

Members Enjoying Meet and Greet Time at March Meeting



Poets in the Classroom



Bonnie Rucobo

Bonnie Rucobo, member of the Albuquerque Branch, talked about her experiences in working with children in four elementary schools in the North Valley and in and near Old Town. Poets in the Classroom was organized nine years ago. Last year, Bonnie accepted the responsibility of recruiting and organizing poets who share their love of poetry with students. Last year the poets reached 1200 children. Bonnie stated that forty poets participated this year and every poet showed up for their assigned class.

On display at the meeting were prints of six paintings in the collection at the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History. Bonnie serves as a docent at the museum. She talked the museum staff about the Poets in the Classroom program. Museum staff responded by offering to provide prints that students could use as inspiration for a poem. Bonnie read several of the poems written by the children. Her dream is to find funding to publish the poems in a book for each school that would be at a cost the families could afford. Bonnie's stories of the effect of Poets in the Classroom on the children and their families were touching. What a wonderful gift of creativity this group of poets are giving children.



AAUW TECH TREK NEW MEXICO

The CBS program *Sixty Minutes* aired a program about AAUW Tech Trek. Educators know a girl's interest in computers and science wanes in middle school. The program explains what can be done to prevent girls from considering courses in these areas.

To view the broadcast go to <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/girls-in-tech-confronting-the-middle-school-cliff-60-minutes/>

Tech Trek 2019 Update

There are 127 applicants state wide for the 2019 Tech Trek Camp. Approximately half of the 58 Bernalillo County area applicants were interviewed March 16th. The remaining interviews will be on March 23rd. The Selection Committee will meet in April to select from the statewide applicants for sixty girls plus alternates for the Tech Trek Cam June 9-15 at New Mexico Tech in Socorro.



Board Chair Julia Brown and CEO Kim Churches have announced that there will be no physical convention in 2020. There will still be some virtual events. Recent Conventions have operated at a great loss. As part of our strategic plan to be fiscally sound, the Board of Directors have opted for alternatives to a physical Convention.

"We're happy to announce plans for the first virtual event in the 2020 series next January. "A 2020 Vision for Equity" will bring together a panel with leaders from politics, business and beyond to share their insights about the progress made in women's equity and the future of our movement. More information about this virtual event and the 2020 online series go to: <https://www.aauw.org/convention/>

Nominating Committee Report

Janet Matiyoff, chair of the nominating committee reported to the Board of Directors that Ted Cooley, a longtime member has agreed to serve as Co-Vice President for Program and Rae Sporin, a new member, has agreed to serve as treasurer. Both candidates were asked to prepare a statement about themselves as a person and as a member of AAUW.

Introduction to Rae Lee Siporin

I am the first in my immediate family to go to college and as a result have always had a special value for the advantages higher education provides, especially to first generation students. And especially to female students. My professional life has been in higher education, starting as a full-time faculty member and working into full time administration. I've been the Academic Dean at a small private college in New England, Dean of General Studies at a smallish public college in New Jersey, Director of Planning at a large semipublic university and ended as the Director of

Undergraduate Admission at a large, highly selective public university on the west coast. So, I have experienced college across the country, in large and small, public and private institutions. During some of this time I continued to teach my favorite course, freshman writing.

While I have contributed financially to national AAUW for several years as part of my commitment to encourage and support women in higher education, this is the first time I have become involved at the local level. It seemed a logical next step in continuing my own growth in and support of women's issues. My professional experiences included supervising a program that worked to increase low income and underrepresented minority students going on to college. Thus, the STEM program is a natural for my hands-on commitment to young women. I have been very impressed with the monthly programs offered by the branch and look forward to meeting more members, attending the monthly presentations and to assisting where I can.

Ted Cooley

I am a retired Disciples of Christ pastor and I, also retired from the state of NM. My spouse Eleanor has been a life member AAUW since 1969, so when I retired in 2003, I joined AAUW. Shortly after retirement, I was co-president of the Albuquerque Branch for 4 years. I managed the state convention of "Women across Borders" with a speaker from Ciudad Chihuahua. I developed, led, and drove for senior hikers and am still hiking. I am active at Monte Vista Christian Church, an open and affirming congregation with gay and lesbian membership. Eleanor is still teaching for UNM Continuing Education in religious studies, with all the support I can give her.

Proposed Change in AAUW ABQ Bylaws And Policy and Procedures

AAUW- Albuquerque governance committee (Liz Gordon and Pat Maben) reviewed the bylaws and policies and procedures of the branch. On March 21, the Board of Directors voted electronically to present the changes to the membership. On April 2, the recommendation to delete the bylaw that allows dues for new members joining between March 15 and July to be half price will be presented for a vote of the membership. AAUW national eliminated one half price dues for new members in March of 2018. Below is the proposed change for AAUW-Albuquerque Bylaws. There is also a change to clarify the time period for paying dues.

Article VIII. Branch Membership and Dues

Section 2 Branch Dues

c. Member dues shall be payable as follows:

- (1) Continuing Members pay Branch, AAUW-NM and AAUW National dues.
- (2) Paid Life Members continue to pay Branch and AAUW-NM dues.
- (3) Honorary Life Members are exempt from paying Branch and AAUW-NM dues.
- (4) New members may join at any time. Dues are payable upon joining and shall be forwarded to AAUW immediately. ~~The AAUW, AAUW-NM, and Branch portions of dues of dues paid by new members, joining between January 1 and March 15 shall be one half (1/2) the annual dues. This also applies to members who rejoin AAUW after an absence of two years or more~~
- (5) Dues are payable ~~on or before~~ between March 15 and July 1 for the upcoming fiscal year.



Membership

Member's Choice: There are three different ways to renew your membership and update contact information if needed:

1. Pay dues at April or May General Meetings
2. Mail dues to "AAUW Albuquerque Branch, Albuquerque Branch Treasurer, PO Box 92643, Albuquerque, NM 87199-2643. After the May luncheon, a renewal dues renewal notice will be mailed.
3. Renew online at: aauw.org under Membership and Renew your Branch Membership.

If you do not have an AAUW account, you will need to create one to pay dues online. You will need your Member ID number to set up an account. Please contact Cheri Burch or Claudia Poglitsch if you need help logging online to your AAUW account.

Albuquerque Branch dues for the coming year are \$95 (\$56 tax deductible). Dues for Life Members are \$36. Checks are payable to "AAUW Albuquerque Branch".

Other Membership Items

A number of members have become "**buddies**" to new members. This will help to know you have a friend in AAUW of whom you can call or ask questions. We could use at least 6 more. Please consider signing up at the next General Meeting or call me, Shila Marek at 369-1521.

4th Tuesday Interest Group is a good way to get to know AAUW Members in a casual, social setting, for new members and longtime members. Join us March 26 at Cinnamon Café at Mountain Run at 10:30. Join us March 26 at Cinnamon Café at Mountain Run at 10:30.

Consider attending the State Convention in Las Cruces. Several board members are going and have room for another member. If you come to the April 6 meeting, you can talk with board members about the convention. There will a celebration of the 100th Anniversary of passage of the XIX Amendment that women the vote. There will be a program on Demanding our Worth. Several members of our Branch will be honored as past presidents: Mary Campbell, Marion Isidoro, Marilyn Dunn, Shelley Rossbach (dual member with Santa Fe) and Sylvia Fink. Do you know what important event occurred on June 4, 1919?

Yes, you are right!

Women received the right to vote Just 100 years ago on this date.

The phone number for Ellen Donovan was incorrect in the March newsletter. Ellen's phone number is 505-206-2909.

Shila Marek, Vice President for Membership



Interest Groups

New members are welcome in all interest groups. Contact the chair for information.

4th TUESDAY. Meets the 4th Tuesday. The group will meet on **April 23** at Cinnamon Cafe at Mountain Run. Consider joining Janet and other members at 10:30 to visit and have a cup of coffee or tea. This is a way to get to know members in a different setting. **Chair: Janet Matwiyoff 385-2624**

EXPLORING GAMES. Meets the 4th Thursday. The group will meet on **April 25** from 6:00-9:00 pm ish at the Nob Hill Flying Star, 3416 Central Ave. to play board games. Bring any games you would like to play. You can order dinner or a snack. First time visitors are always welcome to join us. To ensure there are enough chairs let Cheri know you will be attending. **Chair: Cheri Burch, 286-9674**

ART, DRAWING, PAINTING, AND FABRIC ARTS. Meets most Fridays, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or any hours between at Monte Vista Christian Church, 3501 Campus Blvd. NE, to do individual art projects and to enjoy the fellowship of others interested in art. **Chair: Chris Hill, 828-3926.**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/GREAT DECISIONS. 2nd Fridays, 10:00 a.m. We will meet on Friday **April 12** at 10:00 at Nueva Vista (the usual meeting place at Juan Tabo and Lagrima de Oro - a block north of Montgomery). The topic will be Refugees and Global Migration led by Sylvia Fink. **Chairs: Jan Bray, 291-5867 or Olin Bray, 850-2402.**

MORNING CUISINE. 3rd Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. (may vary). On **April 16** we will meet at the home of Betty Benson, 294-1658. **Chair: Carolyn Glen, 503-6463.**

ANTIQUE and COLLECTIBLES. 1st Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. **April 2** our meeting will be hosted by Roberta Wellems, Manzano del Sol, 5201 Roma Ave, 4th Floor. The topic is "Stained Glass". Please bring items for "show and tell". **Chair: Claudia Poglitsch, 797-4381.**

CURRENT LITERATURE: 2nd Tuesday, 1:00 pm **April 9** at the home of Ann Carden, 6704 Loftus NE, 884-8211. We will drop off our old Traveling Library book and pick up the new one for the 2019-2020 year. The program: Discussion of 2018-2019 Traveling Library Books. **Chair: Meg Wentte, 291-3324.**

MYSTERY. 1st Thursdays at 1:30. **April 4.** Meet in the small meeting room at La Vida Llena's Buena Vista Building, Juan Tabo at Lagrima de Oro. Read: *The Prime Minister's Secret Agent* by Susan MacNeal. Hosting, Marilyn Dunne. **Chair: Diane Vadnais, 323-1924.**

TRAVEL. 4th Mondays at 1:30 p.m. Travel Group will not meet in April. **Chair: Ted Cooley, 255-3720**

EVENING CUISINE. 2nd Thursdays. The group will meet at 5:30 p.m. on **April 11** at Antje Muir's home at 5:30 PM. Members will be e-mailed or phoned about details. **Chair Marianne Helgesen, 286-8956.**

EVENING LITERATURE. 3rd Mondays, 7:30 p.m. **March 18.** Call or e-mail Sheila for location information. For March our book will be "And Then There were None" by Agatha Christie. We will meet at the home Joan Goodman, 6144 Katson NE. Chair: Sheila Richmond, 280-8904 or sd rich111@comcast.net.

Calendar

April 6 April Branch Meeting 10:00-12 noon Coronado Villa
April 9 Equal Pay Day
April 26-28 AAUW-NM Convention and Leadership Team Meeting in Las Cruces
May 4 President's Luncheon TBA
May 20 AAUW-ABQ Board meeting- 10-12 noon at Mimi's Café, 4316 The 25 Way NE
May 29-June 1 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

Contact Information

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