

ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

ISSUE 8 : VOL: XXVII

May, 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*



LeeAnn Meadow



Leoniece Beatty

General Meeting

Our **May 11th** program will consist of two mini-presentations, one by LeeAnn Meadow and the other by Leoniece (Lee) Beatty, a member of AAUW-LC.

LeeAnn will present on **Trauma Informed Care (TIC)**. TIC is a healthcare approach that assumes most people are impacted by trauma and recognizes that healthcare encounters can be retraumatizing. We will learn how to request TIC for ourselves and our loved ones to foster a relationship of choice, collaboration, and connection. Lee will present on the New Mexico Ombudsman Program. Ombudsmen are dedicated volunteers who visit residents in long-term care facilities, nursing homes and assisted living facilities and offer residents a means to voice their concerns and have their complaints addressed.

LeeAnn lives on the outskirts of Las Cruces in a classic adobe motor lodge surrounded by pecan trees with her artist/husband Glenn Schwaiger and two dogs. She worked as a pediatric physical therapist for nine years before chronic health issues prevented her from continuing. As a survivor of childhood trauma, she has become adept at navigating the healthcare system and advocating for TIC. LeeAnn offers a unique perspective informed by her experience in healthcare and as a patient. In 2023, she coauthored an article for the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology about TIC.

Lee has been a volunteer ombudsman for 20 yrs. She has a BA and MS in analytical and organic chemistry and is licensed as a registered nurse. She has worked for the US Geological Survey and volunteered as an EMT. She has used all her people skills as an ombudsman advocating for people in assisted living facilities and nursing homes. Elders fear going into a facility as “a place to die” but ombudsmen have worked extremely hard to make facilities a place to be safe and a place to enjoy their twilight years.

Remember, AAUW-LC General 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.

RoseAnn Hernández, Programs Chair

Gentle Reminder: Please remember to sign-up and pay your non-refundable \$20 for our End-of-the-Year Luncheon by May 29 th .

We will have a sign-up sheet at the May 11th meeting, or you can mail your check to AAUW-LC PO Box 1081 88004. Remember to write "Luncheon" in the memo.

From our Co-Presidents Anne Chase and Donna Yargosz



Happy Springtime!

Following a wonderful *General Meeting* in April with terrific speakers, we now look toward ending our year on a high note.

Our *May General Meeting* on the 11th will see us voting for our slate of officers and our budget. Our attendance has been really good so far. Let's continue that trend in May. (We need a quorum!)

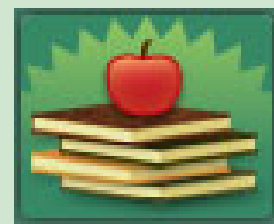
On May 17 and 18, our state convention will take place in Alamogordo. We hope that many of us will attend at least the Saturday session. Don't forget the book swap.

Be sure to sign up (and pay) for our end-of-year luncheon on June 8 at 11 am (note the time!) at Red Hawk Golf Club. The northern end of Sonoma Ranch Boulevard is always a "festival" of orange barrels and detours. At the moment, it's not hard to get to Red Hawk, but just in case, we will send out directions closer to the date. From the southern part of town, plan on 30 minutes' travel time.

Enjoy the May flowers (although we didn't see much in the way of April showers). We hope to see you on May 11 (9:30 social, 10:00 speaker) at the DACC Workforce Center.

Anne Chase and Donna Yargosz, Co-Presidents

ACADEMIC OUTREACH



I am proud to announce the recipients of our AAUW-LC 2024 NCCWSL Scholarships! We received five applications from outstanding students at NMSU who are all pursuing a degree in an engineering field. A task force composed of Anne Chase, Kay Brilliant, Kate Mangelsdorf and myself reviewed the applications

and selected three students to attend NCCWSL: They are pictured below.

-Daniela Reyes will be completing her freshman year at NMSU, majoring in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, minoring in Astronomy. She is an international student from Chihuahua, Mexico. She dreams of being the first Mexican woman astronaut. She is currently working with the NanoSat Lab structures team (making the hardware for the INCA satellite to be launched by NASA next year), is also a Student Assistant at the Sunspot Observatory and Astronomy Department and is a member of SWE (Student Women Engineers). She wrote “I can strongly affirm that it is not easy to be respected while having a lead position in STEM fields. I believe that empowering women is one of the keys to change these stereotypes...”

-Danissa Ortega will be completing her freshman year at NMSU, majoring in Engineering Physics with a concentration in Electrical Engineering. She is striving for a career in optical sciences. She is currently working on undergraduate research on thermal annealing and ellipsometry, is a member of the Pride of NM Marching Band, and is Treasurer of the Society of Physics Students and Treasurer of the Society for Engineering and Physics. She wrote “Throughout much of my academic journey I have been overlooked, belittled or simply ignored. The strong male demographic in my major only amplified these aspects. However, since I understand the endeavors, I want to empower myself and other women...”

-Neyda Moreno will be completing her junior year at NMSU, majoring in Mechanical Engineering Technology (MET) and minoring in Manufacturing. METs are the bridge between traditional engineering and practical application. She is currently a member of Student Women Engineers, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and a tutor for TRiO Student Support Services while also working part time. She wrote “Women must continue proving themselves repeatedly every day, just to be treated as equals. Most women are discouraged from leadership roles... I want to enhance my leadership skills.”

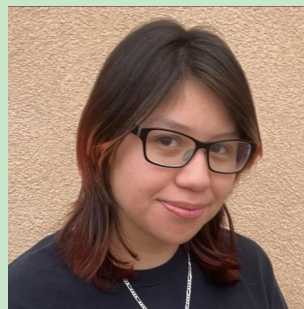
NCCWSL 2024 will give these young women many opportunities: to find their voices, to enhance their leadership skills, to connect with other women who have similar career aspirations, and to empower them to be a force in their field, to “Dare to Be...”.

Thank you for being so supportive of our scholarships! Your support matters!

Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair



Danissa Ortega



Neyda Moreno



Daniela Reyes



DEI APRIL DATES

Month Long Celebrations

- Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- Haitian Heritage Month
- Indian Heritage Month
- Jewish-American Heritage Month
- Mental Health Awareness Month - helps raise awareness in May and all year long for those living with both mental and behavioral issues.
- Military Appreciation Month – reminding all Americans to pay tributes to those who sacrifice for our freedoms.
- National Speech-Language-Hearing Month

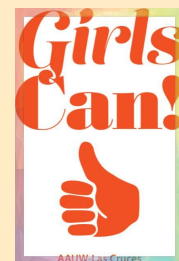
Daily Celebrations

- May 3 — Orthodox Good Friday
- May 5 — Cinco de Mayo
- May 5 — Orthodox Easter
- May 10 — Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- May 12 — Mother's Day
- May 17 — International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia
- May 19 – Malcolm X Birthday
- May 21 — World Day for Cultural Diversity
- May 26 – Buddha's Birthday – tribute to Prince Siddhartha Gautama who became the Gautama Buddha and founded modern day Buddhism.
- May 27 — Memorial Day

Tricia Brainard, Diversity Coordinator

Girls Can!

GIRLS CAN! 2024 ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DAY WITH RECORD ATTENDANCE



Two hundred eighty one girls arrived by bus or car to the 28th Girls Can! Career Exploration Conference.

Kathie Davis led a 'wild and crazy' game time, in the Auditorium, for girls as they arrived. Special thanks to Kathie for working with the girls during the 'chaos' of arrival. Special thanks also to **Dr. Monica Torres, DACC President**, for welcoming the girls and their parents to the DACC campus and Girls Can!

Twenty two workshops led by women students and professionals went off without a hitch. New presenters included a culinary chef, a dance

professional, an EMT, and an entrepreneur businesswoman, an architecture professor, and the Atomic Aggies aerospace engineering club 15 Workshops highlighted STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), including Chemistry, Biology, Environmental Science, Medicine, Digital Media, and Robotics, Sonography, Emergency Response, and Architecture. Special thanks to **Jo Latorre** who presented Chemistry for the 3rd year in a row. Jo's workshop is one of the best and most enjoyed by the students.

DACC Staff hosted 29 parents in a great workshop that 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. Parents attended either the Spanish language or English language Parent Workshop.

Gadsden and Hatch School Districts had high participation (226 + girls) and utilized transport of the girls and counselors by bus. This year 8 buses transported participants – partial reimbursement is offered through our generous donors. Lack of funding at one Gadsden school caused one school to cancel.

Las Cruces Public Schools hosted an online registration for all 6th grade girls in the district. LCPS also paid the registration fee for all girls. This was a huge success. We used a very successful QR code to link the registration site to our brochure. 153 girls pre-registered for Girls Can! from LCPS. An email welcoming the girls was sent out to the parents to confirm their registration. We were also pleased to host 6th-grade girls from Mesilla Valley Leadership Academy, Las Cruces Academy, Las Cruces Catholic School, and White Sands School.

Special Thanks to **Jeanette King**, who stepped up as Co-Coordinator this year. 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 fund-raising, 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 Registration, and Food Coordination, logistical coordination, signage, and a variety of appreciations that are prepared ahead. Each of these volunteers logged countless hours and made many 'trips' to make Girls Can! ready. Member volunteers for Girls Can! on March 23rd totaled 49.

Girls Can! Volunteers for March 23rd:

AAUW-Las Cruces branch – 49 Presenters – 22 with the assistance of 50 additional DACC students, NMSU grad students, or additional professionals (two are AAUW members). Special thanks to **Jo Latorre**, who presented Chemistry for the 3rd year in a row. Jo's workshop is one of the best and most enjoyed by the students.

NMSU student volunteers – 12 athletes and 50 members of 5 student organizations

Arrowhead HS National Honor Society - 12

DACC Presenters, staff, and students – 13 (1 is an AAUW member)

FEW (Federally Employed Women) – 5

GRAND VOLUNTEER TOTAL: 213

This year was our 28th annual Girls Can! Congratulations to each and all of you for your support by donating and/or volunteering. With the leadership of our Fundraising Chair, **Kay Brilliant**, we raised over \$2,000 from branch members. Corporate Institutions, Foundations, and private individuals supported Girls Can! with \$5,200. Thank you to all who support Girls Can!

Please thank the following Girls Can! supporters when you do business with them:

Aguirre Auto, Inc.
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Please thank the following Girls Can! supporting foundations and groups:

A Still Small Voice 4U Inc, Ron and Kathy Cooke
LCPS Public Schools Foundation
Santa Teresa Charitable Foundation
Three Crosses Chapter 171 of Federally Employed Women

With mixed emotions, I find it is time to pass Girls Can! leadership on.

Laura Bemis, Girls Can! Coordinator

AAUW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTIFICATION!

Currently, annual dues are \$110 broken down as follows:

National \$ 72 (ALL 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 Yearbook must have their dues current no later than June 30.

We *strongly* encourage members to pay online.

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 the Finance Chair (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 the month prior to** your expiration date. Please, be sure to look out for it. Thank you!

NOTE: For renewing members, as long as you renew within your grace period, which is three months after your expiration date, you will maintain your

current renewal date.

To confirm their renewal date, members can log into their personal Community Hub account or send an email to the Branch Membership Co-Chairs or the Finance Officer requesting confirmation of their expiration date.

Christine Long, Finance Chair

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, 2025)

Lynne Lord & Michele Rasch , Membership Co-VPs

Interest Groups

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



Anything Goes Book Group will meet on May 13 at 1:30 pm to discuss *Empire of the Summer Moon. Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History*, by S.C Gwynne . Contact: **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on May 20 at 1:30 pm to discuss *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger . 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 will meet on at 7:00 pm via ZOOM to discuss 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](#)

Your 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 **Sonia Walterbos**. Contact her with comments, additions, or questions.. (click on the link above: "AAUW-LC Website")

A [Facebook](#) Page for AAUW LC is maintained by **Sonia**. 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



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