

# Los Alamos Branch AAUW

## December 2004/January 2005 Newsletter

January General Meeting  
Thursday, January 13, 2005, 7:30pm  
Refreshments at 7:00pm  
Fuller Lodge

### Legislative Preview

#### Joint meeting with League of Women Voters

This meeting is co-produced by the AAUW and the LWV. Rep. Jeannette Wallace will share her expectations for the 2005 long session of the Legislature. Craig O'Hare, of the NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Dept., will explain the energy bills supported by the governor. Ray Prushnok from NMPIRG (NM Public Interest Research Group) will discuss proposed water bills and legislation to limit predatory lending. We will invite a speaker to explain briefly any voting reform bills that appear. State Senators Griego, Cisneros, and Martinez have also been invited.

### National News

On Dec. 2, following a four-day trial, a federal court jury awarded AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund supported plaintiff Kimberly Howard a total of \$285,000 in damages and found that Bishop State Community College violated Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 by failing to adequately address Howard's complaints of sexual harassment by one of her former instructors after receiving actual notice of her complaints. For more information on this case and others currently supported by LAF, visit the website at <http://www.aauw.org/laf/cases/index.cfm>.

AAUW believes that Social Security, like a lot of retirement issues, is of particular importance to women. President Bush has been pushing Congress to enact legislation allowing workers to redirect some or all of their Social Security withholding into individual investment accounts, in other words privatizing Social Security. The White House has announced a Dec. 15-16 economic conference in DC where the President will promote his proposal to partially privatize

Social Security. AAUW opposes privatizing Social Security, because doing so would divert money away from current benefits and undermine women's retirement security. To read more about AAUW's position on Social Security see our website.

AAUW's coalition partner AARP has set-up a toll-free telephone hotline for you to tell your members of Congress not to divert Social Security funds into individual retirement accounts. **Call 1-800-485-0189**. Once you have placed your call, the automated system will prompt you for your home phone number and zip code, and then connect you to the office of one of your members of congress.

### State News

As some of you know, AAUW NM has been discussing the Pre-K program that will be introduced to the state legislature in 2005. There are lots of questions and we hope to have a much better understanding of this initiative before we choose to lobby for it in February. Here is the Lieutenant Governor's Pre-K website. And if you

have Powerpoint, you can download the presentation by clicking on the appropriate link at the website. Diane Denish has given her email on this site and seems to welcome any questions. So, please question!!

Here's the website:

<http://www.governor.state.nm.us/ltagov/prek.html>

The **Choice Rally** will be held on January 22 at the Albuquerque Civic Plaza from 2-5pm.

**From:** Mary Grathwol

([mgrathwol@mail.cybermesa.com](mailto:mgrathwol@mail.cybermesa.com))

American Association of University Women Santa Fe is organizing two new morning "Career Fairs" in Math and Science: unsurpassed opportunities to demonstrate the appeal of math and science to Santa Fe schoolchildren:

Wednesday, **January 12, 2005, Carlos Gilbert** Elementary (just West of Sweeney Convention Center on Catron)

Thursday, **February 17, 2005, Gonzales** Elementary (just West of St. Francis on Alameda)  
Feel free to come alone, enlist others, team up. If you think you can make either event, Mary will pass on details about enrollment, directions for parking, etc.

For anyone wanting to know more about the whole event or just wanting a taste of Mary's Bohemian granny's cinnamon rolls there is coffee at Mary's house on Saturday, January 8, from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.

Want a reminder of why we make the effort? A Salazar Elementary school kid, responding to the query "List ways you found this valuable," wrote "Because I do not want to be poor."

## Branch News

New Member:

Susan Oldham, ([ddham98@hotmail.com](mailto:ddham98@hotmail.com))

Susan earned her B.A. in chemistry and minored in math, at Bowdoin College, Maine. She earned her M.S. in chemistry at the University of Washington and her Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from the University of Rochester NY. Susan has worked at LANL in NMT 5 where her team, the

casting team, worked on the development of metal casts for plutonium pits. She is currently at home raising two small children, Tom and Ellie, Her husband Warren is also an inorganic chemist at LANL.

The family loves the outdoors, hiking etc, and are about to return to cross country skiing.

Let's welcome Susan to AAUW!

Study Group Meetings:

**Non-fiction book group:**

The next meeting will feature *Guns, Germs and Steel* by Jared Diamond and will be held Monday, Jan. 24 at the home of Denise George, 411 Cheryl. Jared Diamond convincingly argues that geographical and environmental factors shaped the modern world. Societies that had had a head start in food production advanced beyond the hunter-gatherer stage, and then developed religion --as well as nasty germs and potent weapons of war --and adventured on sea and land to conquer and decimate preliterate cultures. A major advance in our understanding of human societies, *Guns, Germs, and Steel* chronicles the way that the modern world came to be and stunningly dismantles racially based theories of human history. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the Phi Beta Kappa Award in Science, the Rhone-Poulenc Prize, and the Commonwealth club of California's Gold Medal.

The Nonfiction Book Group usually meets the third Monday of the month, every other month, six times/year.

Call Nina (662-6835) or Rosmarie (662-5915) for more information.

**Book Group:**

The February meeting will be hosted by Karin Roberts, 415 Cheryl at 7:30pm on Monday, February . The book is *The Lobster Chronicles* by Linda Greenlaw. The reviewer is Nina Thayer Call Melissa Lamoreaux for more information (661-1235)

**World Culture through Foods:**

The January 29<sup>th</sup> meal will be an Early American dinner at 6:30pm at Andrea Ettinger's home, 256 Canada, White Rock.

For more information call Marilyn (672-3499)

**Mystery Book Club**

The Mystery Book Club

(<http://www.lamountain.ws/mystery.html>) meets approximately once every month at Film Festival (Arkansas and Diamond) from 6:30pm to 8pm.

**January Meeting:** Tuesday, January 18, 2005, *Vegas Centennial*, Lynnette Baughman

**\$\$\$\$Reminder \$\$\$\$**

Remember to include AAUW-EF in your charitable giving this year. Mail your checks to Rosmarie Frederickson, 1372 47<sup>th</sup> Street. The AAUW Educational Foundation--the world's largest source of funding exclusively for graduate women--supports aspiring scholars around the globe, teachers and activists in local communities, women at critical stages of their careers, and those pursuing professions where women are underrepresented.

**If you love your Library listen!** Due to multiple factors, especially the decrease in Gross Receipts Tax revenues, it is possible that the county will be in deficit by 2008. The county is being proactive in looking at ways to bring the budget into balance. These include reducing services including Library services. Two years ago the Library budget was cut and hours were reduced, the council did not receive enough input to reverse this action.

So if you believe that funding for Library services including hours, collections and program should be a high priority for this town, now is the time to contact your council. One easy way is to e-mail to [council@lac.losalamos.nm.us](mailto:council@lac.losalamos.nm.us)

**2004-2005 Membership Challenge**

AAUW-New Mexico is challenging every current member to ask another eligible person to become an AAUW member and there is a reward for your effort. The New Mexico AAUW Board has created a new AAUW-NM membership pin and is giving every new member one FREE and also one to every member who recruits a new member. Four Los Alamos Branch members are now wearing the new pin. Wouldn't you like one? Please ask Angela Coop for new member brochures.

**Branch Calendar**

Jan	11	Council Meeting, Angela Coop, 332 Aragon, 7:15
Jan	13	General Meeting, Fuller Lodge
Jan	24	Non-fiction Book Group, <i>Guns, Germs and Steel</i> , Denise George, 411 Cheryl, 7:30pm
Jan	29	WCTF, Early American Dinner, Andrea Ettinger, 256 Canada Way, 6:30pm
Feb	7	Book Group, Karin Roberts, 7:30, 415 Cheryl, <i>The Lobster Chronicles</i>
Mar	7	Book Group, <i>The Winter Queen</i> , 7:30pm
Mar	12	WCTF, Favorite Recipe Nite, Marilyn Minshall, 536 Brighton, 6:30pm
Apr	11	Book Group, <i>Ahab's Wife</i> , Andrea Ettinger, 256 Canada Way, 7:30pm
May	2	Book Group, Jean Nereson's, 1537 41 <sup>st</sup> , 7:30, <i>Caramelo</i>
May	7	WCTF, Lebanon Dinner, Melissa Lamoreaux 5153 Quemazon, 6:30pm

