



# Desert Doings

The Newsletter of West Mesa Branch, AAUW

April 2009

THERE IS NO WEST MESA BRANCH MEETING THIS MONTH.  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS WILL BE HELD AT THE MAY  
MEETING.

## WEST MESA NEWS

**Board Meeting** There will be a board meeting on **Saturday, April 4**, at 9:15 at the home of President Cheryl Klenner, 10416 Calle Hermosa Ct NW in Albuquerque. Food will be served. As always, board meetings are open to any member. Please call Cheryl at 307-9118 if you plan to attend. If you can't come to the meeting **PLEASE LET ANY BOARD MEMBER KNOW YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAMS AND PLACES TO MEET.**

**Public Policy** The legislature is over. This has been a very unusual legislative period. People who have been there for many years verified this when I ask. Due to the fact that I spent four days a week there the first month and five days a week the last month I haven't had time to write an article but I will have it all down by the next news letter. I can tell you the Governor signed the Repeal the Death Penalty/Life Without Parole. He signed two bills on Domestic Violence. One gave victims restitution and the other let victims go to court to testify without losing their job.

I want to assure you they knew AAUW-NM was there. I was shocked but 'pleased as punch' when Rick Miera made an effort to find me and ask for my opinion on a bill to be before his committee. I will give you a run down on those that made good and bad impressions on me in the next news letter. The house hit the ground running and the Senate waited about two and a half weeks before the committees looked at more than four or five bills at a time. There were a lot of hard feelings because when the Senate started working it was obvious that all but about three or four were trying to prevent the House bills from moving. They have three days after a committee hearing to get the information typed up and passed to the next place and when bills go from one side to the other the bills can be tied up before they are heard and then there is another time slot before they go to the floor again. I will give you a more complete recap next time.

– **Dixie Trebbe**

**The Spring 2009 Roadrunner** is now posted on the website. This issue contains information about the state convention, new officer nominees, national convention information, Equal Pay Day news, officer reports, and branch reports. To display the *Roadrunner*, go to [http://www.aauw-nm.org/state\\_newsletters/SpringRoadrunner2009.pdf](http://www.aauw-nm.org/state_newsletters/SpringRoadrunner2009.pdf). The state convention registration form appears in this issue, or you can access it separately at the AAUW-NM homepage at [www.aauw-nm.org](http://www.aauw-nm.org).

## Calendar

- April 4 West Mesa Branch board meeting. See p. 1.
- April 4 Albuquerque Branch general meeting. 1:30 – 3:30 at Asbury United Methodist Church, 10000 Candelaria  
 Program: *WHERE THE GIRLS ARE*, AAUW Education Foundation's presentation on Gender Equity, AAUW New Mexico State Co-Presidents Nina and Mary Sandford .  
 with Thayer

April 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

April 15



- April 24 - 26 State Convention in Los Alamos. Lilly Ledbetter, the namesake of the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act*, will be speaking Friday evening. For details see the *Spring Roadrunner*.
- April 28 Equal Pay Day
- June 26–28 National Convention in St Louis

Keep up-to-date on state and other branch activities by visiting [www.aauw-nm.org](http://www.aauw-nm.org)  
 For national news, see [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) .

## Interest Groups

### BRIDGE:

#### BRIDGE TIPS:

April 2 - Jana George - 1:00 PM.

PARTY BRIDGE: Party Bridge meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 1:00 p.m. at the host's home. Please call the host if you would like to play.

April 9 - Cheryl Klenner - 307-9118

April 23 - Marinel Hartogensis - 896-0521

May 14 - Jane Komatz - 896-6765

May 28 - Merry Sisneros - 890-1406

**DINE AROUND** will be held at Mimi and Bob's on April 19th, 6:00 PM. Please call them to tell what you're bringing at 897-7906.

**NOBLE READERS** will meet at the Barnes and Nobel coffee shop at 9:30 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Books for the upcoming meetings are:

April 22:        Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Jimmy Olson Saves Las Vegas  
By Thomas R. Berner  
Hot Flat and Crowded by Thomas Friedman

May 27:        Pascal's Wager by James A. Connor  
My Sister's Keeper by Jodie Picoult

**GREAT DECISIONS** will meet Wednesday, April 15, at Fairwinds (formerly Acantilado Vista) in Rio Ranch at 7:00. Cheryl Klenner will be leading the discussion from the handbook, called *Cuba On the Verge*. Call Laura Stokes at 328-1767 for details.

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**NEWS FROM NATIONAL:        AAUW, the WAGE Project Join Forces to Address Equal Pay**

WASHINGTON – AAUW and The WAGE Project today announced the formation of a partnership to ensure that women graduating from college start their careers knowing how to negotiate for fair and equal pay. This partnership will offer \$tart \$mart Campus Negotiation Workshops to 500 college campuses over the next three years.

These nuts-and-bolts workshops, piloted by WAGE in 2007 and 2008 on more than 60 campuses, will be presented by trained AAUW facilitators. AAUW and WAGE urge all campuses in the nation to offer this valuable workshop, which can serve as a powerful influence in the lives of young women.

The gender wage gap begins as early as the first year after a woman graduates from college, according to AAUW's research report, *Behind the Pay Gap*. A decade after graduation, it widens. In fact, AAUW found that the gap is clear even when women have the same major and occupation as their male counterparts.

Over a 40-year career, college-educated women will have an average lifetime loss of roughly \$1 million. In higher-paying fields, such as law, the wage gap can result in even greater lifetime losses – and long-term significantly impact retirement and Social Security income. Nationwide, working families lose \$200 billion of income annually to the gender wage gap. And as benefits, raises, and job offers are typically based on current earnings, a fair wage at the beginning of a career can help set the stage for lifetime equity.

"\$tart \$mart Campus Negotiation Workshops combine the vast membership of AAUW with the innovation of WAGE workshops to advance pay equity for working women," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "AAUW is well known for fighting to close the wage gap through our efforts on Capitol Hill and our other advocacy work. With these workshops, we will be on the front lines, mentoring young women to become their own best advocates."

"Empowering college women with knowledge and tools to counteract the reality of the gender wage gap is the objective of The WAGE Project's \$tart \$mart Campus Negotiation Workshops. WAGE is thrilled to have this opportunity to partner with AAUW members to bring \$tart \$mart workshops to women in colleges, community colleges, and universities throughout the United States. When these women graduate, they will have a better chance to get the paychecks they deserve," said Evelyn Murphy, president of WAGE.

The gender pay gap persists because of inadequate knowledge about its devastating impact and causes, inequitable treatment of working women, and women's lack of knowledge about negotiating for a fair and equal salary. Negotiating salaries is a challenge for women at all stages of their careers, but it is an essential tool—along

with stronger anti-discrimination laws and better enforcement of existing policies—to achieving economic security for women and their families.

## ***ROBINSON'S RANDOM RAMBLINGS***



AAUW encourages girls to study the sciences as well as the humanities. You may find the following scientific lore, garnered from test responses by some young scholars, male and female, of interest.

Q: Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

A: Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.

Q: How is dew formed? A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: How can you delay milk turning sour? A: Keep it in the cow.

Q: What causes the tides in the oceans? A: The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature hates a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.

Q: What happens to your body as you age? A: When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

Q: What is the fibula? A: A small lie.

Q: What does the word 'benign' mean? A: Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

***Keep smiling – Lin***



West Mesa Branch