



THE BRANCH CONNECTION

Dallas, Texas, Branch

February and March 2015

AAUW's Mission: advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Message from the President

I am sorry I missed the meeting with Megan Bird on Saturday January 10th. Thanks go to Carla for scheduling and introducing Megan and to Jo Blount and Marcia Cooper for the refreshments. Also I appreciate Pat conducting the meeting and Marva Jo reminding everyone that *The 67th Book of the Bible* based on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1963 "Letter from Birmingham Jail" was to be presented at the Dallas City Performance Hall on January 19th. Marva Jo announced Dr. Njoki McElroy's performance of Maya Angelou's monologue to be given at our February 7th branch meeting. Many of us enjoyed attending Dr. McElroy's performance and that of her students at SMU on November 7th.

Clarence's cousins from Houston were available the same weekend as our meeting to visit and see *The Faces of Impressionism* at the Kimbell. This is a magnificent collection of portraits from the Musee d'Orsay which I hope many of you have been able to see or will be able to work into your schedule before it closes Sunday January 25th. Later Saturday at the DMA, we saw *Bouquets: French Still Life Painting from Chardin to Matisse*, a beautiful exhibition that closes Sunday, February 8th.

At the United Nations Day Dinner and Consultation on October 24th Pat Clendenin and I had a Sponsor/Exhibitor Table to acquaint attendees with AAUW. We were pleased to have Melissa Chapman and Mary Overton, who is active in the League of Women Voters, join our branch and sit with us during the dinner, as well as Patty Jantho and her daughter Holly, along with Pat's husband Richard and Clarence.

On December 6th AAUW Dallas had a wonderful Holiday Luncheon and Silent Auction at Celebration Restaurant with twenty-seven attending. Diana Kao, a founding member of the Younger Women's Task Force, gave a very interesting talk about her educational experiences and her work as Program Coordinator of the McDermott Scholars Program at UTD. Also we enjoyed hearing from Nicole Harrington and learning about her background, membership in the Younger Women's Task Force, and her work at UTD.

In addition we were honored to have many of our past presidents attending. Pat Clendenin, Maria Viera-Williams, Elizabeth Mouritsen, Dr. Gloria Hewlett, and Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley spoke of their happy memories while serving as President of AAUW Dallas. We also heard from Melissa Chapman and Crucita Treadwell who joined AAUW in October

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February Branch Meeting

Saturday, February 7, 2015

10:00 a.m. – Noon

Center for Community Cooperation

2900 Live Oak Street

Dr. Njoki McElroy

A Tribute to Maya Angelou

**We will not have a branch meeting in March.
Members are encouraged to attend the following:**

Celebration of International Women's Day

Saturday, February 28, 2015

Noon – 8 p.m.

Bath House Cultural Center

512 E. Lawther Dr., Dallas

See attached flyer, P. 4, for additional details.

50th Annual SMU Women's Symposium

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The SMU Women's Symposium was created in 1966 and is the longest continuously running program of its kind in the country. This annual forum brings together women and men of differing ages and multicultural backgrounds to examine and discuss topics of national interest. This year's symposium, the 50th annual, is titled "We've Shaped Our History. Let's Create Our Future". Schedule and registration details—deadline February 25th—are at www.smu.edu/womsym.

AAUW North Texas Interbranch Meeting

Saturday, March 7, 2015

10:00 a.m. – Noon

4001 W. 15th St., Bldg. III, Ste. 315, Plano

(northwest corner of Coit and 15th,
across from Medical Center Plano)

(Message from the President, Continued)

and Dr. Catalina Garcia, an anesthesiologist and community volunteer, who joined in November.

At our November 1st branch meeting Maria-Luiza Popescu, a member of the Younger Women’s Task Force, was our speaker. Janelle Hampton, who has retired as Registrar of Perkins School of Theology, rejoined our branch.

In March we will not have a branch meeting; however, our board encourages members to take advantage of other opportunities. The International Women’s Day celebration has been scheduled for February 28th at the Bath House, and AAUW Dallas will have a table as we did last year.

On March 4th the 50th Annual SMU Women’s Symposium will feature Lilly Ledbetter whom AAUW National supported on Capitol Hill to gain passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act. The deadline for registration is February 25th. Many of us attended the all-day event last year and plan to attend again this year.

On March 7th AAUW Plano/Collin County will host the North Texas Interbranch Meeting featuring Melodia Gutierrez, AAUW Regional Field Representative, discussing health and other issues of interest to women in Texas. The meeting from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon is open to DFW AAUW Branches and the public with a light breakfast provided.

Margaret B. Gilmore, Ph.D.
President, AAUW Dallas 2011-2015

AAUW Dallas – Future Officers

Please contact Pat Clendenin of the nominating committee if you’re interested in serving as an AAUW Dallas officer next year. Serving on the board is a great way to connect more with other members and to influence and contribute to the work of AAUW Dallas. You can also contact current office holders to find out more about roles and responsibilities.

Literature Group Discussions

Please join us for our book club group meetings:
February 11, 7:30 pm – The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin.
March 11, 7:30 pm – The Luminaries by Eleanor Catton.

Page 17 of the directory has a complete schedule.

Meetings Follow-up

Thank you Jo Blount and Marcia Cooper for our January meeting refreshments. Thanks in advance to Rose-Mary Rumbley for February refreshments.

We enjoyed hearing Megan Bird talk about **Alley’s House** at our January branch meeting. If you’re interested in learning more about the organization and their need for volunteers, donations, please see www.alleyshouse.org.

Our December auction and donations raised approx. \$700 for LAF and scholarships. We also collected a stack of books for Vickery Meadow children and a stack of shoeboxes with gloves, toothbrushes, and other goodies for the Stewpot to give to the homeless. Photos of the donations are below. **Thanks to our members for their generous donations and for supporting AAUW Dallas activities!**



Above - books for Vickery Meadow;
Below - filled shoeboxes for the homeless



What Is the Younger Women’s Task Force (YWTF)?

YWTF is an affiliate entity of AAUW, formed by and for younger women to fight for social justice. YWTF is a diverse and inclusive group of activists, organizers, allies, and professionals that is both local and nationwide. YWTF has chapters in six U.S. cities, including Dallas, and plans to add many more chapters.

From AAUW.org

We met and heard from three Dallas YWTF members—Nicole Harrington, Diana Kao, and Maria-Luiza Popescu—at recent AAUW Dallas meetings. YWTF of Dallas has a Facebook page, where you can read more about their events and activities, including a social on **January 22nd** near downtown Dallas. We look forward to connecting more with the YWTF of Dallas in the future.

AAUW Texas – Ann Richards Fund

AAUW Texas established an Educational Opportunities Foundation fellowship fund in honor of former Governor Ann Richards in late 2008. The commitment is to reach the American Fellowship level of \$200,000, after which this fund will become part of a long—since 1888—and illustrious history of women supporting women to achieve their academic and professional goals. American Fellowships support women doctoral candidates completing dissertations and scholars seeking funds for postdoctoral research leave or for preparing completed research for publication.

To date, about half of the \$200,000 goal has been raised, and we have until 2023 to complete the fund. Donations can be made online at aauw.org by selecting “Support a specific program”, then designating “Ann Richards” from the Fellowships dropdown menu.

Excerpts from aauw-tx.aauw.net

AAUW Educational Funding and Awards

One of the world’s largest sources of funding for graduate women, AAUW is providing more than \$3.7 million in funding for more than 244 fellowships and grants to outstanding women and nonprofit organizations in the 2014-15 academic year. Fellowship and grant recipients perform research in a wide range of disciplines and work to improve their schools and communities.

From aauw.org

AAUW Action Fund

The AAUW Action Fund Congressional Voting Record for the 113th Congress is available at www.aauwaction.org. The specific legislation included was selected on the basis of AAUW’s public policy priorities and principles as adopted at the AAUW convention in 2013.

AAUW’s priorities for the 114th Congress, which meets from January 2015 through December 2016, are summarized in a downloadable two-page document at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/priorities-for-women-in-114th-congress/>.

AAUW advocates for federal policies that will help all women and families achieve economic security and for a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity. Economic security policies include legislation to close the gender pay gap and to offer families greater work-life balance and health care security. AAUW also advocates for policies that help close the achievement gap in education and provide safe climates for all students.

From aauw.org

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund

In the last 33 years, AAUW’s Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) has supported more than 100 cases challenging sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. Sex discrimination today takes a variety of forms: unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and violations of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 can affect both women and men. LAF addresses these barriers by informing people of their rights and using the legal system to seek justice and change.

Summaries of current LAF-supported cases and recently concluded cases are available at

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/legal-resources/strategic-case-support/laf-cases/>.

From aauw.org

2015 AAUW National Convention

Registration is open for AAUW’s 2015 National Convention to be held June 18-21, 2015 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina. Reduced registration rates will be available through March 31, 2015. Additional details on the agenda, speakers, activities, and registration are available at <http://convention.aauw.org/>.

Words of Women Presents and Invites You To
The 104th International and 14th Annual Hello Sisters Dallas Celebration

International Women's Day 2014

A Festival of Ideas

February 28, 2015, Noon-8pm

Bath House Cultural Center

Featuring

Words of Women Essays and Award Ceremony

Hello Sisters YouTube Video and Booth

Map the World

Community Resource Table

Cultural Displays and Exhibits

Local Artists, Authors, Artisans, Art Displays

Community Groups

Psychics????

Music and Entertainment

Speakers on the Status of Women Around the World,

And Time Allowing: Your Voice (A Town Hall Forum)

&

Fun, Food, and Conversation

\$5 Admission and Free Parking

A \$5-\$10 Donation Covers the Costs of the Event

More if You Can, Less if You Can't, All Welcome

In addition to the February 28th celebration, a luncheon is planned for March 8th. Please contact
(347) 933-1256 for further information.