



# Desert Doings

The Newsletter of West Mesa Branch, AAUW

January 2010

## *President's Note*



I hope you have had a wonderful holiday season. It will be good to see our AAUW friends again for our January meeting on Saturday the 16th at Seferino's Restaurant at noon. Seferino's is just north of Intel on Hwy. 528, on the same side of the road in the building behind the Shell gas station. We will meet in their private dining room and order off the menu. Please plan to leave a minimum \$2 tip. (The hash browns here are really good...I get them extra crispy.) Your RSVP is appreciated. Please call Marj Wyckoff by Friday noon on January 15. Marj's new number is 349-3121.

We are delighted that our program will be presented by a new member from our branch. Pat Maben will tell us about "Creating Home: Changing the Nation's Nursing Homes." Before moving to Rio Rancho, Pat worked for 15 years for the state of Kansas as the Director of Long Term Care. Since her retirement, Pat continues to teach and work on projects to change the culture of nursing homes. Please don't miss this timely presentation.

-- Cheryl

## January General Meeting

**Noon, Saturday, January 16**

**Seferino's**, Just north of Intel on Hwy. 528 in Rio Rancho  
behind Shell station on East side of 528  
Order off the menu.

Speaker: Pat Maben  
Creating Home: Changing the Nation's Nursing Homes

**Please RSVP to Marj Wyckoff at 349-3121 by Friday Noon, January 15.**

PUBLIC POLICY: My new computer should be up and running by January 8. I will then send out newsletters about my information-gathering in Santa Fe on education, ethics, domestic violence, etc.

-- Dixie Trebbe



### **Celebrate Action Network Successes in 2009!**

The growing power and reach of AAUW's [Action Network](#) can claim some impressive achievements. Just consider that over the past year, together, we have:

Regained ground in the fight for pay equity by successfully advocating for the enactment of the [Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act](#), signed into law by President Obama on January 29, 2009. AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman and AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Lisa Maatz were in the front row at the bill signing in the White House.

Celebrated at the White House after more than a decade of work to expand protections for victims of hate crimes with the successful enactment of the [Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act](#).

Successfully supported [Justice Sonia Sotomayor's](#) confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court, and celebrated this historic achievement for all women.

Convinced the House to take the first critical step towards strengthening and updating the Equal Pay Act with the successful passage of the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#), and increased the number of cosponsors in the Senate to more than ever before.

Tackled the issue of college affordability with our support for the House-passed [Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act](#), one of the single largest investments in higher education ever.

Ensured successful inclusion of AAUW's top priorities in the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#), including investments in higher education, school construction and modernization, and direct appropriations to states and localities to support critical services.

Advocated for coverage of maternity care and preventive care, an end to gender rating, and other protections in the largest [health care overhaul](#) in 40 years. Advocates also fought and rallied against the [anti-choice amendments](#) on Capitol Hill and across the country.

Ensured that a longtime champion for working women and their families has a seat at President Obama's cabinet table with the [Senate confirmation of Hilda Solis](#) as Secretary of Labor.

Convinced the House to support work-life balance policies with the passage of the [Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act](#). Advocates also supported extending coverage of the Family and Medical Leave Act to flight attendants, who had been previously excluded from the law's protections, and we celebrate the extension's enactment this week.

In the past year, together, AAUW has made great progress on fair pay, education, and a host of other issues. We have made our voices heard, but our work is far from over. These tough economic

times are a challenge to all of us, but they can be especially devastating to women because of harassment, discrimination, unfair wages, and more. **Please [make a contribution](#) now if you can, so that AAUW can intensify our crucial work to break through barriers for women and girls in the coming year.**

## Calendar

- Jan. 1 Half-price dues for new members are accepted
- (TBA) Lobby Corps planning meeting at Corinne Howard's
- Jan. 15 **Deadline: proposed AAUW-NM bylaws changes**  
Submit to Bylaws Chair
- Deadline: proposed AAUW-NM resolutions**  
Submit to Public Policy Chair – Dixie Trebbe
- Jan. 16 West Mesa Branch general meeting. See p. 1.
- (TBA) "Choice Rally"
- Jan. 31 Winter State Leadership Team Meeting - *Santa Fe Branch hosting*
- Feb. 1 A Day at the Legislature - *Santa Fe, NM*

*Keep up-to-date on state and other branch activities by visiting the AAUW- New Mexico website: [www.aauw-nm.org](http://www.aauw-nm.org)*

## Interest Groups

### **BRIDGE:**

BRIDGE TIPS: Learn to play bridge or improve your skills. We welcome all.

January 7 - Jana George

January 21 - Jane Ferguson

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

January 14 - - Bob Long - 897-7906

January 28 -- Kathy Lowry - 559-4929

February 11- Marianne Gardner--892-5971

February 25 - Marj Wyckoff--349-3121

**DINE AROUND** will be on Jan.31st, Sunday, 6 pm at Mimi and Bob's. Call them to sign up and decide what you'll bring at 897-7906.

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

**Jan. 27**     Home Safe by Elizabeth Berg  
Still Alice by Lisa Genova

**Feb. 24**     Death Song by Michael McGarrity  
The Last Child by John Hurt

**GREAT DECISIONS** (*WORLD of ISSUES*) will meet January 20, 2010, at 7:00 P.M. at Fairwinds in Rio Rancho. Jane will be leading the discussion on Human Rights in a New Era. We will also be getting new 2010 Briefing Books and choosing topics for the coming year. We invite AAUW members to join us or merely drop in for a visit. Call Laura at 328 1767 for details.



West Mesa Branch