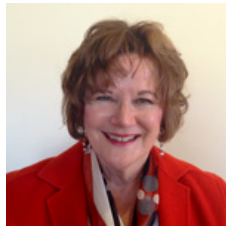


**SPEAKER BIOS**  
**AAUW New Mexico Spring Convention, 2015**



**Irene Lee** is the Director of the Learning Lab at Santa Fe Institute. She is the Principal Investigator of New Mexico Computer Science for All and Yo-GUTC, and Program Director of Project GUTS: Growing Up Thinking Scientifically. Irene received a BA in Pure Mathematics from the University of Chicago and an Ed. M. from Harvard Graduate School of Education. She is the Chair of the CSTA Computational Thinking Task Force and served as a member of the CSTA K-12 Computer Science Standards writing team. Previously, she designed and developed educational and video games for Electronic Arts and Theatrix Interactive and worked in informal education as a science specialist. Irene is the past president of the Supercomputing Challenge and the Swarm Development Group.



**Constance J. Burke** joined the International Folk Art Alliance team as Interim Executive Director in August 2014 and served in that capacity until March 30. She is currently serving as the Chief of Staff. Connie's career experience includes over 30 years in administration and management. She began her career as a technical writer for the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation and worked as a forestry technician for the U. S. Forest Service. Upon completing graduate school, she became a legal assistant in Environmental Law and rose through the ranks to the position of Director of Administration/CEO for Vinson & Elkins, an international law firm based in Houston, Texas...She then served as the Master of Lovett College, Rice University, Executive Director of Leadership Rice and Assistant to the Board of Trustees at Rice University in Houston, Texas. Connie went on to become Office Administrator for Bracewell & Giuliani, managing the daily operations of their regional office in Washington, D.C. before moving to Santa Fe in 2012.

She holds a B. S. in Geology from California State University, Long Beach and an M. S. in Forestry/Natural Resource Management from Oregon State University. She served as Co-Chair of Artists Hospitality for the 2014 International Folk Art Market | Santa Fe and Book Booth Coordinator for the 2013 Market. As an avid volunteer, she is also a docent at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico, volunteers at the Sweetheart Auction and served as the volunteer manager of the Estancia Primera clubhouse. Connie brings a breadth of experience and passion for the vision of IFAA that will allow the organization to continue to advance its mission during this interim period.



**Ricardo Cate'** - Father of three, veteran (USMC), middle school social studies teacher, GED instructor, film maker. Has been drawing the cartoon panel "Without Reservations" for the Santa Fe New Mexican for 8 years. Ricardo recently moved his studio from downtown Santa Fe back to Santo Domingo where he paints and draws cartoons he posts on Facebook daily. Ricardo hopes his cartoon will be picked up by a syndicate soon. A book of his collection of cartoons under the same name as his cartoon panel is available on Amazon.



**Valerie Plame** a former career covert CIA operations officer, Valerie Plame worked to protect America's national security and prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons. Valerie is the author of the *New York Times* best-selling memoir *Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House*, which was released as a major motion picture of the same name starring Sean Penn and Naomi Watts. Her first fictional spy thriller written with Sarah Lovett, *Blowback* was published by Penguin in the fall of 2013. The second book in the series, *Burned*, came out in late 2014.

Valerie narrated and appeared in the critically acclaimed documentary on the dangers of nuclear proliferation, *Countdown to Zero* and is an active member of the Global Zero Leadership board. Valerie has done extensive public speaking throughout the country and internationally on issues including nuclear proliferation, women in intelligence, and the NSA revelations. She has written for *Newsweek*, *CNN*, *The Daily Beast*, *The Huffington Post*, as well as *The Guardian*. Valerie is a consultant to Warner Brothers TV and serves as Director of Community Outreach at the Santa Fe Institute, a nonprofit research think tank dedicated to multidisciplinary collaboration in the sciences. She serves on the boards of United Way of Santa Fe County, the Penn State School of International Affairs, Postpartum Support International, and is involved in local public school reform.

Valerie has a Bachelor's degree from the Pennsylvania State University and graduate degrees from the London School of Economics and the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. She lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with her husband and two children.



**Mary Coffman** has a long career as a broadcast journalist, professor and media consultant. She retired from the Medill School of Journalism in 2010 after teaching broadcast journalism for 16 years in the graduate program in Washington where she also served as co-director.

As a media consultant, Coffman has conducted video storytelling workshops for the National Press Club, Georgetown University, American Red Cross and other nonprofits interested in producing quality online videos and improving on camera performance. In 2012, she moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico where she focuses on volunteer work. She is on the board of Santa Fe Habitat for Humanity, a docent at both the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum and the historic Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi and an active member of AAUW.