



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

2024-25 – Starting our 101st Year!

Hopefully, none of us melted over this hot summer, but instead found some coolness and did some fun things. We look forward to seeing you this 2024-25 program year.

Please mark your calendars now, so that you will be able to attend our General Meetings which are held the second Saturday of the month at DACC Workforce Center. We start with socializing from 9:30am – 10:00am. During this time you can visit with all members, catch up with returning members and

introduce yourself to newcomers. Our program starts at 10:00am. We will introduce our featured presenter who will speak for 30-40 minutes.

In order to allow speakers to complete their presentation uninterrupted, we are establishing a new policy and asking attendees to hold their questions for the end. We will have sticky notes on the tables so you can write down your question or comment. We will continue at ~11:00am with the business portion of our meeting.

We are looking forward to inviting dynamic speakers who will present thought-provoking information to our membership. At our first meeting on September 14th, we will have Interest Group leaders provide us with a 5-minute presentation on their group (what, where, when).

This will be followed by a discussion on Recruiting New Members: Why do we want to recruit? Whom do we want to recruit? How do we recruit?

We will be sending out eblast meeting reminders 10 days prior to our meetings and calling you the week of the meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 14th.

RoseAnn Hernández & Tricia Brainard, Co-VPs Programs

Want to Announce Something?

Please note: If you would like to announce something at a General Meeting, please tell Lynette or Donna well ahead of time so you can be put on the agenda. Thank you.

From our Co-Presidents Donna Yargosz and Lynette Schurdevin



Welcome to the 2024-2025 year of good programs, good friends, and good works! We have a lot of each of those things well in hand.

Among other things, enjoy a program given by the young women of Society of Women Engineers and NCCWSL, the companionship of bridge, mah jong, book clubs, and Great Decisions, and the opportunities to raise money for scholarships with a holiday bazaar and wreath sales.

And this is not even considering Girls Can! 2025 and Tech Trek, which could use all of us pitching in to help. Lots of opportunities for everyone!

Donna Yargosz and Lynette Schurdevin, Co-Presidents



DEI SEPTEMBER DATES

Month Long Celebrations

- Suicide Prevention Month
- National Hispanic Heritage Month – 9/15 – 10/15 - honors all Latino and Hispanic Americans and their contributions to American culture.
- National Recovery Month – hopes to educate all Americans on the treatment services for those struggling with substance use disorders.

Daily Celebrations

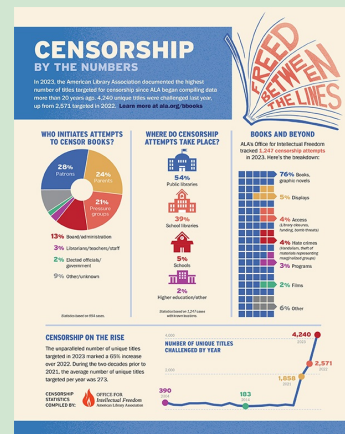
- September 2 — Labor Day
- September 11 — Patriot Day - National Day of Service and Remembrance
- September 15 — **Hispanic Heritage Month** begins
- September 16 — Mexican Independence Day
- September 20 — HeForShe movement anniversary - This solidarity movement was first created by the UN to help promote gender equality worldwide.
- September 21 — International Day of Peace -This UN day encourages all nations to observe a ceasefire. Each year the UN bell is rung in New York City to inaugurate this nonviolence day.
- September 27 — Native American Day
- September 28 — National Public Lands Day

Tricia Brainard, Diversity Coordinator

ACADEMIC OUTREACH

☐ Did you enjoy reading a good book this summer, any book you wanted? What if that freedom were taken away?

Book censorship is on the rise! In the past year, the number of unique book titles that have been challenged has gone up by 65%! (Note the accompanying ALA graphic.) A book challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A banning is the actual removal of those materials. From data compiled by the American Library Association Office of Intellectual Freedom (ALA-OIF), in 1923 NM had 2 attempts to restrict access to books at public libraries or schools and 7 titles

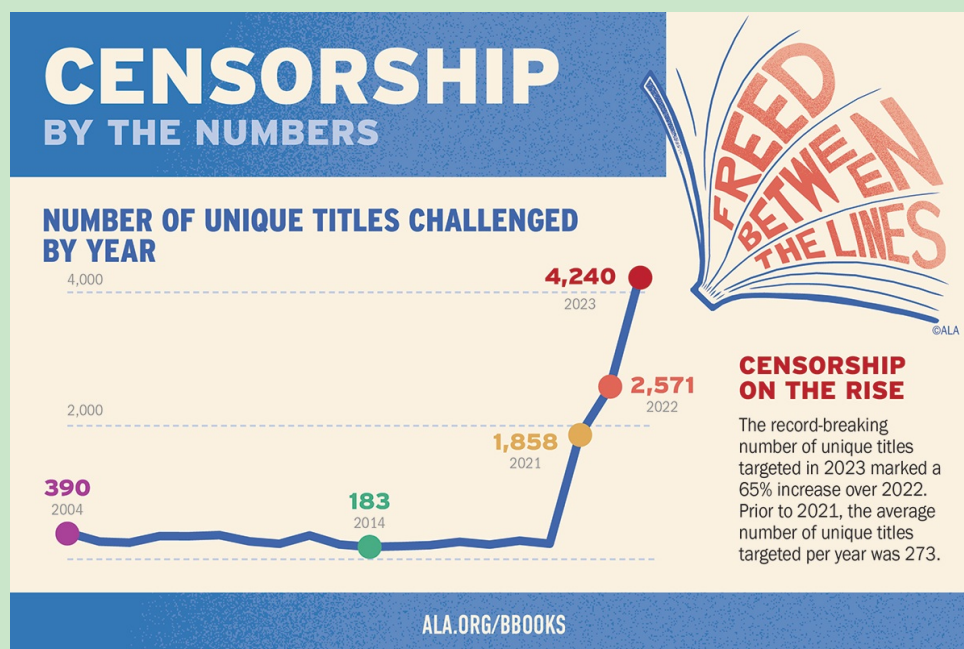


were challenged.

The states with the lowest number of attempts to restrict access were Vermont and Delaware (0&0) whereas Texas and Florida had the highest. (A challenge may result in materials being restrained, restricted, or revoked at public libraries or schools.) So if you want to support the freedom to choose what can be read, pick up or download a banned book to read during Banned Books Week 2024 (September 22-28) “Freed Between the Lines”. According to the ALA, “Banned Books Week draws national attention to the harms of censorship and brings together the entire book community- librarians, educators, authors, publishers, booksellers, and readers of all types- in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas.”

There are multiple sources for banned books lists. Consider discussing one at your book club; Charlotte’s Web?! Where the Sidewalk Ends?! Diary of Anne Frank?!... For more information go to American Library Association (ala.org).

Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair



Trails West Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, Nov. 16, our branch will have a table at the Trails West Holiday Bazaar. We will be selling beaded name tag lanyards, purse pulls, memory wire bracelets, and dichroic glass pendants and earrings.

We could use maybe 2 or 4 volunteers to manage the table for about 2 hours each (hours are flexible). If you are interested, please contact Donna Yargosz (575-312-2145, text is okay).

P.S.: They always have yummy baked goods for sale there!

Girls Can!



SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025

Mark your calendar! **Girls Can!** 2025 will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. until noon, once again at the Dona Ana Community College (DACC) East Mesa Campus.

Girls Can! is a Career Exploration Program for all Dona Ana County 6th grade girls! Eye-opening, hands-on, activities led by professional women from our community provide students with visions for their future and direction in their student life. There also are free parent workshops on the same day, time, and location, organized by DACC.

Work has already begun for **Girls Can!** 2025; 2024 was an astounding success. Stay tuned for how you can help make this year even better.

Pat Johnson, Girls Can! Coordinator

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, 2023)

Barbara McGuffey & Michele Rasch, Membership Co-VPs

"Bits of News"

Rita Smeriglio-Stopa (age 81) passed away on July 6, 2024 following a long illness.



After moving to Las Cruces, Rita and her husband Joe, became involved in a number of local charitable organizations. Rita joined AAUW in the early 2000s and greatly increased our membership when she served as our membership chair. She was a central participant in planning more than one Girl's Can! events and started interest groups designed to welcome and retain new members.

She was active for years with the Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest and in their Woman of Distinction award luncheons, and with the Dress the Child local nonprofit. She was a strong, capable, and compassionate woman with a great sense of humor.

AAUW-LC PROGRAMS

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 9 meeting will feature a panel of the Society of Women Engineers (NMSU) and the AAUW-LC sponsored attendees of the 2024 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) conference.

December 14 will be our Holiday Luncheon. Stay tuned for details.

RoseAnn Hernández & Tricia Brainard Program Chair

Interest Groups

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



Anything Goes Book Group will meet September 9 at 1:30 pm to discuss *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell. Contact: **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet September 30 at 1:30 pm to discuss *Let Me Lie* by Clare Mackintosh. 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 via ZOOM. 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 2024-2026 elected and appointed leadership team.

[2024-2026](#)

Our 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, 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 Walterbos**. 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](#)

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dumontkm@gmail.com

Thank you for reading



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