



December 2021



**December Branch Meeting
10 AM to 12 Noon via Zoom**

Happy Holidays!

Join your new and long-time friends as we have a Zoom December meeting—with holiday presentations by the members of our illustrious AAUW-ABQ Leadership Team and time between presentations for chatting in breakout rooms.

Festive sweaters welcome to add to the winter cheer!

Welcome to everyone! See you December 4 at 10:00 am to gather before we start around 10:15!

Zoom invitation will be e-mailed on November 26 and again on December 3.

President's Message



Our Branch has experienced the loss of two outstanding members in the past six months. Joan Goodman passed away in June. There was a memorial service for Joan at the University of New Mexico Chapel at 1 PM on November 20. A special edition of the branch newsletter was sent it to members with information about the memorial service. Mary Tyler Browne passed away on November 7. Mary had moved to Minnesota to be closer to her children in March of 2020. A copy of her obituary is included in this newsletter.

I was unable to find someone to serve as Public Policy Chair. The Public Policy position is a very demanding position. At the November Board Meeting, I recommended that the branch create a Public Policy Advocate Committee. Thank you to Linda McDowell, Mary Moskal and Sylvia Fink for agreeing to serve on a newly created committee. I also have agreed to serve on this important committee. Each of the members of the committee have agreed to follow specific legislation during the upcoming legislative session.

Every member is encouraged to sign up to be a Two Minute Activist on the AAUW website. To become a Two-Minute Activist all you need to do is sign up at <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/> . As a member of AAUW's Action Network you will receive e-notices and text messages that will assist you in contacting your national legislators to express your opinion about issues that affect women and girls. I have found this process very easy to use.

During the upcoming New Mexico legislative session, the state Public Policy chair and committee will be providing information about the session. As the editor receives information from this group, it will be shared via e-mail. Below is a posting on the AAUW NM website by Meredith Machen, AAUW-NM Public Policy Chair, meredith.machen@gmail.com, 505 577-6337

Patricia Maben, President

AAUW New Mexico Public Policy Priorities 2021-2023

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. AAUW's Public Policy Priorities provide a basis for members' participation in governmental decision-making. We are firmly nonpartisan, committed to being fact-based, and act with integrity in the public interest.

We believe that gender, socio-economic, and ethnic/racial equality is fundamental to our democracy and the key to improving quality of life for all. We respect the civil and human rights of all individuals in our diverse, global society. We strive to be inclusive, and we collaborate with other like-minded, non-partisan organizations.

In society at large, we advocate for

- *Protection of the civil, constitutional, and equal rights laws guaranteed by the U.S. and New Mexico Constitutions and statutes.
- *Separation of church and state.
- *A fair, balanced, and independent judiciary.
- *Expansion of voting rights and fair, accessible elections; campaign finance reform; and an Independent Redistricting Commission.
- *Safe, livable, affordable housing and healthy, clean, and sustainable environments.

- *Universal access to quality, affordable health care and comprehensive family planning services, including self-determination of one's reproductive and end-of-life decisions.
- *Freedom from harassment, bullying, discrimination, and hate crimes.
- *Recognition of gun violence as a health issue.
- *Guarantee of civil rights for all family structures, gender orientations, and identities.
- *Respect for the civil and human rights of all immigrants.
- *Guarantee of civil rights and equal treatment for all family structures, gender orientations, and identities.
- *Access to well-regulated, quality eldercare, childcare, and dependent care.
- *Federal adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment.
- *Support at home and internationally of programs that address human rights; girls'/women's access to education and careers, and the full range of health care services without interference in personal reproductive decisions.

In the workforce, we advocate for

- *Pay equity, fair compensation, and policies that promote work-life balance and ensure economic security.
- *Equitable access to advancement in employment and freedom from sexual or gender harassment.
- *Workplaces free from personal and employment discrimination.
- *Leadership opportunities for women to close the gender, ethnic, racial, and socio-economic gaps.
- *Greater access to benefits, including paid family, medical, and sick leave.
- *Strengthening retirement programs and protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid from privatization and benefit cuts.

In preK-12 education, we advocate for

- *A well-funded, high quality, culturally and linguistically responsive, multicultural public education system that promotes gender and racial equality and addresses the barriers and biases that hinder advancement
- *Policies and efforts to close the persistent achievement gap that disproportionately affects low-income; Black, Hispanic, Native American, and other students of color; girls; and students with disabilities.
- *Vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to educational accountability.
- *Programs that meet the needs of girls including strong promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and career development skills.
- *Comprehensive health programs including effective sex education, social and emotional wellness, and prevention (teen pregnancy, substance abuse, dropout, bullying, harassment, gun violence, and suicide).
- *Programs to improve postsecondary access, civic participation, and job success.
- *Financial management to improve savings, earnings, and economic security.

In public post-secondary education, we advocate for

*High quality academic programs that meet the needs and professional goals of women including Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

*Programs that support social-emotional and physical health; academic success; career preparation, training, and development.

*Scholarships and grants to improve access to and completion of programs by women, impacted people of color, and those who are economically disadvantaged.

*Programs that prepare women with skills and training for career success, including in non- traditional occupations, entrepreneurship, internship opportunities, and work experiences.

Updated November 2021

At the end of this newsletter is a form for AAUW members to sign up to be **AAUW-NM Public Policy Advocate**



Mary Tyler Browne

Rev. Mary Tyler Browne passed away surrounded by family on November 7, 2021, at the age of 82. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Stanley Tyler, and J.C. Browne. She is survived by her sons William Tyler and his wife Noreen, Michael Tyler, and his wife MaryLou, and her daughter Kathy Stetz and her husband Eric; stepchildren Christina Torbert, and George Browne and his wife Sara; grandchildren Jack and

Joanna Tyler, Dominic and Mackenzie Stetz, Erin Hall, and her husband Adam; and J.C. Browne and Martha Jean Browne.

Mary was born in Mitchell, SD. Her father was a physician. One of her fondest memories was her father taking her on his Sunday rounds at the hospital. Her mother was widowed when Mary was 10. Mary attributed her interest in helping people to her mother.

Mary graduated from Macalester College, St. Paul Minnesota with a BA in Sociology. Her first job after college was as a caseworker for the Relief Department for the city of Minneapolis. She had a caseload of 150 general assistance clients and then was responsible for all clients in nursing homes over the age of 65. She was the Executive Director of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Northeast Nebraska in Norfolk Nebraska. She then worked as a social worker at the State of Iowa Mental Health Institute providing group and individual services to patients on the Drug and Alcohol Unit. Her next position was as a Trainer of Basic Counseling Skills for the Nebraska Department of Social Services. She counseled adolescents and families at St. Joseph Hospital (Creighton University) and lectured to medical and nursing students on alcoholism and the family. Her next position was one of her favorites, Director of Career Programs/Displaced Homemaker Programs for the YWCA in Omaha. After Mary's husband, Stan, died, she completed a master's degree in Social Work the University of Nebraska.

Mary was an active member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). She was president of AAUW Branches in Norfolk Nebraska, Clarinda, Iowa, and Willets California. She was president of AAUW Nebraska. She served as a Regional and National board member. She was AAUW Funds Chair for AAUW New Mexico. Mary believed she had a calling to the ministry. She was granted a scholarship from AAUW to attend the Pacific School of Religion. J. C. and Mary were both students at the Pacific School of Religion at the time of their marriage.

After graduating from the Pacific School of Religion, she was the Director of the Bright Center that provided employment, training, and support services to homeless men and women living in Mendocino County in Northern California. She managed a self-employment national grant through the Department of Health and Human Services. Her final position in California was as Director of the Women and Infants in Need of Drug Free Opportunities.

In 1992, Mary and her husband, J.C. moved to Nebraska. She first served as a Chaplain at the Midlands Hospital Drug and Recovery Unit in Papillion, Nebraska. In June of 1993, she was appointed as a pastor at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church in Papillion. She later served what is known as a two-point charge in the Methodist Church. A two-point charge is where a pastor is appointed to two congregations. This meant the pastor is expected to preach each Sunday in both congregations.

After Mary moved to Albuquerque, she was very active in the community. She was passionate about social justice. She served as president of the Board of the New

Mexico Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice for seven years. Mary was a major reason that an Iraqi man, who had risked his life serving U.S. troops was provided asylum for two years in the First Congregational Church in Albuquerque.

Mary also served on the board the Family Promise of Albuquerque until she moved to be closer to her family. Family Promise assists homeless families to find a home, a livelihood, and the chance to build a better future.

Mary's life of service will be remembered at a memorial service to be held on Saturday December 11 at @ 2 PM at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 2801 Lomas Blvd. NE. A memorial has been established to honor Mary at Family Promise of Albuquerque. familypromisealbuquerquew.org.

Membership

Leticia Topa

Leticia Topa is our first branch member who is a graduate Central New Mexico Community College. She is a senior at the University of New Mexico majoring in Family & Child Studies with a concentration in Early Childhood. She is currently working at Cuidando Los Niño's as a teacher assistant in the mixed Pre-K classroom. Her husband introduced her to Ted and Eleanor Cooley. They talked to her about AAUW. She is honored to be a member of this organization.

Sharon Littrell-Marsh

I moved to Albuquerque area in August 2011 to accept a ministerial call as "revitalizing" pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Rio Rancho.

My ministerial experience had been directed toward unusual service. After merging a Disciples of Christ congregation in Denver with a very conservative Presbyterian congregation, I was called to start a congregation in north central Pennsylvania. The only requirement was that the congregation had to be "open and affirming." I had fun doing this church-start and would have stayed had Pennsylvania been closer to Colorado where much of my family lives. My call in Rio Rancho to revitalize a dying congregation presented new challenges. Revitalizing St Paul's seemed impossible and when we had to vote to sell the church building to pay staff, half of the congregation walked out. This pastorate was not fun but everyday was a challenge. One of my council presidents told me - when I lamented that I had not done my job - that if I thought St. Paul's was the same as when I started, I was not looking at the whole picture.

Prior to entering ministry (at age 62) I taught Sociology in Colorado and Ohio for a decade. When I tired of students' pleas for an A with C effort, I joined the non-profit sector. For 20 more years, I implemented and led non-profit organizations mostly focusing on teen or family issues. Those were interesting and challenging years!

Looking back across my life, I like to think that I made a difference in many of the lives that touched mine as we crossed paths.

Phone number changes

Patricia Maben has a new cell phone number. (505) 974-4062

Interest Groups

New members are welcomed to all interest groups. Contact the chair for information.

Current Literature: 2nd Tuesdays: Group will not meet in **December**. Chair: **Liz Gordon, (505) 344-7842.**

4th Tuesday. We will meet on **December 14** from 10-12 at La Madeleine, 2110 Louisiana. Call if you need directions. Chair: **Janet Matwiyoff, (505) 385-2624**

Investigating Games will not meet in December. Chair: **Cheri Burch, ctburch@aol.com**

Evening Literature. Evening Literature will meet at 6:00 PM on Monday **December 13**, for a Potluck dinner and Book Exchange. Please contact the chair, Sheila Richmond, for details. (505) 280-8904 or sdriech111@comcast.net.

Mystery Interest Group and Morning Cuisine will meet at 11:30 AM on **December 2** at Linda McDowell's Home for lunch and cookie exchange. The address for Linda's home is 6201 Chimayo Drive NW, near Coors and Montano. Chairs: **Diane Vadnais, (505) 323-1924; Marilyn Dunn, (505) 299-5487**

Calendar

Dec. 31	Postmark deadline for AAUW Funds contributions for year 2021.
Jan. 23	AAUW NM Winter LTM – Santa Fe
Jan. 24	Advocacy Day – Santa Fe – State Capitol

Contact Information

AAUW Albuquerque E-mail: aauw.abqnm@yahoo.com
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AAUW Website: AAUW.org
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AAUW-NM Public Policy Advocate - Sign-Up Form

Information: <https://aauw-nm.aauw.net/policy/>

Name: _____ Branch _____ or National Member _____

Policy Interests/Expertise: _____

Cell Number: _____ Other _____ Email: _____

NM Representative Dist. _____ NM Senate Dist. _____ Click [here](#) to find your district

_____ I want to be an active AAUW-NM Public Policy Advocate.

_____ I will contact my federal legislators about AAUW priorities via AAUW [Two-Minute Activist](#)

Check one or more of the AAUW-NM Public Policy (PP) Priorities for study & action:

1. _____ Support quality multicultural education (early childhood, pre-K12, college/university public education); scholarships and grants; financial literacy; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM); career-technical programs, entrepreneurship programs, and internships.
2. _____ Support prevention programs (bullying and sexual harassment, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, drop-out, and suicide); and social, emotional, and physical wellness.
3. _____ Support women's economic self-sufficiency and equality, which includes pay equity, paid family and medical leave, affordable dependent care, fair lending, safety net programs (food stamps, income support, childcare subsidies, housing assistance).
4. _____ Support quality, affordable, and accessible health care, which includes access to family planning, and reproductive choice.
4. _____ Support campaign finance reform, fair elections, and voting rights (access and engagement).
5. _____ Support civil rights (equitable treatment and freedom from workplace, gender, and racial discrimination, domestic violence, hate crimes, human trafficking, gun violence, and other harm).

Ways I will participate as a AAUW-NM Public Policy Advocate (select one or more):

1. _____ Conduct or participate in voter registration campaigns.
2. _____ Attend AAUW-NM Legislative Day at the Capitol.
3. _____ Attend legislative sessions and committee meetings in person or online on priority areas, report progress to AAUW branch/state PP chair(s).
4. _____ Speak at legislative sessions and committee meetings if trained, in coordination with AAUW branch/state PP chair(s).
5. _____ Read bill summaries in my interest areas and make recommendations to AAUW branch/state PP chair(s).
6. _____ Serve as bill, memorial, resolution expert in interest areas. _____ Research and submit requests through state PP chair for AAUW-National review and approval.
7. _____ Contact my state legislators about specific AAUW priorities.
8. _____ Attend forums, rallies, marches, and other public presentations on AAUW priorities when possible and as desired.

E-Mail to meredith.machen@gmail.com