



ISSUE: 5 VOL: XXIV

January, 2026



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 January is **Dr. Tricia Brainard**, Director of Adult Education at Doña Ana Community College. Her doctoral study was about White racial privilege. She will be leading a program on Cultural Humility – “*Oops, now what? (Repair, Reflection, and Cultural Humility)*”. Tricia is also one of our own VP of programs.

At a time when white nationalism and xenophobia are gaining volume—and transgender people and many Black, Indigenous, People Of Color (BIPOC) communities are experiencing renewed targeting and cultural erasure—how we “show up” with one another matters. This program will explore the shift from cultural competence to cultural humility, questioning the idea that anyone can ever be fully competent in someone else’s lived experience. Together we’ll talk about practical ways to reduce harm: recognize bias, repair when we get it wrong, and build more inclusive practices going forward.

Additionally, we are asking the membership to complete this survey regarding Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging by Jan 8. Here’s the link and web

The January General Meeting will be held Saturday, Jan 10 at 10 am at the Doña Ana Community College Workforce Center at 2345 Nevada Avenue, Las Cruces. The meeting will be preceded by a “social time” starting at 9:30 am.

RoseAnn Hernández & Tricia Brainard, Program Chairs

From our President

Happy New Year to all!

As we begin our new year I want to express thank yous and gratitude for all who attended the holiday luncheon. It was wonderful to see everyone. Thank you to Kay and her elves for the wonderful and successful silent auction. A BIG thank you to RoseAnn and Tricia and their elves for the wonderful lunch.



I look forward to this new year and the many important and informational programs at our monthly meetings.

We again will be sponsoring one or more tables at the Martin Luther King breakfast on January 19. Thank you to Barbara McGuffy for organizing AAUW-LC's attendance at this event.

Finally, I look forward to the second half of my year as president. I will be organizing a nominating committee in February, so it is not too early to think about being a part of the AAUW-LC board for 2026-2027.

In April we will have a regional AAUW conference in Albuquerque and I look forward to sharing more about the conference in the coming months.

Looking forward to seeing you in the new year at our January 10, 2026 monthly meeting.

Lynette Schurdevin

Healthcare in Crisis: Provider Shortage in New Mexico

Four-part series presented by the Academy for Learning in Retirement

Content will include an overview of the contributing causes of our healthcare provider shortage, a panel of local doctors sharing their perspective, a discussion of pertinent reforms proposed for the 2026 legislative session, and the last session will cover how we can all get involved.

Dates: Tuesday Jan 6, Thursday Jan 8, Tuesday Jan 13 and Wednesday Jan 14.

Location: DACC East Mesa Campus, 2800 North Sonoma Ranch Blvd, in the Auditorium.

Times: Registration begins at 9:45 a.m. in the Auditorium lobby. The presentations begin at 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration is recommended. You can register online at <https://tinyurl.com/ALR-Reg>

Coffee and Cookies available in the Student Resources Building from 9:40 to 10:15 a.m.

Cost: The full series costs \$20. If you prefer to attend individual sessions, you may pay \$5 in cash at the door for each one. Those who purchase the full series will also receive recordings of all four presentations, available to watch at home for the next 12 months.

More information, contact Shirley Armstrong, shirmike7@gmail.com or 575-650-5851.

Academic Outreach

As we leave 2025 behind, we should reflect on the good things that AAUW-LC members have made possible:



**Girls Can!* 2025 was another resounding success with around 350 6th grade girls attending. Over half of our members volunteered in some way, 115 NMSU students volunteered, and many amazing professional women from the community, DACC, and NMSU presented the workshops.

**Tech Trek NM* was supported by our members who volunteered to read and score essays, conducted interviews with applicants, volunteered their time at the summer camp, and of course, also donated money.

**True Grit Awards* in the amount of \$600 each were given to 5 young women graduating from Las Cruces high schools. These awards were made possible thanks to members' donations to our scholarship fund and to the time and dedication of the TG Awards' selection committee and the True Grit Advocacy team. Shout out to our beading ladies group whose creativity and sales help tremendously!

**AAUW-LC NMSU Endowed Scholarships* in the amount of \$1,045 were granted to 4 women at NMSU-Las Cruces and to 4 women at DACC for the 2025-2026 academic year. Our members' donations to the endowment have helped the principal fund grow in the past five years from \$48,000 in 2020 to \$72,000 at the beginning of December 2025!

*Members donated feminine hygiene products that went to the Aggie Cupboard at NMSU and the Comfort Casita at DACC, helping to fight “*period poverty*” for college students.

In 2026 let's continue to build on the good things that support our mission of promoting equity and education for girls and women! We do make a difference in these trying times!

“Cheers!” to the New Year!



Diversity Equity and Inclusion

January

National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Poverty in America Awareness Month

Jan 1: **New Year's Day**

Jan 3: **Buddhist Mahayana New Year**

Jan 4: **World Braille Day**

Jan 13: **Korean American Day**

Jan 14: **Makar Sankranti**

Jan 19: **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

Jan 20: **National Day of Racial Healing**

Jan 27: **International Holocaust Remembrance Day**

Martin Luther King (MLK) Day Brunch

AAUW-LC is sponsoring a table(s) for the MARTIN LUTHER KING (MLK) DAY BRUNCH sponsored by the NAACP DOÑA ANA COUNTY.

The event is on MONDAY, JAN 19 at 11 am at the Las Cruces Convention Center. The keynote speaker will be Leon Howard, Executive Director, ACLU-NM. See event flyer at <https://naacpdac.org/>

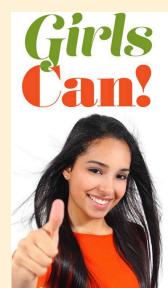
Note: AAUW Table sponsorship ticket purchases will be made by AAUW-LC. Brunch tickets are \$50 EACH.

We already have reservations for 1 table of 8 and would like to have a 2nd table of 8! PLEASE JOIN US by emailing Barbara McGuffey at bamcguffey@gmail.com to make your reservation asap. Eight reservations will be accepted in order of email receipt and **you will be emailed when your reservation is confirmed to make your payment to AAUW-LC**. You will also be emailed if you are on a waitlist for notification of any cancellations.

Girls Can!

Reminder: Girls Can! will be on Saturday Morning, March 7, 2026, at the East Mesa Campus of the Dona Ana Community College.

The **Girls Can!** program committee has finished its work, and the school contacts have been made to begin collecting registrations at the end of January, continuing into February.



The next big task is to line up volunteers. If you can be available either on or before March 7, please email Leslie Gibson at appetips@gmail.com or text her at

612.412.5495 and let her know your availability.

Pat Johnson, Girls Can! Coordinator

Valentine's Day Service Project "Period Poverty"

Please plan to bring a donation of feminine hygiene products to our February 14th Meeting.



Donations will support DACC and NMSU women students.

Watch for more information in the February OMV.

Laura Bemis

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.

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

Mark Your Calendars For Our January Going Places Adventure

On Friday, January 16, we will visit the Ghost Town of Chloride

Chloride got its start in the late 1870s by accident when Harry Pye, a mule skinner for the U.S. Army, was hauling freight through the area and noticed some "float" that looked promising. He had the rocks assayed and found that they were rich in chloride of silver. Pye kept his find secret until his contract with the Army expired, then he and two of his companions returned to Chloride Canyon and staked a claim. Within a few months the Pye party was attacked by Indians and Pye was killed.

The word got out about a rich silver strike and soon miners came and a tent city sprung up. By 1881 Chloride had eight saloons, three mercantile stores, two butcher shops, a hotel, boarding houses, a livery, a candy store, a Chinese laundry and much more.

Come see what is left of this interesting piece of New Mexico history

We will leave Las Cruces at 8:30am. Planned arrival in Chloride is 10am. While in Chloride, we will visit the museum (former mercantile shop) and the gift shop (former dance hall and saloon). There are over 70 local artists in the area that are represented in this unique gift shop. We will also visit one of the 2 cemeteries with headstones dating to the 1800s.

We have two options for lunch. 1. If it is nice weather, there is a sweet picnic area next to the Museum. Bring your sandwich, thermos of coffee or cold drink, and something

to share (chips, cookies, etc) . 2. We can drive back to TorC (closest town...56 miles) and have lunch there.

Please email me or call to reserve your spot. If you can drive, let me know how many people you can take in your car. If you prefer to ride with someone, please let me know. Let me know which lunch option (1 or 2) you prefer.

The town is being restored by a private family without grants or funding. Please bring a donation and, if you are riding with someone, gas money for our chauffeurs.

Hope to see you on this adventure.

Michele Rasch

Rasch@sbcc.edu

805 452 2789

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 January 12 at 1:30 pm to discuss *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. Contact: **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on January 26 at 1:30 pm to discuss the Readers' Choice *Good Night Irene*, by Luis Alberto Urrea and/or *When The World Goes Quiet* by Gian Sardar. 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 Contact: **Susan Hychka** for a briefing book and further details.

Going Places **See announcement above** 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.

Thinking of you.....

When you learn of a member who has medical issues, personal loss, or a reason for celebration or recognition, please contact [**RoseAnn Hernández**](#) so she can show our support with a personalized card.



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.

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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[AAUW membership benefits](#)

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ACADEMY FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

Spring 2026 Semester Series begins January 6th.
“Health Care Crisis: Provider Shortage in New Mexico”
Dates: January 6th, 8th, 13th, and 14th

Courses offered at DACC Auditorium- East Mesa
2800 North Sonoma Ranch Blvd.
Lectures are 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

For Course Schedule and Registration
Click on QR Code or go to this website
<https://tinyurl.com/ALR-Reg>
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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



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