legislators work hard year-round, not just during sessions. An important year-round committee is the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC). During this past year, the LESC held hearings on chronic absenteeism in schools, reforms in reading education, better behavioral support for students, the use of AI in the classroom, among other topics. It is likely that bills related to these issues will be introduced.

Over the years, AAUW-NM has been an effective advocate for our priorities. To learn more about AAUW-NM's advocacy, go to <https://aauw-nm.aauw.net/explore-issues/>

Kate Mangelsdorf, Public Policy Chair

ACADEMIC OUTREACH



The new year is a time for reflection on the past year. AAUW-LC members should feel good about the work the branch did in 2023 in support of education for women in Las Cruces. We were able to impact women's lives by funding

** four \$500 True Grit Awards given to graduating high school senior girls, totaling \$2000

** eight NMSU AAUW-LC Endowed Scholarships given to undergraduate female students at NMSU-Las Cruces and DACC, totaling \$4,402

**two NMSU female students to attend AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, totaling \$2,619.

***The 2023 grand total of scholarships and awards granted to women in Las Cruces thanks to AAUW-LC is \$9,021!!!

Your donations of your time, talent and/or treasure make this all possible. Let's continue to make a difference in other women's lives. Thank you!!

"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot."- Michael Altshuler

Happy New Year!

Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair

Correction to the Winter Roadrunner.

I am the editor of the AAUW-NM quarterly Roadrunner. I made a mistake in the Winter issue and wish to correct the information here. The \$200 grant from AAUW-NM was for the True Grit Advocacy Project. For more information about this project and to volunteer, contact Londa Seiffert.

Happy New Year
Judy McGuire

Girls Can!

Why Do We Host Girls Can?

AAUW-LC is proud to host the 28th *Girls Can!* Career Exploration Conference scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2024.



Each year the Annie E Casey Foundation publishes its *Kids Count Data Book* with staggering statistics about New Mexico's ranking for child well-being, education, and poverty. This year we learned that in 2021 whereas the poverty statistics have improved by 1% since 2019, 35% of the children in our county live in families whose parents lack secure employment and 12% of teens are not in school and not working.

While it is true that we cannot solve all the problems related to poverty in New Mexico, we know that through *Girls Can!* we can introduce 6th grade girls to women professionals, many of whom have grown up in New Mexico, who can visit with and inspire the girls to stay in school and who can show them what their futures can hold. *Girls Can!* can change the trajectory of girls in New Mexico.

How can our members help? First and foremost, we need volunteers for our event. We need member volunteers who can work for either 2 or 4 hours on Saturday, March 23rd to help make *Girls Can!* a success. Currently, we are grateful for a team of 7 members, who are working on the pre-planning that is required.

Our second greatest need is for funding. Our members always dig deep to make sure *Girls Can!* funds are available. *Girls Can!* is 100% volunteer-led. Each girl will receive a T-Shirt and backpack and a breakfast/snack pack. Our branch supports the funds needed to bus the girls to our event. We also offer pizza to our student volunteers and a modest appreciation gift for our workshop presenters.

We will be collecting donations for *Girls Can!* at our January meeting. If you are not able to attend, please mail your check to:
AAUW-LC. P O Box 1081 88004
Mark the Memo line: *Girls Can!*

We do *Girls Can!* because it matters.
Thank you for making it possible.

Laura Bemis, *Girls Can!* Coordinator

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING**RANK
49****EDUCATION****RANK
50**

Metric	2019	2021	Change	Metric	2012-16	2017-21	Change
Children in poverty Total in NM: 111,000	25%	24%	better	Young children (ages 3 and 4) not in school Total in NM: 30,000	59%	59%	same
Children whose parents lack secure employment Total in NM: 165,000	32%	35%	worse	Fourth-graders not proficient in reading Total in NM: N.A.	76%	79%	worse
Children living in households with a high housing cost burden Total in NM: 125,000	26%	26%	same	Eighth-graders not proficient in math Total in NM: N.A.	79%	87%	worse
Teens not in school and not working Total in NM: 14,000	11%	12%	worse	High school students not graduating on time Total in NM: N.A.	25%	23%	better

REMEMBRANCE

Lifetime Member **Judy Finch** passed away on December 3, 2023.

Judith Ann Holle Finch was born and raised in Topeka, KS, and graduated from Kansas State University with a BS in Home Economics and earned an MS in Food Service Management. Judy taught in Denver and later at New Mexico State University.

Raising two daughters, she still had time to tirelessly volunteer with and raise money for an extensive list of Las Cruces' charities as well as to campaign for every school bond issue. She also served on Boards for several nonprofits. She is noted for having run and nurtured the Doña Ana Arts Council's Renaissance Craft Faire. Judy was recognized as Citizen of the Year, the Papen Family Award recipient, and one of the Governor's Outstanding Women of New Mexico.

Judy is survived by her husband Paul and daughters Holle and Lynette.

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.

The Board of Directors has taken steps to guarantee your online safety. OMV will include only the names of new members and their email address. Additional information (address, phone, and highest degree and school) will be provided to you in a quarterly e-blast.

Please welcome new members:

Lynette Schurdevin: lynnetters618@gmail.com

Penny Scribner: penelopescribner@gmail.com

Missing email for Anna Madrid: madrida1@nmsu.edu

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

You May Enjoy



Beginning January 2024, the Academy for Learning in Retirement (ALR) will be presenting in person, on Zoom, and recorded for viewing at registrant's leisure (with presenter's permission). In person ALR Spring 2024 four-session programs will be held at the East Mesa DACC Auditorium, 2800 Sonoma Ranch Blvd.

Registration and detailed information is available at "Academy for Learning in Retirement" at <https://dacc.nmsu.edu/academics/programs/academy-learning-in-retirement/>

January's speaker is Megan McQueen (see photo) on "Honoring Beloved Golden Age Musicals Through a Contemporary Lens."

February's topic is "Financial Crises."

March's topic is "State and Local Government."

April's presentation focuses on "New Mexico Oil and Gas."

May's topic is "The Art and Science of Food."

The sessions last from 10:30 until noon with days of the week dependent on the presenter's schedule. Fee is \$20 for one month or \$60 for all five months.

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 - 10:00 am.

February 10 - Dr. Amber Burdge, NMSU Senior Associate Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator.

Interest Groups

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



Anything Goes Book Group will meet on January 8 at 1:30 pm at Jan Hampton's home to discuss *Cider House Rules* by John Irving. Contact:

Anne Chase.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on January 29 at 1:30 pm to discuss *All the Light You Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. Contact: **Judy McGuire**

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.

Joining our group is easy. Call **Susan Hychka** to order a Briefing Book. The cost is \$35.00. We hope to order books by January 10 so we can start monthly discussions in February. We have been meeting via Zoom at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of the month. Once we order, Great Decisions 2024 participants will decide when to meet and whether by Zoom, in person, or hybrid.

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](#)

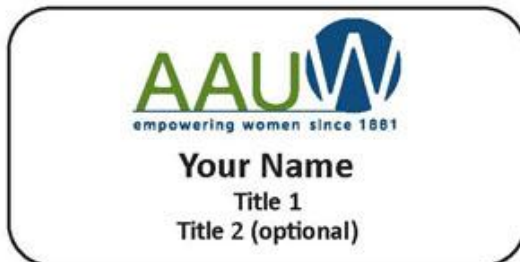
The elected and appointed **Board of Directors** meets monthly on the 1st Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Once the Board approves meeting minutes, they are made available to members.



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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, 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 chock 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 Anandawansha**. 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

Thank you for reading



Las Cruces (NM) Branch

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

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