



**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF
UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

UNIVERSITY WOMAN TEXAS!

AAUW ADVANCES EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

.... a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls

FOCUS: EDUCATION EQUITY ADVOCACY

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



On behalf of all Texans, I am extending congratulations to the American Association of University Women on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

America stands today as a nation nurtured by the excellence of the people who call it home. From sea to shining sea, citizens of this great nation step forward to pursue individual achievement, and in so doing, strengthen foundations that benefit our nation as a whole, advancing prosperity and progress and paving the path for the generations to come.

The association by nurturing the accomplishments of women has played an important role in advancing America's promise. Through leadership, scholarship, advocacy and action, you continue to make a profound and positive difference. I salute you all and wish you continued success.

Anita joins me in extending best wishes for a grand celebration.

Rick Perry
Rick Perry
Governor



**TEXAS AAUW :STRATEGIC GOAL
ESTABLISHING A RECOGNIZED
IDENTITY ACROSS TEXAS**

Margo Johnson and Debbie Campbell, State Communication Team, has been hard at work making changes to Texas AAUW website. So keep a lookout for the revamped version—some points to keep in mind:

◇ **WEBSITE REVAMPING**

Debbie Campbell:

"Our site has been in place for over four years and like Topsy, has just grow'd—hard to find things, information is outdated, look is outdated. We want to appeal to a wider audience and make it easier for people new to or unfamiliar with AAUW to find info about our mission, about local branches, etc—make it easier-less expensive—less time consuming to maintain."

◇ **ON LINE BRANCH**

California Branches are doing this and it is working. Reasons for doing this:

- 1: To reach MAL's and potential AAUW members who are not close to a physical branch.
- 2: Reach younger 'wired' audience.
- 3: Appeal to people who do not have time or inclination to attend a meeting, but who support our mission and are interested in learning about and discussing relevant topics.

Suggestions are encouraged as to what you want on this on line branch-

◇ **MEMBER SERVICE DATABASE**

This option is now available online in the Member Center of AAUW website. This system provides

- 1: Secure access control for member and member leaders
- 2: Individual profile maintenance and contribution forms
- 3: Branch/state officer listings and branch member maintenance.

**CHANGES TO ESTABLISH A RECOGNIZES IDENTITY
ACROSS TEXAS**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In the mid 1960's, Bob Dylan wrote and performed the song, "The Times they are a Changin'" about the challenges facing a generation of Americans. Like that signature piece, AAUW is engaging in a vigorous study of its own social change. In this issue of UWT!, you may have noticed a re-working of the AAUW Mission and

Vision statements. As you may know, the Association Board and the Educational Foundation Board have participated in lengthy discussions over the last year concerning the Strategic Plan and the Strategic Process. The Plan and the Process are based upon data which was collected from the values discussions many AAUW members and branches, including many of you, participated in across the country as well as from AAUW partners, vendors, and non-AAUW members. Essential questions to this process were:

- How will the demographics of women and girls in 2015 and 2020 influence AAUW?
- How will they influence our mission, vision, programs, members, research, advocacy, finances and structure?

Responding to the challenges presented, these new statements reflect a strengthening of purpose. Like the Dylan lyrics, they "heed the call" to clarify, empower and advance the organization: Dylan writes that the "present now will later be the past", and in re-imagining the AAUW of the future, the combined Boards have advanced specific recommendations. These proposals include:

- Restructuring of all corporations into one entity;
- Restructuring of the voting process; and
- Restructuring the governing board.

These ambitious proposals will be voted on at the 2007 Phoenix, Arizona National Convention. In the meantime, in order to properly inform, please direct your attention and comments to the AAUW website: <http://www.aauw.org/membercenter>. Be part of this critical and ongoing dialogue; your discussion is valuable. I anticipate some very vigorous discussion surrounding these propositions.

I will be working on the Membership Task Force which will work in conjunction with four other task forces (Vision Focus, Organization Structure & Governance, Internal Communication and Rollout, and Due Diligence) to achieve an informed membership which supports the proposed organizational restructuring needed to realize our new mission.

The "times may [still] be a changin'", but forty years after Bob Dylan's song, AAUW women are still committed to managing the challenges and impacting the lives of women and girls, as powerful advocates and visible leaders in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change.

IN EQUITY

Linda

EDUCATION AS GATEWAY TO WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY

Did you know?

- * Full-time working women are paid only 76 cents for every dollar paid to men.
- * The wage gap is wider for women of color: African-American women are paid only 66 cents; Latinas, 54 cents.
- * Since 1963 the wage gap has narrowed by only 1/3 of a penny per year. At that rate of "growth," the gap will not be eliminated until 2039.
- * Over the course of her career, the average woman loses about \$523,000 because of the wage gap.
- * A college education nets a worker almost twice as much salary per year as does a high school education.

This is why AAUW has adopted **"Education: Gateway to Economic Security"** as its national theme. How can you as a branch officer carry this forward in your community?

The **"Woman to Woman" community dialog** is a good place to start. The branch chooses at least one partner organization with like-minded goals, and the two groups arrange a time to talk. This allows the groups to identify local issues of common concern, form new alliances, and gain new perspectives. Topics are determined at the local level under the umbrella of social justice. Like ripples in a pool, the conversation can expand and unite women to push for better wages and more economic opportunities for all women.

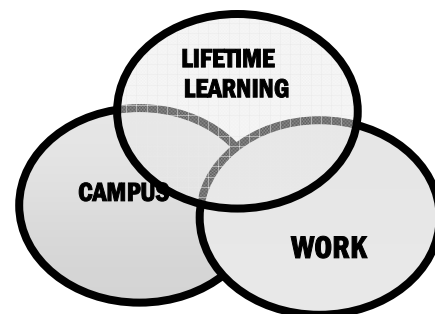
Plan to **observe Equal Pay Day 2007** (set for April 24) in your community. This Equal Pay Day is a symbolic date (not an exact date) at which women's earnings catch up to men's of the previous year. A Letter to the Editor of your paper is a good way to bring attention to this issue. Start early. It often takes papers three to four weeks to publish a letter (it doesn't hurt to keep calling to find out when it will run) the national website: <http://www.aauw.org/payequity> can give you information and sample letters.

Start a program or a scholarship to assist promising young women who would be the first in their family to go to college. The Lubbock branch is implementing the Mother-Daughter program which has been so successful at The University of Texas-El Paso for the past 20 years. The program has motivated hundreds of young girls –and their mothers—to pursue a college education. Although Lubbock is only in the piloting stage, the committee has already found willing partners in the University Colleges of Education, Human Sciences, and Business and in the school system. The branch's next step is to start a scholarship fund.

Mark your calendar now to **attend the 2008 AAUW state convention in Dallas**, April 25-27, 2008. The convention will highlight issues of economic security for women of all ages and circumstances.

So go for it, branches! **Because Equity is definitely still an issue.**

TEXAS AAUW: STRATEGIC GOAL
CREATE AND PROMOTE DYNAMIC MISSION
BASED THEME FOCUS PROGRAMS



EXPLORE THE RESOURCES ON THE WEBSITE

The AAUW website offers a rich array of program model tool kits, publications, and other resources to spark and support mission based programming.

PROGRAM	SUPPORTING
Theme Focus Development Campus and School Programs Fellowship Grants Grassroots Legal Advocacy Partnership Public Policy	Communications Development Events Leadership Library Leader to Leader Links of Interest Membership Presentations -- PowerPoint

EXPLORE THESE
RESOURCES TO
STIMULATE YOUR
PLANNING AND
ACTION TO PROMOTE
AAUW'S MISSION
OF EDUCATION AND
EQUITY FOR ALL.

Women in Leadership Roles



WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE DAYS

**UNITED WOMEN FOR
FAIRNESS AND EQUITY**

**JANUARY 28-30, 2007
AUSTIN, TEXAS**

POWER TO ONE VOTE

110th Congress

45% increase for women

47-66 increase- House of Representatives

6-13 increase—Senate

**First time in U.S. history a woman will be
speaker of the house—**

Nancy Pelosi-California

CALLING ALL NEW OFFICERS TO THE JULY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

“Envisioning the Future” will be the theme of the 2007 AAUW- Texas Leadership Conference in Austin, TX, July 20-22. According to program vice president Lane Powell, the conference will celebrate the organizations past history and use it to focus on the future.

“We must be thoroughly educated about all aspects of our organization, in order to be passionate advocates for its future,” said Powell. “When members appreciate what we have done and are doing for equity issues for women, they catch the vision and renew their energy to spread the word about who we are and what we have accomplished.” A “futurist,” a leading

TV news person, and a member of the national association staff have been invited to lead plenary sessions. All come highly recommended and speak with experience about their fields of interest.

Since this conference is designed to orient and train branch leaders, there will also be a wide variety of workshop offerings, as well

As time to visit with District Representatives and browse through resources available from the national and state sources. The conference will include two new features: a book discussion lead by Jackie Littleton on the book “The World is Flat,” and Round Table sessions where participants will choose three

topics to discuss in small rotating groups.

“We also strive to keep costs to a minimum so that branches can bring several officers to the two-day conference,” said Powell. The state also underwrites the registration and hotel costs of one representative from every branch. An information notebook with information about all areas of the organizational focus—from the Educational Foundation to the Star Awards criteria—will be supplied for each registrant. So don’t delay!

Be sure your incoming officers put this event on their calendars now!

**JULY 20-22, 2007
AUSTIN, TEXAS**

JANUARY 29, 2007 Monday		JANUARY 30, 2007 Tuesday	
Global Warning	Luke Metzzer Environmental Texas	Advocacy and Lobbying	Sherri Greenberg
Public Education	Dawnna Dukes State Representative		
State Tax Income	Public Policies Priorities	Women's Vote	People of American Way
Religious Attack- Science	Katy Miller Freedom Network	Women Elected Official	Valinda Bolton State Rep
Immigrational issues	to be announced		
Women's Health - Family	Planned Parenthood	January 30 at noon Bussed to capitol for lunch and tour- Visit with your Representative and Senators.	
Advocacy and Lobbying	Parenthood of Texas		
Violence Against Women	Torie Ca mp - Association Against Sexual Assault		
Stem Research	Peggy Romberg Diabetes		

SISTER TO SISTER SUMMIT

BRINGS TOGETHER GIRLS TO
ADDRESS ISSUES THAT SCHOOLS
CANNOT ADEQUATELY ADDRESS-
ISSUES THAT
AAUW HAS LABELED THE
'EVADED CURRICULUM'

- SUBSTANCE ABUSE
- SEXUAL HARASSMENT
- VIOLENCE- ABUSE
- EARLY SEXUAL ACTIVITY
- BODY IMAGE

**EDUCATION AND EQUITY:
CHOICES FOR A
CHANGING WORLD
PORTFOLIO OF PROJECTS
ADDRESSING THE NEW
CENTURY'S OPPORTUNITY^ FOR
WOMEN AND GIRLS AND THE
CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING
THEIR DECISIONS**

**SIGNPOST
TECHCHECK
TRANSITIONS
WOMAN-WOMAN DIALOGUES
LEADERSHIP LIBRARY
SISTER TO SISTER SUMMITS***

**^OPPORTUNITIES IN
WORK EDUCATION AND
COMMUNITY**

*To learn more about these
programs and to receive free step
by step planning material click on
AAUW website

SUCCESS AT SISTER-SISTER IN TARRANT COUNTY

A Sister to Sister Summit was held on November 4 on the north side of Fort Worth at Diamond Hill High School by the Tarrant County Branch (TCB). This was the fifth summit for the branch. It was undoubtedly viewed by middle school girls and the college women as a wonderful experience. Participating in the summit were sixty-three girls from Meacham, Kirkpatrick, J.P. Elder, and Stripling middle schools. Thirty nine college women volunteered from Texas Christian University and Texas Wesleyan University and two women from Tarrant County College who accompanied the girls from one of the middle schools.

The college women are from the same background as the middle school girls. Many of the college women were students in the same middle schools. This makes an almost immediate connection between the two groups. The girls remain in the same group for the entire day so that as the day progresses, they become more and more comfortable and willing to express themselves. Expression is also helped by having the curriculum translated to Spanish for any of the girls who are more comfortable in Spanish than in English. The middle school girls find it refreshing to be able to talk and have someone listen to them. They are in awe of the successful college women who lead the discussion session.

The topics for the chat sessions are the same each year: self-image, relationships, goal setting, and education. The college volunteers play a large role in setting curriculum during two training sessions. They generate questions for the chat sessions, select inspirational poetry or stories to read, plan ice-breakers and skits, and help plan a closing activity. The assistant coordinator for Absolute Excellence, Melissa Vidal, guided the volunteers through each step of the planning.

Featured speaker at lunch was Tammy Gomez, a renowned Fort Worth poet. She is featured in the award-winning PBS documentary "Voices from Texas." She captured the girls' attention with her performances intertwined with stories of herself and how each poem came to be.

The final speaker of the day was Tanginika-Simone Cuascud Vega (a branch member of TCB) who provided the girls with her story and the fact that she has just finished a PhD. The uplifting ending to the day was Tanginika singing a song to the girls that assured them that they will find the strength and answers to their problems inside themselves.

The TCB members provided name tags, a breakfast snack, lunch, and goodie bags to take home. The girls also received certificates for completing the summit. EVERYONE got a teal T-shirt. The event was in part underwritten by DeVry University and a grant from the Women's Policy Forum.

It was a great day for TCB members, the college volunteers, the middle school girls, and the speakers. The middle school girls will long remember the college women and the fact that someday they too can be a college student. The college women will recognize AAUW as the group who sponsored the summit.

Success for all,

Jo Linda Jara Martinez

Mary DuBoise

Co-chairs Sister-to-Sister Summit

EDUCATION FOUNDATION

MARY DUBOISE

OBJECTIVE: INCREASE DONATIONS 10%

For more than a century the AAUW has helped nearly 8,700 women in 133 countries pursue their dreams of obtaining a graduation degree or making an impact in their community. This is done through fellowships and grants.

Fellowships

- American
- International
- Selected Professional

Grants:

- Community Action
- Career Development



Texas members have endowed several fellowships honoring women such as Barbara Jordan

**1938-1996-
Barbara be-
came the first black
woman buried in
the Texas
State Cemetery
in Austin**

**WHY BARBARA JORDAN**

When I said I would write this article about Barbara Jordan, I had no idea what memory lanes it would lead me down. Her voice still sounding so strong and confident with such perfect diction is what I will always remember. How did she get such perfect diction being from Texas? More than one source suggests it was from her father that she learned diction.

Her words? The "...really stunning thing about her rhetoric was that she used words with the same precision that a master stone mason used when he makes a wall. She chose words so carefully to build thoughts, and never put a word out of place. If you were quoting her, you had to quote her exactly, because if you tried to substitute a word of your own, you'd mess up the whole thing," said Molly Ivins on PBS NewsHour broadcast Jan, 17, 1996

Barbara Jordan was born in 1936 in Houston, Texas in the Fifth Ward. She was the third daughter and youngest daughter. She would earn degrees from Texas Southern University (1956) and Boston University (1959). Her first elected office was in 1966 when she was elected to the Texas Senate. She was the first black Texas Senator in more than 80 years and the first black woman to ever serve. Barbara met resistance in the Texas Senate and overcame it "by sheer strength of personality, by ability, by her force of intelligence, and, of course, her superb voice, the rhetoric," according to Molly Ivins.

She served in the Texas Senate until 1972 when she was elected to the US House of Representatives. This is where she became known to more than Texans through television and the House Judiciary Committee holding hearings on Watergate and the impeachment of President Richard Nixon.

One of her most memorable quotes comes from July 1974

"WE THE PEOPLE. It is a very eloquent beginning. But when that document was completed on the 17th of September in

1787, I was not included in that 'We, the people.' I felt somehow for many years that George Washington and Alexander Hamilton just left me out by mistake.

But through the process of amendment, interpretation and court decision, I have finally been included in 'We, the people, my faith in the Constitution is whole, it is complete, and it is total.'

This faith in the Constitution is a recurring theme in many of her speeches and her actions. One of the actions she took that showed her faith was adding language to the renewal of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This language requirement was opposed by the Texas Governor and Secretary of State. Legislation requiring banks to provide services to the underprivileged and minority groups was sponsored by Barbara. (Wikipedia)

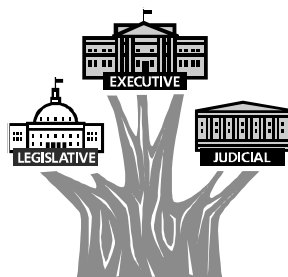
The keynote speaker for the Democratic National Convention in July 1976 was Barbara. She was the first woman. Quotes from that address:

"A spirit of harmony can only survive if each of us remembers, when bitterness and self-interest seem to prevail, that we all share a common destiny." "E pluribus Unum. From many one. It was a good idea when the country was founded, and it's a good idea today!" "We cannot improve on the system of government handed down to us by the founders of the Republic, but we can find new ways to implement that system and realize our destiny."

Barbara left politics in 1979 and began teaching at UT Austin. While she kept the health issues private, she suffered from MS and passed away January 17, 1996.

Mary DuBoise

Sources for this included:
www.pbs.org,
www.taha.edu, www.wikipedia.org,
http://womenshistory.about.com,
www.utexas.edu



BARBARA JORDAN QUOTES

**"What the people want is very simple. They want an America as good as its promise."
Harvard. 1977)**

"One thing is clear to me: We, as human beings, must be willing to accept people who are different from ourselves."

"If society today allows wrongs to go unchallenged, the impression is created that those wrongs have the approval of the majority."

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND
MARIETTA HOSTAK
OBJECTIVE INCREASE DONATIONS 3%

THE CIRCLE GOES UNBROKEN

AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRESS IN EQUITY AWARD

This award was presented to the University of Michigan, Dearborn College in recognition of their college level course at Scott Correctional Facility for Women.

This program offers university certified courses in women studies, American studies and other classes at the Scott Prison. Through this program, incarcerated women are given hope and the tools to overcome the obstacles life has placed before them as well as the opportunity for a fresh start after they leave prison.

In addition the program also challenges conventional stereotypes about women in prison and educates the mentors about the pathways to prison for women.

What is the Progress in Equity Award?

1. Recognizes a college or university program that has resulted in significant progress for women on campus.
2. Be innovative and exploring.
3. Address the needs of diverse groups of

4. women.
Replicable or adaptable to other institutions.

TEXAS AAUW PEA PROJECT

"The Infinity Project"

Created by Southern Methodist University Engineering School—

High Schools students explored how engineering through math and science made lives better at the University Engineering Camp for Girls. Students were challenged to create the curriculum for the camp.

Student's designs included the Clean Machine, an automatic cleaning machine; the Sign Matcher, allowing cars to drive in autopilot; and the Automatic tanning Machine.

Educators' Day workshop was held in conjunction with the camps. This was to provide high school educators with the tools to encourage students to pursue engineering in college.

Betsy Willis PHD
Engineering School

**SYLVIA
NEWMAN
GIVING
CIRCLE
FUND**

SUPPORTING PEA

Sylvia Newman served in a variety of leadership roles for AAUW. She succumbed to cancer in 2004.

The Sylvia Newman Giving Circle Fund was established by Texas AAUW in her honor. The goal was to raise \$25,000; the fund closed last year raising over \$35,000.

Sylvia's passion was Legal Advocacy Fund and eliminating sex discrimination. For this reason the Board decided to support the LAF Progress In Equity Award.

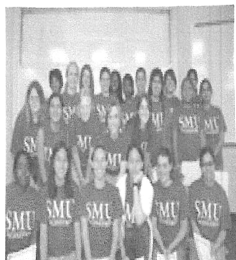
Sylvia said "she did not want her granddaughter to live in a society that still had sex discrimination." One of her dreams was to prevent it from happening.

information from
aauwtexas.org

THE CIRCLE GOES UNBROKEN

THRU DONATIONS,
AAUW'S MISSION AND
PAYING IT FORWARD**

**see article page 10



Girls attending Engineering school and Sylvia Newman-





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AAUW AND UNITED NATIONS

"Staying informed of AAUW's efforts internationally really does matter; we are part of a global community that continues to become smaller! I urge each branch to become involved in our world community!"

Did you know AAUW has a representative to the United Nations?

Our country is only one of over 190 (191-193 depending on the source) countries on Earth. Only two countries are not U.N. members; Taiwan and Vatican City

AAUW has a deep interest in women's issues locally, nationally and internationally. Our goal is to stay informed of the status of women and girls everywhere and to work in advocacy for their empowerment.

Our current representative to the U.N., appointed in 2000, is Carolyn Donovan of New York. Carolyn attends selected meetings and hearings at the U.N. at least once a week to monitor issues about women and girls. She brings information to our AAUW leaders and members, advocating AAUW's support of the U.N. agenda in areas affecting women and girls and

stronger U.S. support of the United Nations. As our representative, she often makes arrangements for AAUW members to visit the United Nations for briefings and conferences.

Prior to Donovan, Mary Purcell served as AAUW's U.N. representative during most of the 1990s. Purcell, former IFUW and AAUW president, continues as the head of IFUW's representatives and serves as the co-chair of the steering committee of the NGO Committee on UNICEF. She co-founded the committee's Working Group on Girls and the International Network for Girls and helped draft Section L of the Beijing Platform for Action that addresses the unique problems girls face

AAUW follows many issues at United Nations. Each of these areas are relevant to AAUW's theme of [Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security](#). A woman's opportunity for education and advancement is affected greatly by these real-life issues.

In future editions of UWT! we will look closely at these issue areas and how some local branches are making a difference. Please remember to include an international perspective as a branch program.

• ISSUES AAUW FOLLOWS AT U.N.

- * Women's/girls' rights
- * Poverty and development
- * Women in peacekeeping
- * Women and globalization
- * HIV/AIDS and health issues
- * Trafficking/sexual exploitation
- * Early marriage
- * Female genital cutting
- * Older women
- * Impact of national budgets on women's lives
- * Gender imbalance in U.N. agencies
- * Gender balances on government delegations
- * Education, lifelong learning, and higher education
- * Women and the environment, including natural disasters

WOMEN IN WORK

Since 1963 the wage gap has narrowed by only one-third of a penny per year. At the current rate of change, the wage gap will not be eliminated until 2030

WOMEN ON CAMPUS

It is projected that by 2011 women will outnumber men in under graduate and graduate programs by 10.2 million to 7.4 million. Women also earn 57% of master's degrees and 42% of doctoral degrees.

LIFE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Women owned businesses generate \$1.5 trillion in sales and employ 9.2 million people (2005)

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS Liz Step

The 2006-2008 AAUW Texas Board of Directors held its second meeting in Houston, Nov 17-19th:

President Linda Conger welcomed the entire Board, and thanked Marietta Hostak and other Houston AAUW members for their gracious and tireless hospitality. Special thanks were also given to Jackie Littleton for continuous leadership with the Strategic Plan, as well as to Pat Ross and other AAUW members for their willingness to serve the Membership Committee. Friday evening activities included planning events led by the 2007 Leadership Conference Team and Membership Committees.

Saturday morning began as Jackie Littleton led the Strategic Planning activities, followed by a group picture. The Business Meeting followed with reports and direction coming from President Conger, Finance, Programs, Membership, Educational Foundation, Legal Advocacy, Branch Services, International Affairs, Regional officers, directors and chairs. In addition, the State Handbook and minutes were distributed, job descriptions and policies and procedures approved, and recommendations were received for AAUW TX Administrator's duties. An exceptional state website demo was presented by the Communications team, as well as an exciting report from the Membership Committee.

Other business was received by President Conger, and the meeting was successfully adjourned at noon on Sunday.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

WEST HARRIS

CELEBRATE AAUW's 125th BIRTHDAY

WHEN November 14, 2006

WHERE Tracy Gee Community Center, 7pm

HOW With a birthday gift to support one of the following:

Education Foundation

Legal Advocacy Fund

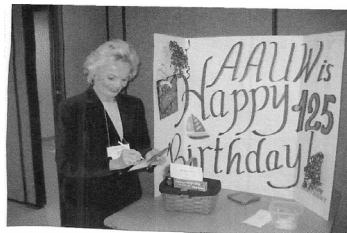
Baker/Telfer Scholarship Fund

Directions

- Write a separate check directly to one or more of the above funds and mail using the enclosed envelope.
- The check, if written to EF or LAF will be immediately forwarded to Washington.
- A check written to Baker/Telfer will be deposited in that local account.

Return all gifts in the enclosed envelope
OR
bring them to the branch meeting Nov. 14, 7:00 pm at Tracy Gee and celebrate AAUW's birthday

Cost of this mailing has been donated. All gifts are tax deductible



On November 1, an invitation was sent to all branch members inviting them to AAUW 125th birthday party. It was suggested that an appropriate gift would be their check to one or more of the following: The Education Foundation, the Legal Advocacy Fund or the local Baker/Telfer Scholarship. They were encouraged to bring their check(s) to the November branch meeting or they could mail them using the enclosed envelope.

At the branch meeting November 14, our state president Linda Conger appeared in costume as the founding Mother Marion Talbot and presented a history of the Association. The members then celebrated by signing the huge birthday card, prepared by member Maureen Ernie and depositing their checks to the fund of their choice. Afterward all enjoyed birthday cake and coffee. Gifting the three charities was well received by the membership of West Harris County with over \$2000 donated!

ORANGE BRANCH

Located on I-10 24 miles east of Beaumont on the Louisiana border, Orange, TX (population, 18,000) is a beautiful, quaint town with lush foliage, huge trees, wonderful historic buildings and proud, spirited residents.

In August, 2005 Orange experienced an influx of Hurricane Katrina survivors who came through on their way to shelters. The members of the Orange Branch got busy distributing books to the children of these families through their "A Book of their Own" program which the branch sponsors along with Project Head Start. Just three weeks later, the city and county of Orange were totally devastated by Hurricane Rita.

Even though they and their families and friends lost their homes, businesses, and belongings, Orange Branch members still found the strength and determination to hold a garage sale and a book sale to raise money for two \$1000 scholarships. They awarded the scholarships to two very deserving local high school girls at a dinner which they held at the end of the year.

They also gave \$600 to Project Head Start for the "A Book of Their Own" program. Early this year the branch was awed when Valero employees, on their own, gave the branch \$1,500 for the program and 750 used books to be distributed to underprivileged children.

Due to the storm, the members were not able to present "Now You Are 18" to Orange County High School Seniors. However, this amazing group has, in conjunction with the Orange County Bar Association, presented this program on the seniors' rights and responsibilities to 5 of the 6 high schools in the county. This is a group which truly believes in the mission of AAUW over the structure of AAUW. They were unable to have any branch meetings in 2005 - 2006 yet managed to move the mission forward with their projects and scholarships. I was honored to attend their October meeting and visit with this amazing group of women, and I am happy to report that they have rebuilt their branch, even as they continue to rebuild their lives, their homes, and their community. The only members they have lost are those who moved away; they have a full calendar of programs and projects, and a very active book group.

Congratulations, Orange Branch members! You exemplify the mission and vision of AAUW and we are all very proud of you and your work!

Linda Conger

STEPHENVILLE BRANCH

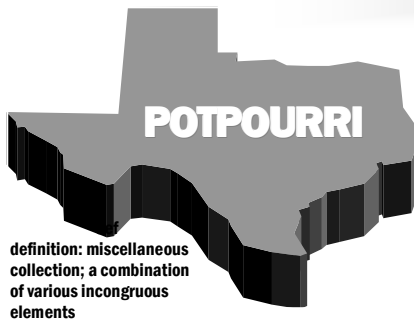
Barbara Moser- President

The first **WOMEN HELPING WOMEN SEMINAR** was held on Saturday, April 1, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center in Stephenville, Texas. It was sponsored by the Cross Timbers Business & Professional Women's Club and the Stephenville Branch of American Association of University Women. There was a \$15.00 registration fee which included lunch. Seminar topics were:

Entrepreneurial Spirit:
Starting Your Own Business
Personalities: Everybody Has One!
You're Hired: Resume Writing and Interviewing Skills
First Step: Thinking About Returning To or Beginning College
Healthy Woman:
Through the Years
Professional Polish:
Business Etiquette

We awarded ten door prizes and provided "goody bags" to everyone present. There were 32 attendees. We had a fashion show during the luncheon.

Plans are underway for the 2nd Women Helping Women Seminar to be held in April 2007.



TELL YOUR AAUW STORY

An additional new section on the 125th anniversary web features an AAUW "Stories" page. Members can share their most memorable moment in AAUW, reasons for joining, funny and notable stories, and more.

Now you can submit your story to
UWT! Potpourri Page

- * **Submit branch stories**
- * **Comments**
- * Pay tribute to the organization in your own words!

PAYING IT FORWARD

Permission from Marta Mountjoy- Richardson Branch to print—

When I received the AAUW Washington LAF Update, I read it with a somewhat tepid level of interest, but this last issue caught my eye and I want to share the reasons why. The article focused on a \$5,000 LAF Award that AAUW gave to Scott Correctional Facility for women in Dearborn, Michigan. I am not a Michigan native, but my sister lives there and belongs to the 200 member Ann Arbor branch of AAUW, so I thought she would be interested in this award. I

forwarded the article to her and she was so enthusiastic because the facility is where she provided parenting skills workshops several years ago to the women inmate who would soon be released into their communities. She told me that these women wanted to stop the cycle of poor parenting so that their children would have better lives and opportunities.

One of her former students (inmate) eventually completed college at the University of Michigan and there were many other success stories as a result of their continuing education program that university pro-

fessors provide to inmates on a volunteer basis.

These courses focus on literacy and math skills as well as courses in the arts and other topics that the inmates request.

So our AAUW is helping improve the lives of women in all walks of life and it means so much to other who have not encountered the educational choices that many of us have had.

Thanks Marta for sharing!

DOWN MEXICO WAY!

Melba Zarembo

President McAllen Branch
South District Representative

We have established communication with the Reynosa, Mexico AAUW (used to visit in the early 90's). The Reynosa Branch will celebrate their 25th anniversary in April and we have been invited to attend their celebration.

A Reynosa AAUW representative attended our 125th year celebration meeting on Nov 11th. The following are some of the activities they are currently involved with:

- * Provide breakfast and lunch to elementary school children in Reynosa
- * Members are featured weekly on a local radio station educating the population (mainly women) on health issues, law, education, etc. Members sign up and have to prepare a 15 min- 30 min. presentation. The public very well receives the presentation.
- * Work and support all cultural events in Reynosa
- * Volunteer at school and health clinic
- * Work with local organizations in Reynosa such as the Lions Club.
- * Work and encourage tourism

We have visited their meetings. Their meetings are up to FIVE HOURS long. All the media in area are invited and they all show up. All, members take pictures and guests are interviewed.

The meeting I attended the time was set for 7 pm for dinner. We started eating dinner around 11 pm. every member and guest was introduced and asked to speak. Everyone did. I got home at 2 am.

UPCOMING—

A few of the board members plan on doing a caravan trip to McAllen then to Reynosa for the April! Celebration!

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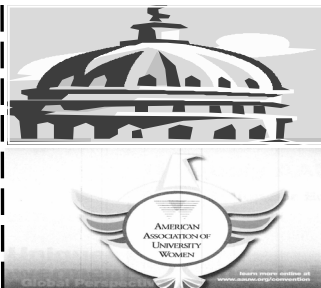
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calendar 2007- JANUARY-JUNE

- JANUARY 1
BEGIN CHARGING HALF DUES
- JANUARY 26-28
BOARD MEETING-AUSTIN TX
- JANUARY 28-30-
LEGISLATIVE DAYS
- MARCH 07
SMU WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM
- APRIL 24
PAY EQUITY DAY
- JUNE 1-
BRANCH OFFICER REPORT DUE
- JUNE 29-JULY 2
- ASSOCIATION CONVENTION-
PHOENIX ,ARIZONA

WE ARE ON THE WEB
aauwtexas.org



**WOMEN
LEGISLATIVE
DAYS**

JANUARY 28-30, 2007 AUSTIN, TEXAS
UNITING WOMEN FOR FAIRNESS AND EQUITY

**NATIONAL
CONVENTION**

JUNE 29-JULY 2, 2007
THE PHOENIX IS RISING IN ARIZONA
ENGAGE , LEARN, NETWORK , , AND CELEBRATE

WOMEN'S PEACE CONFERENCE

JULY 10-15 DALLAS TEXAS
TO CREATE PATHS OF PEACE THROUGH
COOPERATION AND POSITIVE ACTION



**LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE**

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE
JULY 20-22, 2007 AUSTIN, TX.
The conference will celebrate the organizations
past history and use it to focus on the future.



**TEXAS
AAUW
CONVENTION**

APRIL 25-27, 2008
DALLAS TEXAS
CELEBRATE
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AAUW IN TEXAS AND
THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE DALLAS BRANCH



HILTON DALLAS
LINCOLN CENTRE

Maria Viera-Willaims President Dallas



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