



The ROADRUNNER

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The ROADRUNNER is a quarterly publication of AAUW-NM.

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Please submit address changes to your branch membership chair.

Members-at-large: Notify AAUW Records Office, 1111 16th St., Washington, DC 20038.

AAUW AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Many AAUW-NM members are concerned by the fact that as of January 1, 2008, AAUW no longer will be a member of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW). This situation was brought about by finances, not by a lack of interest in international affairs. Throughout our history, AAUW members have worried about people and events that impact women and children around the globe. These feelings have not changed, and our organization continues its efforts in the international arena, but no longer as a member of IFUW.



AAUW's first International Relations Committee was formed in 1917 as World War I fostered a keener interest in international affairs. Today, the International Affairs Committee has six members, one of whom is Esther Scher from Arizona. Some of this committee's activities include working with other groups to ensure the ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), working on initiatives for universal primary education, and raising awareness of the issue of trafficking of women and creating networks of resistance against the problem.

In 1940, AAUW members inaugurated the Refugee Aid Fund to assist university women fleeing Europe. And, in 1945, the International Grants division of the Fellowships Program was formed. Many of the current Educational Foundation (EF) fellowships and grants are designated for international students. The Corrine Wolfe Endowment that AAUW-NM is working to complete was established as one of these international fellowships.

In 1946, AAUW was granted permanent United Nations observer status. Today, Carolyn Donovan is AAUW's representative to the U.N. She attends various U.N. committee meetings at least once a week and then brings information to AAUW leaders, advocating AAUW's support of the U.N. agenda in areas affecting women and girls (including poverty, education, women in peacekeeping, HIV/AIDS, early marriage, and female genital mutilation).

AAUW has established partnerships with several organizations that perform international work. The most recent partnership is with CARE, with whom we sponsored a short story contest in the fall of 2007. Other partnerships include One Shared World (a connection to public and private efforts to help people in developing countries overcome poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and disease) and Imaging Ourselves (a platform for young women to create change in their lives, communities, and their world).

The International Corner on the AAUW website, www.aauw.org, has suggestions for branch programs and projects, a reading list, a discussion board, and links to the websites of our international partners. Visit the website soon and be assured that AAUW remains very much concerned with international affairs.

Nina & Nancy, N²

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THANK YOU ALBUQUERQUE

We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to the Albuquerque Branch members for hosting the wonderful Fall Workshop and Leadership Team meeting the last weekend of October. Many people contributed to this success. Branch co-presidents, Diane Scholfield and Cindy Wise, made facility arrangements with the CMC Elegante hotel and capably chaired some of the sessions. Jan Bray contacted and arranged for the speakers. Dixie Trebbe took the reservations. Antje Muir arranged for more than twenty of us to attend the wonderfully funny production of "Mornings at Seven" at the Adobe Theater Saturday evening. Other branch members helped with the details, providing escorts to several local restaurants and a delicious breakfast for the leadership team Sunday morning. Muchos gracias, AAUW Albuquerque!

Nina Thayer & Nancy Scheer, Co-presidents

AND THE WINNER IS...

The spectacular Acoma pot was won by Dixie Trebbe, our AAUW-NM public policy co-chair, during lunch at the Fall Workshop in Albuquerque. Congratulations, Dixie!



The tickets for the drawing were sold over the past year and right up to the time of the drawing. All money earned funded the "travelships" awarded last spring for travel to the Association convention last June. Nine AAUW-NM members were awarded \$220 each to help defray the costs of travel, hotel, and registration. AAUW-NM thanks Janet Matwiyoff for her selection and generous donation of the lovely pottery and all members who supported this effort by purchasing tickets. New Mexico had 22 delegates in Phoenix, who will form a core of knowledgeable and dedicated leaders for our future.

A big thank you to all those who purchased Quilt Raffle tickets from the Las Cruces Branch at the State Fall Workshop.

The lovely floral piece was won by a long time, very active, most deserving branch member, Ann Palormo.

The money earned from this raffle, over \$740, will be distributed between EF, LAF, VQIF, and the Las Cruces Branch NMSU Endowment Fund.

MINI-GRANT UPDATE

At the AAUW-NM Fall Leadership Team meeting, mini-grants were awarded to the Grant County, Las Cruces, Carlsbad, and Las Vegas branches. Congratulations to all.

Grant County will again be hosting the *Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics Conference* on the first of March. This program, in its 16th year, offers an introduction to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) careers, and targets fifth to eighth grade girls. Their mini-grant will help defray the cost of a pizza lunch.

The *Girls Can!!* project, hosted by the Las Cruces branch, encourages middle school girls to explore several careers, and offers parents information to help their daughters achieve their goals. This half-day workshop, also March 1, brings girls together in hands-on workshops with talented women from many varied careers. Their mini-grant will be used for registration scholarships.



The Carlsbad branch held a successful *Girls' Rocket Launch* in mid-October. The branch believes narrowing the pay equity gap is dependent upon encouraging girls to continue their education beyond high school and to consider math- and science-related fields. This event allowed middle school age girls to do just that. Their mini-grant monies will replace funds that were used to purchase rockets and fund scholarships.



Las Vegas' mini-grant will be used to offset expenses for two outreach programs: a Community Forum in cooperation with the United World College titled *Bringing It Back Home: The Faces of Immigration*, by Mandalit de Barco of NPR; and a workshop for women in cooperation with the Luna Community College titled *The Pay Gap/Panning for Your Financial Future*.

With the mini-grants awarded to the Socorro and Los Alamos branches during the summer, we have given the most mini-grants ever in a one-year period. AAUW NM is very pleased to be able to support its branches in this way. A mini-grant review team has been set up by the leadership team to formalize criteria for the future.

Thank you branches for taking advantage of this state support and again, CONGRATULATIONS on all the wonderful community projects and events.

Carol Ann Council, Mini-Grant chair

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2008 LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING AND LEGISLATIVE DAY



The Santa Fe branch once again is hosting the AAUW State Leadership Team meeting on Sunday, January 27, followed by our annual Legislative Day on Monday, January 28. The meeting, followed by a potluck dinner, will be held as in previous years at the Santa Fe Skies RV Park, thanks to branch member Flossie Brown.

If you are interested in a Bed and Breakfast opportunity for Sunday night with a Santa Fe branch member, please call Sandra Bradley at 505-983-5125, or e-mail her at sand-brad@aol.com.

To reach the Santa Fe Skies RV Park, follow the directions below:

- Coming north on I-25 from Albuquerque, take exit 276A. Turn right at the bottom of the off ramp. Proceed straight through the stoplight at NM Hwy 14, going past the Allsup's/Phillips 66 which will be on your right. Santa Fe Skies RV Park is about 1/2 mile up the road on the left. You can't miss it!
- Coming south from Las Vegas, take the 276 exit from I-25. Turn left under I-25 and continue to the stoplight as mentioned above.
- If you are coming from downtown Santa Fe, just travel south on Cerrillos Road crossing under I-25 until you get to the traffic light at the Allsup's/Phillips 66 gas station. Take a left at the light and come on up the hill about 1/2 mile, we're on the left at the top of the hill.

Call the RV Park at 505-473-5946 or 1-877-565-0451 if you need more help finding it.



The Leadership Team meeting will begin at 12:30, followed by a social hour and dinner from 5:00 to 6:30. After dinner, State Representative Rick Miera, chair of the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC), will speak on New Mexico's P-20 educational project. We hope to have a second speaker address math and science education initiatives. Following the speakers, we will have three very short information sessions related to Lobby Day and the up coming election year activities, described in the program titled *Power of One Vote*.

On Monday morning, those members who are planning to lobby will meet in the foyer of the governor's office. Members from the same districts will form groups to visit their legislators, and decide whether to visit their representative or senator, or divide up and visit both. First time lobbyists should partner with experienced members. There are certain ground rules that must be followed, such as no questions until a speaker has finished speaking. As there are between five and ten minutes allowed for questions, be sure to write your questions down. Also, no one may ask a second question of a legislator until everyone present has had an opportunity to ask a first question. Dixie Trebbe can help anyone who needs a "refresher course" on the ground rules.

Once again, we have reserved a room for lunch at the Mission Café and Sweet Shop, 239 E. DeVargas, directly across from the Roundhouse. Lunch is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Please call Jean Bahr at (505) 983-1947 to make a reservation, or, for those attending the Leadership Team meeting, sign up at the dinner following the meeting on Sunday evening.

There is room around the large table at the restaurant for up to 25 people. This year, you will be able to order an entrée and drink at the counter upon entering and get an individual receipt at that time. Tax and tip will be added to your total when you pay.

The Mission Café and Sweet Shop serves Mexican entrees, burgers, sandwiches, soups, and salads. They have many vegetarian selections for those members who are non-carnivores.

Shelly Roszbach, President, Santa Fe
Dixie Trebbe, Public Policy Co-chair
Jean Bahr, Academic Co-coordinator

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EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION UPDATE

The BIG news is that AAUW-NM has been blessed with a very generous contribution to the Educational Foundation (EF). An anonymous donor will match every dollar up to \$10,000 raised in New Mexico that is designated for the Corrine Wolfe International Fellowship Endowment. With this incentive, we were able to raise \$1100 in October. This amount was raised from active branch members. What a boost this has been for the Corrine Wolfe International Endowment. We are hoping to raise even more money in November and December. The process is in place to contact all 280 New Mexico members-at-large and encourage them to make a contribution.

Corrine Wolfe was a Santa Fe AAUW member who worked tirelessly to help the powerless and the disadvantaged. She was a knowledgeable advocate for social issues, and a familiar sight in the state Capitol during legislative sessions, championing causes that improved life for all New Mexicans. The AAUW Educational Foundation Corrine H. Wolfe International Endowment was established to honor her work. The goal is to raise \$100,000, and more than half has been raised. A yearly scholarship will be awarded to an international woman studying social science once the endowment is completed.

Your gift to honor this woman who made life better for all New Mexicans will be greatly appreciated, and it will be doubled by another generous gift. There are two ways to contribute:

- On-line -- Be sure that you designate your donation for the "Corrine Wolfe #4226" fund. Only then will we be able to match the contribution.
- Write a tax-deductible check to AAUW-EF and in the memo line add "Corrine Wolfe #4226". You either can mail the check to the AAUW Development Office, P.O. Box 630832, Baltimore, MD 21263-0832, or to Rosmarie Frederickson, New Mexico EF Chair, 1372 47th Street, Los Alamos, NM 87544

PUBLIC POLICY REPORT



The Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC), co-chaired by State Representative Rick Miera of Albuquerque, met in Las Cruces from October 15 through October 17. The committee reported on a new initiative: the Innovative Digital Education and Learning—New Mexico, or IDEAL-NM. This is a cooperative effort between the Public Education Department and Higher Education Department to implement a statewide electronic learning (eLearning) delivery system for grades K through 12, as well as for post-secondary education. This effort will include a state-wide cyber academy and electronic learning service center to support the use of the eLearning delivery system. Students in the program will spend 25 percent of their time in school and 75 percent at home working on the computer. Programs will be customized for each student, addressing learning disabilities and English language proficiency.

The first phase of IDEAL-NM is the implementation of the cyber academy that will allow all public middle and high schools to acquire eLearning course for their students. The initial emphasis will be on rural school districts.

The following is the projected timeline for this initiative:

- November 10, 2007—Awarding a contract for the Learning Management System
- November 30, 2007—Opening the eLearning Center in offices leased from the Rio Rancho Cyber Academy. The IDEAL-NM and Statewide Cyber Academy staff will operate from this center.
- December, 2007—Procure web-conferencing services and help desk software; train help desk staff and have a fully operational help desk
- February 28, 2008—Complete the E-services web portal. Upon implementation of the Learning Management System, the web portal will allow access to online courses and professional development opportunities.
- June 2, 2008—Have functioning data centers in operation.
- August 1, 2008—Open the Statewide Cyber Academy

The 2007 State Legislature appropriated approximately \$7.6 million for this initiative.

Dolores Halls, Public Policy Co-chair

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ACADEMIC REPORT

The LESC recently met in Las Cruces and although many topics were included, I want to concentrate on the Mathematics and Science Education Act. In 2007, this act established a Mathematics and Science Bureau within the Public Education Department. (PED). In 2006 and 2007, funds were also appropriated for summer reading, mathematics, and science institutes for teacher professional development. Other legislation implemented additional mathematics and science requirements for high school graduation. Schools will be required to offer algebra in eighth grade, and districts will be required to align curricula in science and mathematics. Federal legislation was also passed in 2007 to improve mathematics and science education and research.

New Mexico has some of the strongest standards in mathematics and science in the country; however, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the state's student achievement levels are among the lowest in the country. Proficiency in both mathematics and science is greatest in grades three and four, while grades six, seven, and eight have the lowest proficiency rates of all grades. Prior to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act, state participation in NAEP was voluntary; however, since NCLB took effect, states must administer the assessment to groups of students in grades four and eight in order to receive Title I funds. In 2007, the test was administered to 52 jurisdictions in the US. New Mexico was one of fourteen states that reflected gains in both grades four and eight. However, it should be noted that even though gains have been made, New Mexico remains the third lowest scoring jurisdiction in both fourth and eighth grade mathematics. In science, New Mexico fourth graders rank third lowest and eighth graders rank second lowest. The achievement gap still remains between white students, Hispanic students, and Native American students. Students qualifying for free or reduced lunch scored significantly lower than those who did not qualify.

As stated earlier, New Mexico has strong standards for math and science education, but these existing standards have not been implemented evenly statewide. About forty nine percent of New Mexico high school graduates who attended New Mexico colleges had to take remedial math courses (elementary algebra or lower). Also, preparation of secondary math and science teachers in New Mexico is now inadequate to meet the need for replacements.

To meet some of the challenges, the state has appropriated \$2.5 million to support summer institutes for fiscal year 2008. In 2007, with \$1 million, a total of 2349 teachers participated in summer institutes. However, there was a wide disparity in the number of teachers from a given district who participated. For example, there were seventy-three teachers from Las Cruces compared to four hundred seventy teachers from Santa Fe.

Ruth Benjamins, Academic Co-chair

NOMINATIONS UPDATE

The AAUW-NM Leadership Team confirmed the appointment of Marilyn Dunn, AAUW- Albuquerque, and Louise Drlik, AAUW-Las Vegas, for the 2007-2008 Nominating Team.

This year the following positions are open: President; Membership Coordinator; Recording Secretary; Academic Coordinator; Media Relations Coordinator; Educational Foundation Chair; and Nominations Chair. I am happy to report that several of the members already holding these positions have agreed to continue, but opportunities are still available. Please let one of the team know if you are interested in serving AAUW at the state level. And please, be receptive if we call on you!

Carol Ann Council, Nominations Chair

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL
AND BEST WISHES FOR A
WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!**



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

If your branch is still holding on to dues for 2007-2008, please get them to Virginia Spruiell ASAP so that we can have an accurate membership count for AAUW-NM!

Remember that we are continuing the "Member-Get-A-Member" campaign for the 2007-2008 membership year. Awards will be given at all levels for branches with the highest percentage membership increase and individuals who have sponsored the most new members. **Half year dues take effect on January 1st!**

Please encourage all your branch members to register on the Association's database. It is so-o-o easy to do! Go to www.aauw.org and find "Member Services" at the top of the screen. Under "Member Services" there is a link to the database. You will need your membership number, but if you don't have it, you can retrieve it on the site. Through the database each member can update a personal profile, officers can check and update branch membership information, etc. Once a member updates a profile, the information is changed throughout the entire database – a great time-saver for officers when filing reports and also for ensuring that any change in information (such as the new 575 area code) is recorded at all levels of AAUW. The site is really impressive!

Thanks to all of you who are working so hard at the branch level to increase our membership and make AAUW a powerful voice in New Mexico!

Mary Sandford and Antje Muir, Membership Co-chairs

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INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS REPORT

The AAUW international corner on the website (www.aauw.org) regularly publishes internet connections for those who wish to engage in explorations of programs with CARE and with other organizations who share an international interest.

For those who have been following the developments relating to membership in IFUW, there is now some specific information relating to the new USA national affiliate being formed within the IFUW network.

During the August 2007 IFUW Triennial Conference in Manchester, England, over 30 USA IFUW members met with IFUW leaders and staff to set in motion the formation of a new national affiliate to take the place of AAUW, which officially withdrew from IFUW at its National Convention in June 2007. During the two Manchester sessions, a name was chosen: Women Graduates – USA (WG for short), and a website established.

As of October 25th, WG has approved an interim board of officers, bylaws, articles of incorporation, a mission statement, and dues. The organization must yet acquire 501c3 tax status to make its dues fully deductible. It is now in the process of having its bylaws approved by IFUW.

Meanwhile, full information is available on the website: www.wg-usa.org. The interim officers will be in place until the first annual meeting to be conducted during the 4th quarter of 2008, when the first elections will take place. In the meantime, officers are: Florine Swanson (IA), president; Carolyn Cowgill (PA), secretary; Barbara Carey (NM), treasurer; and Kathleen Laurila (MN), Coordinator of International Relations (CIR). The other board members are Claire Stein (AZ); Myrna Brown (VA), program chair; and Louise McLeod (PA), website manager. Kathryn Horvat (UT) is the archival historian, and Ronni Nivala (NY) is the liaison to AAUW.

The mission of WG-USA is to **Empower women globally through education, friendship, and mutual support to secure a better world.** An official program, based upon the UN millennium goals and the IFUW plan of action, is now being developed by a committee headed by Myrna Brown. Interested parties may contact her through the website. Dues, which are now payable, will apply for the 2008 calendar year. The portion allotted for IFUW dues will be forwarded to IFUW on a monthly basis as it is collected. The official WG membership form, which should now be completed, is available online through the website and may be filled out electronically. Women graduates from accredited colleges and universities are eligible to join. At this time, dues cannot be paid by credit card and must be sent by check made out to WG-USA in the amount of \$50 and mailed to Barbara Carey, Treasurer; 1308 Gamma Street; Carlsbad, NM 88220. Those who registered earlier will receive a direct dues announcement by email.

Email contact is essential for all members since there is no provision at present for any paper publications. However, WG-USA lapel pins will be mailed to the first 1001 people to join as charter members after they have paid their dues. Additional contributions are also being accepted to pay incorporation fees and other organizational establishment expenses. To date, over \$2000 in seed money has been pledged. The officers, board, and committees continue to meet through email, and will have another self-funded face-to-face meeting in New York City in April 2008. New developments and information relating to international interests will be regularly posted on the website.

Barbara Carey, International Interest Liaison

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND UPDATE

Since 1981, the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) has contributed more than \$1.3 million to more than 100 cases involving women fighting sex discrimination in higher education. LAF offers plaintiffs financial assistance and outreach for their cases, but does not engage in litigation

LAF has adopted two new plaintiffs. Melissa Jennings, a former student and soccer player at the University of North Carolina, brought a claim against the university alleging that the head coach sexually harassed players on the team. Sherry Towers, a post-doctoral research scientist, is suing the State University of New York at Stony Brook for sex and pregnancy discrimination under Title VII and Title IX, unequal pay, and denial of pregnancy leave. For more information, visit www.aauw.org/advocacy/laf.



In January, we will raffle another beautiful Native American pot to benefit LAF. The raffle will occur during the Winter Leadership Team meeting in Santa Fe.

Lina Germann, LAF Chair

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BRANCH NEWS

Grant County, Emily Warner, President

The Grant County Branch has had an action-packed fall. Our last year's kick-off reception was so successful that we did it again! Mrs. Barbara Counts hosted the lovely event where we registered seven new members. In October, member Shauna McCosh gave an overview of the Grant County Community Health Council and then gathered our thoughts as a focus group for the proposed Women's and Infants Center at Gila Regional Medical Center.

Many of us have been diligently planning the 16th annual Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) conference. I have learned it takes more than five women to replace Adrienne Dare. Adrienne is still helping a great deal, but they will soon have their new camper and she will be off to enjoy the outdoors and other parts of the country, instead of sitting in committee meetings this spring. We are so grateful she is still involved with EYH.

The branch is held an international "bring and share" dinner for our November meeting. We invited the Western New Mexico University international students to join us, and new member Beverly Allen-Ananins spoke on diversity. Our latest newsletter contained a profile of Corinne Wolfe and introduced the availability of the \$10,000 matching funds to help establish the fellowship in her name. We held our annual EF/LAF Holiday Brunch and Auction on December 1st, then took a welcome break over the holidays before we get really busy with EYH.

Our best holiday wishes go to all our AAUW friends.

Las Cruces, Phoebe Pierce, President

Our September program focused on Fabiola Cabeza de Baca Gilbert and New Mexico Traditions, presented by AAUW Las Cruces member Jo Tice Bloom, Ph.D. Refreshments were provided by the International Dinner interest group with recipes from *Historic Cookery* by Fabiola Gilbert. Fabiola Gilbert did not follow the traditional role for women at that time in New Mexico, but forged her own path especially in the area of food preparation and nutrition. In October, our meeting featured education and meeting student needs in the Las Cruces Public School System, and included a panel of middle and high school students. The students were very articulate and had definite opinions about their education and why other students drop out of school.

The new superintendent of the Las Cruces Public Schools, Stan Rounds, spoke in November about what was happening in the Las Cruces Public Schools, including the challenges of new schools to meet the growth projections of Las Cruces, participation in education with the Doña Ana Community College, and the problem of student drop-outs and absenteeism. Our December Holiday Party was a luncheon this year to avoid conflicts with other scheduled community events. We brought gifts to the luncheon to be distributed to Jardin de los Niños, our local day care for homeless children, and La Casa Women's Shelter. We did not have our usual rummage sale this fall, but instead raffled a lovely quilt/wall hanging donated by one of our members. We also are planning a theater event fundraiser to be held after the first of the year.

Of course, we have not forgotten that election activity is in full swing and how important the *Power of One Vote* and the *Woman to Woman Voter Turnout* are to the voting process. We hope to work with the League of Women Voters, as we have in the past. We can accomplish so much when we work together.

Las Vegas, Karyl Lyne, President

The Las Vegas Branch began the year welcoming 11 new members. We're very excited about the energy and creativity they bring to us.

Our program booklet was produced by our computer whiz and Program Vice President Meta Levister, who has made it available to us electronically so we can print it ourselves. Not only does this save the branch a lot of money, it allows those of us who want our AAUW directory by every phone, by the computer, and in our AAUW bag to have it available.

ACLU's Northern New Mexico Director Diane Wood gave us a legislative preview at our October meeting. Many of us heard Diane in Santa Fe last January. She talked about a bill called K-3 Plus, which calls for funding to extend the school year by 25 days for K-3 students in schools where students are academically at risk. She also spoke about the need for New Mexico to revisit and upgrade its entire education funding formula, which will cost \$380 million over the next three years. When New Mexico created its current formula a few years ago, it was good, but there was no cost of living increase built in, so it is no longer adequate. Diane also talked about legislation dealing with domestic partners, repeal of the death penalty, health care with language from *Roe v Wade* regarding reproductive rights, human trafficking, whistle blowing, and the discussion regarding funding to pay our legislators. It's great to be able to go to state meetings and hear super speakers and then to invite them to our branch meetings. Thank you, Santa Fe branch for introducing us to Diane.

On October 26, AAUW and the United World College co-sponsored a public forum at UWC, *The Faces of Immigration: Bringing It Home*, featuring NPR journalist Mandalit del Barco. Ms. Del Barco, an immigrant herself, discussed issues from cross-border street gang issues to the marches for immigrant rights in 2006 to the participation of immigrants in the Iraq war. The event was recorded for re-broadcast by KUNM in Albuquerque.

We're once again hoping to identify young women in our community who are single parents and to encourage them to go back to school. On November 8 we'll meet with a group of these women and listen to their stories, their interests, concerns, and needs. From there we'll build a program to help. We call the project SOS—Support Our Sisters.

We're looking forward to participating again this year in the Christmas Arts and Crafts Fair as a fundraising activity. Not only did we have a great time together last year "womaning" our table for the two-day event, we made a nice amount of money and found talents in our group we didn't know we had!

Finally, we're delighted to announce that the website for the Las Vegas Branch is up and operational. This is thanks to some very hard work by Meta Levister, with help from colleagues at Luna Community College where Meta teaches, and AAUW's state web page chair, Denise George. Our address is aauw-nm.org/Las_Vegas/index.html.

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REMEMBER THESE DATES!

2007

December 30
Postmark deadline for
all EF and EF sub-fund
contributions

2008

January 1
Half-year dues now
accepted

January 22
Choice Rally

January 27
Winter Leadership
Team Meeting

January 28
Legislative Day

February 17
Spring Roadrunner
deadline

April 24
Equal Pay Day

April 25—27
Spring Leadership
Team Meeting and
State Convention, West
Mesa Branch

May 17
Deadline for Summer
Roadrunner

June 30
Deadline for payment of
2007-2008 dues

MORE BRANCH NEWS

Los Alamos, Helena Whyte and Natalie Markin, Facilitators

Our Kickoff program in September featured a discussion of Leadership Skills presented by Jill Cook, Chief Credit Officer and Senior Vice President of Los Alamos National Bank. Jill won a New Mexico woman of the year award and completed the Leadership New Mexico core program. We added five new members at this meeting.

In October, we collaborated with the Mesa Public Library Authors Speakers Program to invite Judith Van Gieson, the author of 13 mystery novels set in New Mexico. Her books have been regional and Independent Mystery Booksellers Association bestsellers. The *Shadow of Venus* was given the ZIA Award from New Mexico Press Women for the best work of fiction by a New Mexico woman and was nominated for the Barry Award for the best paperback original of 2004. She was awarded the Spirit of Magnifico Literary Award in 1996, and the Bravos Excellence in Literary Arts Award in 2002. Van Gieson lives in Albuquerque's North Valley. She taught a master class in the crime novel at the 2007 Taos Summer Writers Conference.

In November, we held the Let's Read Math workshop in collaboration with Los Alamos Public Schools and Mesa Public Library. Los Alamos received a mini-grant to begin this program. The Let's Read Math program was created by the Makefield, PA branch for K-4 children to overcome fear of math. We read the book *The Greedy Triangle* by Marilyn Burns. The little triangle is happy with the important jobs he has—holding up bridges, playing in the orchestra, and making sailboats. But he yearns to have just ONE more side and ONE more angle. The magic shapeshifter turns him into a square, then a pentagon, then a hexagon. Finally, he has so many sides he can hardly stand up! Was it a good idea for him to want to be different? Participants in the workshop created two- and three-dimensional geometrical shapes using marshmallows and toothpicks. They identified triangles, squares, and polygons in everyday objects and in architecture, and progressed to cubes, prisms, and pyramids.

Our December program was titled *Scholarships, Sangria, and Tapas*, and was an EF Fundraiser and Holiday Party at the home of Nina and Gary Thayer. The Fundraiser benefited the Corinne Wolfe International Fellowship Endowment Fund. Party goers participated as Tutor, Educator, or Scholar supporters.

In January, we are planning a collaboration with the Los Alamos League of Women Voters—Legislative Preview, and in March, an International Relations program featuring two Iranian women who will discuss Iranian history and the current state of life for women in Iran.

TWO DVD'S AVAILABLE FROM AAUW-NM

At the Association Convention in Phoenix, Arizona this past summer, attendees were privileged to hear Sherry Schiller deliver a dynamic speech regarding changes to the structure of AAUW. Sherry is an organizational change expert and AAUW strategic process consultant. In her speech, she urged the membership to embrace what she dubbed the "Phoenix Rising" scenario for AAUW's future. Her own words were "Choose to look for the good...to believe that you can make the difference and frame the positive... We can create our own reality." The speech was recorded on DVD. The title of this DVD is *Change and AAUW's Strategic Process Planning*. It is about 1 hour and 15 minutes long. The second DVD is titled *Because Equity is Still an Issue*, and is about 6 minutes long.

If you are interested in borrowing these DVD's for your branch activities, please contact Natalie Markin, Program Co-chair, at (505) 662-9399, (505) 663-3874, or natalie@lanb.com. AAUW-NM will pay to mail the DVD's, but your branch will have to pay to return them. If you prefer to purchase copies for your branch, please visit the Shop AAUW page at www.aauw.org, or contact Shop AAUW by phone at 1-800-225-9998.



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