



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

Our speaker for November 8 is **Denise Chávez**, a Fronteriza writer, bookseller, and activist for sentient life.



Ms. Chávez and her husband, French/Ukrainian/American photographer Daniel Zolinsky, own *Casa Camino Real Bookstore* in Las Cruces. The bookstore features Chicano/a, Latino/a, Native American, Feminist, Southwestern and Regional literature as well as children's and adult's books in many languages and genres. They sell books internationally on Abebooks.

Chávez's most recent novel is *Street of Too Many Stories* published by Conocimientos Press. Other works include *The King and Queen of Comezón*, *Loving Pedro Infante*, *A Taco Testimony: Meditations on Family, Food and Culture* and *Face of An Angel*, among other works. She is the Co-Founder, with Kari Lenander, Executive Director of The Border Servant Corps, of *Libros Para El Viaje*, an ongoing Refugee, Migrant, and Asylum-seeker book gathering and distribution initiative that delivers books to children and families on the U.S./Mexico border.

Chavez's long-time project, Museo de La Gente/Museum of the People, is the creation of a community archival resource center celebrating the history, culture, literature, foodways and art of the Borderland Region. It will be located on the Camino Real in the historic Mesquite Neighborhood.

Ms. Chávez's motto is "Leer es Vivir/To Read is to Live."

We look forward to meeting Ms. Chávez and learning more about her storytelling and community projects.

(Photo by Daniel Zolinsky)

Please Note: Dec 13 is our Winter Luncheon. The cost will be \$22.

RoseAnn Hernández & Tricia Brainard, Programs Chairs

Public Policy



We are in the midst of election season here in Las Cruces. Early voting is ongoing, and Election Day is November 4. City Council and School Board seats are being contested. General Obligation Bonds for the county and school district are also on the ballot.

To check on your voter registration, learn where you can vote, and see your sample ballot, go to the [New Mexico Voter Information Portal](#) or to the [Dona Ana County Elections Bureau](#). Another good resource is [Vote411](#), which offers candidates' responses to questions about their positions on the issues, a valuable way to compare candidates' views and find out which views align with yours.

The results of local elections greatly impact our everyday lives, yet voter turnout is typically low. According to the Doña County Elections Bureau, the 2023 local election had a measly voter turnout of 18%. Citizens might not go to the polls because they can't decide for whom to vote, think their votes won't really matter, or don't know how or where to vote.

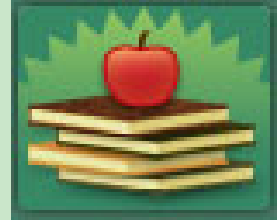
Encourage the people in your life to vote. If they care about certain issues, such as decreasing youth violence, show them the different perspectives of City Council candidates on [Vote411](#). Point out that in local elections, every single vote counts because winning margins are often narrow. Offer to take someone to the polls with you. They can register to vote even on Election Day, and they can vote at any polling location.

Remember—democracy is not a spectator sport!

Kate Mangelsdorf, Public Policy Chair

Academic Outreach

Giving thanks to our members, we are recognizing two of the recipients of AAUW-LC scholarships.



Nika Mansouri-Rad received one of our 2024-2025 NMSU AAUW-LC Endowed Scholarships. She spoke at this October's meeting. Nika is currently a senior at NMSU majoring in Communication Disorders and Linguistics and minoring in Counseling and Educational Psychology. She is the President of NMSU NSSLHA (National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association), a key Girls Can! student volunteer group.

Nika is currently working in the Neurobiology of Language lab at NMSU, assisting with research being done on brain activity in bilingual persons. She will graduate in May and hopes to go to NMSU graduate school for a career in speech pathology. Nika said that she is thankful for the recognition as one of our scholarship recipients and that this scholarship has helped to ease the financial burden of college.

Neyda Moreno received one of our scholarships to attend AAUW's NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) in 2024. She is a senior at NMSU majoring in Mechanical Engineering Technology with a minor in Manufacturing. She is a college student member of our AAUW Branch. She says that AAUW-LC and NCCWSL have inspired her and have helped to enhance her confidence and her leadership skills.

Neyda is currently participating in a co-op for engineering students at GE Appliances in the Dishwasher Manufacturing Plant (Louisville, KY) as a Quality Improvement Engineer. She works alongside a woman engineer who is her 'Assignment Leader', supervisor and mentor. The job consists of ensuring that their products are up to quality standards, including cost, safety, efficiency, and customer satisfaction. Her day starts at 7a.m. with reviewing the previous day's problem reports, a meeting at 7:30 to discuss the findings and hear about other problems, and then the rest of the day is spent following up with anything quality related. Some problems have a quick solution while others take time, paperwork, and a whole team to find the root cause. Neyda says "No two problems are ever the same and every day I learn something new, so there is always something exciting to look forward to!"

How thankful we should all be for contributing to the educational endeavors and success of young women like Nika and Neyda!

"Let our lives be full of both thanks and giving."---Unknown

Happy Thanksgiving

Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair



Neyda Moreno



Nika Mansouri-Rad



Diversity Equity and Inclusion

NOVEMBER

National Veterans and Military Families Month

National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month

Lung Cancer Awareness Month

National Adoption Month

National Native American, American Indian, & Alaskan Native Heritage Month

Nov 1-2: **Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead)**

Nov 5: **National Stress Awareness Day**

Nov 9: **World Freedom Day**

Nov 10: **Marine Corps Birthday**

Nov 11: **Veteran's Day**

Nov 13: **World Kindness Day**

Nov 13-19: **Transgender Awareness Week**

Nov 16: **International Day for Tolerance**

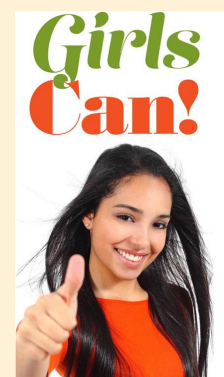
Nov 20: **Transgender Day of Remembrance**

Nov 28: **National Day of Mourning**

Tricia Brainard, Diversity Coordinator

Girls Can 2026!

Work is progressing on finalizing the *Girls Can! 2026* program. As noted in last month's OMV article, presenters will be organized according to their career clusters: Information and Entertainment Communicators; Entrepreneurial and Business Professionals; Scientists & Engineers; First Responders and Legal Specialists; and Health Care Professionals. The goal is to guide students to examine different options for their futures.



We have set up an email address exclusively for *Girls Can!*:

GC.AAUW.LC@GMAIL.COM. You can use that address or **ohnsonjatzp@gmail.com** to contact Pat Johnson, *Girls Can!* coordinator.

If you haven't already done so, mark your calendars:

Girls Can!

Saturday March 7, 2026, 8:00 am - Noon
Dona Ana Community College, East Mesa Campus

Pat Johnson, Girls Can! Coordinator

Lynch Creek Farm Fundraiser Makes Shopping Easy and Benefits GIRLS CAN!

Here's a reminder Lynch Creek Farm is in full swing with their fundraising campaigns.

You can use the instructions below for our chapter to receive 10% of all sales! You can order your holiday gifts until December 14. It's convenient, easy, and beautiful products are sent to your friends and family by Lynch Creek Farm.

If you have any questions about the products or services, contact the lovely people at Lynch Creek at (888) 426-0781 or call me at (270) 350-3164. Here's how easy it is to shop for beautiful gifts and support Girls Can!

- 1) Go to www.lynchcreekwreaths.com to discover their attractive holiday greenery.
- 2) Log into your account or create an account.
- 3) Shop, shop, shop! It's easy to add recipient addresses and delivery date.
- 4) During checkout add *Campaign ID 0685400* (AAUW-LC Holiday Cheer 2025) so our chapter will earn its 10%
- 5) Thank you for making a difference!

Terrye Doyle, Fundraising Co-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 New Mexico.

Please also remember to wear your name badges to our meetings. It will help make the connections we all enjoy.

Click here for a pdf of the [2025-2026 Membership Brochure](#) that you can print or email and give to prospective members.

Michele Rasch & Jennifer Burk, Membership Co-VPs

Member News

Judy (Judith P.) McGuire, 82, died July 7, 2025.

Judy earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1962 at University of Washington and later earned a Masters in Hospital Administration

She helped St. Joseph Hospital in Albuquerque start Hospice and also a home healthcare division in the early 1970s and then went on to lead two homecare agencies in Honolulu, HI, and another in San Diego, CA.

In retirement, Judy and her husband Jim ("Mac") settled in Las Cruces, NM, where she was a long time AAUW member in the Las Cruces Branch and was vital to the Yearbook and Communications Committees and was editor of the Organ Mountain View. She was also very active with AAUW at the State level, serving many years as the "Roadrunner" Editor and on the Tech Trek Board.

AAUW-LC member **Rae Gunderson**, age 89, passed away September 25, 2025 in Las Cruces.

A native of Minnesota, Rae studied at Moorhead State Teachers' college and became a high school teacher of English and French. Later she earned a Masters of Education in Counselling and worked as a middle school counselor.

On her retirement she and her husband, James, moved to Las Cruces where she became involved with AAUW and P.E.O., reflecting her lifelong commitment to women's education and personal growth.

AAUW-LC PROGRAM

Meetings are held on the second Saturday at the DACC Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada Ave. The program begins at **10:00 am** and is preceded by a "social time" from 9:30 - 10:00 am.

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 on November 10 at 1:30 pm to discuss *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960's* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Contact: **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on November 17 at 1:30 pm to discuss *I Need You to Read This: A Novel* by Jessa Maxwell. Contact: **Mary Barker**

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 is an annual, nonpartisan discussion program on world affairs produced by the **Foreign Policy Association (FPA)**. Every year, the program highlights eight critical foreign policy challenges facing the United States and provides materials—a briefing book, videos, and discussion groups—to help citizens learn about and discuss these issues. Contact: **Susan Hychka** for a briefing book and further details.

Going Places

Contact: **Michele Rasch**

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**

Playing and Singing for Fun meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings at 10 am. The group has chosen ukuleles as our main instrument but other instruments are welcome. Contact: **Reba McGear**.

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.

"Going Places " Visited NMSU Herbarium

October 18 an inquisitive group of AAUW-LC women visited the New Mexico State University Herbarium. Led by *Sara Fuentes-Suriano*, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Herbarium Curator, and by student *Dominique Bluehorse* we learned about the university's vast collection of botanical matter that helps to record plant explorations in the Southwest, including Mexico, as well as the distribution of plants in our region and a record of noxious and invasive plants.

The visit was preceded by a lunch at *Fig & Brie*.

Thank you, *Michele Rasch*, for organizing the trip.



Thinking of you.....

When you learn of a member who has medical issues, personal loss, or a reason for celebration or recognition, please contact **Karen Dumont** so she can show our support with a personalized card.



HELP WANTED

Readers enjoy seeing photos of AAUW events and people. I need the help of a clever artist/photo editor to work with photos to insert into Organ Mountain Views articles. We use Constant Contact email automation software which accepts JPEG photos.

If this appeals to you, please contact me at Dumontkm@gmail.com

All Above Board

You can click here for your copy of the 2025-2027 elected and appointed leadership team.

[2025-2027 Board of Directors](#)

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 you by clicking on the [link](#) in the following month's OMV.

Click here for the latest [Board-approved minutes](#):

Communications

In addition to the *Organ Mountain Views* (OMV), we maintain a Website. All Branch emails will be sent by **Lynette Schurdevin**, President, and/or Michele Rasch, 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")

*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.*



Click on the box below, and it will take you to the AAUW 2025 Work Smart Webinars



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Courses offered at DACC Auditorium- East Mesa
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For Course Schedule and Registration
Click on QR Code or go to this website
<https://alrsite.my.canva.site/fall-2025>

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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**, editor.

dumontkm@gmail.com

Thank you for reading



Las Cruces (NM) Branch

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