



Albuquerque (NM) Branch

March 2021  
Vol. 47 No.9

**March 6 Branch Meeting**  
**10 am to 12 Noon**  
**Via Zoom**



### **Early Childhood Education**

On March 6, Pamela Remstein, PhD, a former student of Joan Goodman, will speak to the branch about early childhood education. Pamela Remstein was granted a PhD from New Mexico State University in Curriculum and Instruction. She has worked in early childhood education for over 30 years. She spent 20 years in New York where she received her bachelors in Humanities and Education at Hofstra University and a graduate degree in Educational Leadership at Bank Street College of Education. She began her career as a Head Start teacher, and then moved into the role of education director. While in New York she also directed early childhood programs, where she facilitated workshops and taught college courses.

Nineteen years ago, she moved to Taos to enjoy the sanctity of the mountains. Pam has worked for UNM Taos' former Family Development Center as a mentor to teachers, directed several prominent Pre-K programs. Pam has taught associate and bachelor level courses at the UNM main campus, UNM Taos and Santa Fe Community College.

Presently, Pam is working at UNM Taos developing teacher pathway programs. Her passion is participating in the New Mexico Reggio Emilia Exchange, a group of dedicated early childhood educators committed to seeing children, families, and educators as capable and strong. Additionally, she is a member of Taos' Paso a Paso Network, a dedicated network of early childhood organizations that work to seek systems change for the betterment of children, families, educators and the community.

Educators believe that a bold early childhood education program is needed to improve the educational outcomes for the young people of New Mexico. Please consider attending this branch meeting so that you can be an informed advocate for this issue.



The AAUW NM STEM Task Force was unable to offer a Tech Trek camp experience in June of last year due to the COVID pandemic. Instead, these creative women designed a unique STEM experience for the girls called Tech Trek

in a Box. Cheri Burch shared the process the task force went through in developing the alternate camp experience at our last branch meeting.

Five "workshops" were developed for the girls to complete. Below is a list of the workshops:

Medical: Physical Therapy - Hop Test  
Meteorology: Citizen Science - Clouds  
Chemistry: Energy processes in chemistry and biochemistry  
Biology: Butterflies and Bees  
Physics: Bubbles Landing

Included in the box were materials and devices needed to complete the exercises including a Kindle and a professional calculator. The task force put together a notebook with instructions for the devices provided and directions for completing each workshop. Additional exercises and experiments were included for the girls to complete in addition to the workshops.

Cheri invited five girls that participated in the Tech-Trek-in-a-Box experience to attend the branch meeting via Zoom. Five breakout rooms were created with a camper and meeting attendees in each room. The girls shared which activity was their favorite. The girls were so enthusiastic about their experiences. After each girl completed the five workshops, they were encouraged to involve family and friends in repeating the activities. It was obvious that Tech Trek in a Box was a huge success, not only for the girls, but also for their families.

There will be two Tech Trek virtual camps in 2021. The girls selected for last year will be invited to register for a camp that will be held using Zoom June 20-25. A second virtual camp will be held July 18-23 for girls who will be nominated by their teachers this spring.

There is a need for AAUW members to agree to review the essays the girls attending the July camp will need to submit for the selection process. Due to COVID, we will not be interviewing the girls. Please consider volunteering to read the essays. There will a rubric on how to evaluate each applicant's essay. The time involved for reading and evaluating three essays is about an hour. If you can assist with reviewing the essays, please send an e-mail to Tech Trek NM@gmail.com.

For the 2020 virtual camp, there are funds held over from last year. There is concern about raising funds for the 2021 virtual camps in that both government and commercial donors have fewer funds to donate, and some will have a different focus than in past years. If you are interested in supporting this exciting and life-changing experience for girls send a check to AAUW Tech Trek NM, P.O. Box 90322, Albuquerque NM, 87199.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the 2021 Legislative Session is conducted on a virtual platform. The public is not allowed in the Round House and legislators are attending committee meetings from their homes or private offices. To ensure that all members of the Lobby Corps and all Branch Public Policy Chairs know how to access and use the online legislative portal, a training session was conducted to explain the process. We invited Representative Patricia Roybal Caballero to our training session to provide insights on how the virtual legislative session would be conducted and to answer any questions AAUW members had regarding the virtual session.



Although there are hundreds of bills being introduced during the 2021 Legislative Session, it was determined that AAUW would designate up to 25 bills as Priority Bills and up to 20 bills as Watchful Eye Bills. If there was ever a time conflict attending a legislative hearing, priority would be given to a Priority Bill over a Watchful Eye Bill.

The Priority Bills that have been identified thus far are the following:

1. House Joint Resolution 1- The Joint Resolution gives New Mexico voters the opportunity to increase annual distributions from the NM State Land Grant Permanent Fund specifically to fund early childhood education services.

2. SB10 and HB 7 are simultaneous bills introduced in the House and the Senate to address the repeal of the statute that criminalizes abortion providers. This bill is on the Governor's desk.
3. SB199 – Establishing a fair redistricting act.
4. HB20 and HB 38 – Bills dedicated to implement a Paid Family and Medical Leave Policy for the State of New Mexico.
5. SB66 – Bill to establish a cap on the interest rate of specific consumer loans.
6. HB 208 – Allowing additional time for the NM Missing and Murdered Women’s Task Force to complete their final report, with recommendations.

#### Watchful Eye Bills

1. SB78 – Exempting Social Security Income from income tax.
2. HB 74 – Felon Voting Rights Strengthened
3. SB36 – Allow Remote Court Testimony
4. HB 83 – Change Graduation Voting Requirements - add financial education
5. HB 86 – Native American Library, Internet, and Education Act
6. HB 24 – Full time Nurse in Every School
7. HB40 – Private Detention Facilities Moratorium Act
8. HB56 – Sex Offender & Human Trafficking Changes
9. HB 143 – Crime Victim Interviews
10. SB 170 – Financial Literacy School Requirement for graduation
11. HB 98 – Omnibus Tax Bill
12. SJR1 – Funds for Teacher Salaries and Instruction
13. HB 79 – Primary Election Participation Changes
14. HB 162 – Public Employee Retirement Board Changes
15. SB235 – Permanent Absentee Voter Registration List
16. SB 93 – Broadband Access and Expansion Act
17. HB 55 – Publication of Capital Outlay Appropriations
18. HB 29 – No School Discrimination for Hair
19. Grow You Own Teachers Act Scholarships

As more legislation is introduced, the bills that are identified as Priority Bills may change.

Go to <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Legislation/BillFinder/Number> to find information about a specific bill.

Pamela Herndon  
Public Policy Chair

### **Proposed AAUW Bylaw Changes**

The national board has recommended a change in AAUW bylaws related to membership. Similar proposals have been voted on in the past and failed. The national board believes it is imperative to survive as a viable organization to promote equity for women and girls, this proposal is essential for the survival of AAUW. In the past 20 years the membership in AAUW has decreased significantly. In the past AAUW Albuquerque had over 350 members. This year our membership is 91. For the past few years membership has been around 110. The decrease in membership is similar for other branches In New Mexico and across the nation. One of the reasons that membership dues has increased is due to the decrease in members.

The following are some reasons for the change of membership found on the national website.

AAUW needs to include members with diverse backgrounds and perspectives to meet our mission of advocating gender equity and society's needs today.

The issue is about inclusion. AAUW's vision is Equity for All. The membership practices should align with this vision.

The educational requirement is counterproductive to recruiting diverse members as well as younger members.

There are many paths to education beyond colleges and universities. As important as the P-12 and four-year college system is, education comes in many forms, including Career Technical Education, on-the-job training, and similar education routes.

Those who do not have degrees can be strong advocates for our mission.

We are an organization that promotes equity, yet we do not treat non-degree individuals as equal. This is unacceptable.

Times have changed. Younger feminists care about our mission but don't join us because they see us as an exclusionary or elitist organization, one that hasn't evolved into modern thinking about equity and inclusion.

Corporations and foundations prefer to work with and/or fund organizations that adhere to their diversity, inclusion, and equity policies and practices. We lose out on dollars that could help us move forward with our mission and vision, which puts a bigger burden on our members to contribute to AAUW.

One of the issues often raised is the name. At the AAUW NM board meeting this month, a long-time member spoke to us about the name AAUW does not reflect who are now. AAUW has been an international organization for years. The educational requirements were changed several years to allow persons with an associate's (or equivalent, e.g., RN) two year degree or men who meet the education criteria can be members.

At the March Branch meeting there will be time to discuss this important issue. All voting will take place online in April and May 2021 unless a member sends a specific request to AAUW for a paper ballot. All members without an email address on file with AAUW national will receive notification of the vote by mail.

### **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)**

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) will be fully virtual Tuesday, May 25 and Wednesday, May 26, 2021.

The 2021 program is shaping up to be the biggest, boldest NCCWSL yet! At NCCWSL women in college will build their leadership skills across five core learning objectives:

- Leadership development: Develop and strengthen a voice, skill set, and mind-set for leadership
- Professional development: Build a professional tool kit for postgraduate life
- Activism: Learn how, why, and when to take action and be a change maker
- Women's issues: Gain a better understanding of local, national, and global issues and policies affecting women and of AAUW's role in empowering women
- Identity and diversity: Own their personal identities and roles in increasing and supporting diverse voices.

If a member knows of a women student leader that would be interested in attending the conference, please have them contact Pat Maben at 504-2466 or [pam1246@me.com](mailto:pam1246@me.com). Since the conference will be virtual, the cost of attending is only \$125. In the past, our branch has paid for the registration for this event. At the next board meeting the possibility of paying this fee will be discussed. Registration ends May 21.



### **AAUW ABQ Cares**

The board at the February meeting discussed how the organization can better support members who are experiencing a difficult time in their lives. Mary Moskal, board secretary, has agreed to take on the responsibility to send cards to members. This responsibility will be included in the task list for the secretary of the branch. Some board members have agreed to provide cards for this program.

A member who is aware of another member who is having health issues or any other need for support are encouraged to e-mail Mary at [marymoskal@2020@gmail.com](mailto:marymoskal@2020@gmail.com) or call her at 358-6637. Starting with the March 2021 newsletter, the editor will include information about members who are experiencing health or other issues and would appreciate phone calls of support. The editor will first contact each individual who is reported to the secretary and will ask if they would like to have their contact information included in a monthly article titled AAUW ABQ Cares so that their friends in the branch could contact them by mail and/or phone. Editor, Pat Maben can be contacted at [pam1246@me.com](mailto:pam1246@me.com) or 504-2466.

Vivian Harris has had foot surgery and will have a second foot surgery in late April and early May. Vivian's address is 1128 Granada Hills Court NE, 87123-1874. She also would appreciate phone calls.

Geta Gatterman would appreciate receiving cards from her AAUW Friends. Her address is 12215 Casa Grande NE, 87112-5807

Mary Tyler Browne has been hospitalized four times in the past year. She is living in an assisted living facility in Minnesota. Mary would appreciate receiving cards and receiving phone calls. Phone number is (402) 375-0709. Address: Gable Pines at Vadnais Heights, 1260 East County Rd. E. Apt. 1205, Vadnais Heights, MN 55110

### Fundraiser for New Mexico Tech Trek

Our beautiful **Emancipation Cards** we sold part of last year were one more casualty of close-down in the pandemic. However, they are all occasion cards, historically accurate, and might be just the thing for particular friends.

This was our only **fundraiser for Tech Trek** last year and we have about 50 cards left. Consider buying **1 for \$5, 2 for \$9**, or more! If you wish to view a particular card, please call me at **505-385-2624** and I will text you some of the historic women that are pictured on the cards. If you chose **Harriet Tubman**, who many of you showed particular interest, I will include a 2-page history blurbs that I just love.

I will pay the postage for up to four cards, or if you want to, meet me for pass-through in a nearby parking lot. The check must be made out to Tech Trek New Mexico for your donation to be tax deductible. Mail your check and list of cards you want to **Janet Matwyoff, 9504 Pebble Beach Dr. NE, Albuquerque 87111-5807**.

Thanks for support, Janet Matwyoff.

### Teenairs Update

Several years ago, Trish Lopez spoke to the branch about her new business, Teenairs. During her presentation she talked about her experiences taking her young employees to senior centers to work one on one with older adults in Albuquerque. This business has now personally tutored over 3,000 older adults in Albuquerque in the use of electronic devices such as cell phones, computers and televisions. Due to the COVID pandemic they are no longer able to offer group classes or in home assistance. They do offer live, virtual coaching (via phone and video calls) as well as group classes online.

Recently I attended a free Teenair class online about how to use Zoom. As those of you know that have attended branch Zoom meetings, I need the tutoring. Trish shared that since they cannot hold group classes they offer a number of online courses that are free.

Below is a list of some of the classes offered during February and March.

February 18 @ 3:00pm – Google Classroom: Understanding How it Works

February 26 @ 3:00pm – Cybersecurity: Protecting Yourself online

March 4 @ 3:30pm – How to Text

March 11 @ 4:00pm- How to Use Google Maps and IMaps

For more information about this business go to their website at [www.teenairs.com](http://www.teenairs.com), e-mail [teenairs@gmail.com](mailto:teenairs@gmail.com) or call (505) 600-1297.

Patricia Maben, President

### Interest Groups

**Current Literature:** For this month, the Current Literature group will meet on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** at noon for lunch at the home of Sheila Richmond, 152 Juniper Hill Road NE. Members will be wrapping the books selected for the 2021-2022 traveling library. Chair: **Liz Gordon, 344-7842**.

**Evening Literature:** We will meet at Shila Marek's home to discuss "The Library Book," by Susan Orlean at **7:30 pm on March 15**. Chair: **Sheila Richmond, 856-0245**

**Mystery:** On Thursday **March 4 at 1:30 p.m.** we will have a Zoom meeting, discussing "Half in Love with Artful Death" by Bill Crider. **Chair: Diane Vadnais, 323-1924.**

**Stem Task Force:** We will meet on **March 18 at noon** via Zoom. **Chair: Cheri Burch, 286-9674**

## Calendar

March	Women's History Month
<b>March 6</b>	<b>AAUW ABQ Branch Meeting</b>
<b>March 8</b>	<b>AAUW ABQ Board Meeting</b>
March 8	International Women's Day
Mar. 16	FY22 branch dues processing opens online in Member Services Database
Mar. 20	Last day of State Legislature
Mar. 24	Equal Pay Day (Was Mar. 31 in 2020) for White Women
Mar. 31	Mission in Action Award Applications Due
Apr. 2	Deadline for applications for the National Conference for College Student Leaders (NCCWSL)
<b>Apr. 3</b>	<b>Albuquerque Branch Annual Meeting</b>
<b>Apr. 5</b>	<b>Albuquerque ABQ Board Meeting</b>
Apr. 17	AAUW NM Annual Convention & Membership Meeting – Hosted by the AAUW of Las Vegas
<b>May 1.</b>	<b>Branch Meeting</b>
<b>May 10.</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
<b>June 14.</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
June 20-25	Tech Trek for 2020 group
July 18-23	Tech Trek for 2021 group
July TBD	Summer Leadership Team Meeting
Aug. 22	Equal Pay Day for African American Women
Sept. 8	Equal Pay Day for Native American Women

## Contact Information

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AAUW Albuquerque Branch Website: <https://albuquerque-nm.aauw.net>

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AAUW New Mexico Website: <https://aauw-nm.org>

AAUW Website: [AAUW.org](https://aauw.org)

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