

# **THE BRANCH CONNECTION**

DALLAS, TEXAS BRANCH NOVEMBER 2015 - JANUARY 2016

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

## Message from the President

Friendships, networking, learning from programs, interacting with like-minded women—we have many reasons for AAUW Dallas membership. **Margaret Gilmore** does a great job leading our ongoing membership drive, and we're happy to meet new members and to see familiar ones.

We enjoyed hearing scholarship recipient and new AAUW Dallas member **Diamond Amie** speak at the late August meeting. It's always inspiring to share stories and compare goals and ideas with young women. In late September, **Lisa Maatz**, AAUW's top public policy advisor and head of our lobby corps, visited and spoke to AAUW North Texas members at the Bedford Library. A few of our members attended and heard Lisa speak about how to Step into Action with AAUW on pressing issues: the importance of voting and being engaged in local politics, equal pay for women, sexual harassment on college campuses, and women's health.

Many of us enjoyed our visit to the Meadows Museum to see the *House of Alba* exhibit in early October. The Alba collection is promoted as one of the oldest and most significant private art collections in Europe. For those who missed, the exhibit continues through year-end.

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## Announcements Upcoming Meetings

#### November Meeting

Date & Time: Saturday, November 7, 2015, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Location:Center for Community Cooperation 2900 Live Oak St, Dallas, TX 75204 Cost: Free

**Program: The 19th Amendment —In Celebration!!** On November 7, we will celebrate the 95th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment that gained women the right to vote. **WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS**, a readers' theater production

written by member Patty Jantho, covers first person highlights of the women's suffrage movement from 1848 to 1920. Yes, it took 72 years! Jantho will be joined by the following cast members: Njoki McElroy, Nelda Reid, Betty Kelly, Joan Schellenberg (a new member), Pat Clendenin and Marva Jo Curry.

**Giving back**: Please bring items to help us fill our branch's annual <u>Holiday Boxes for the</u> <u>Homeless</u>. Please bring gently used or new children's books for our annual <u>Holiday Book</u> <u>Collection</u>.

#### AAUW Dallas Board Meeting

**Date & Time:** Saturday, November 7, 2015, 9:15 AM

Location: Center for Community Cooperation 2900 Live Oak St, Dallas, TX 75204 Cost: Free

**Program:** The AAUW Dallas Board will meet prior to the branch meeting. All members are welcome to attend branch board meetings.

#### December Meeting (RSVP)

**Date & Time:** December 5, 2015, 10:00 AM **Location:** Celebration Restaurant, 4503 West Lovers Lane, Dallas, TX 75209 **Cost:** \$20, includes gratuity and tax RSVP and pay at the November meeting or mail a check made to 'AAUW Dallas' to Pat Clendenin by Nov. 25th



**Program:** December Luncheon Fundraiser for Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) and Scholarship Fund: We will engage in a silent auction to raise funds for AAUW's LAF and for Other Scholarships. Members, please bring books, candles, jewelry, and other small items to include in the auction. This is a great opportunity to re-gift and recycle items from the backs of your closets and cabinets. Donating and bidding are voluntary; we enjoy visiting about holiday plans and the coming year. Plus, Celebration Restaurant always serves up delicious home-style food in a charming atmosphere.

#### **January Meeting**

Date & Time: January 9, 2016, 10:00 AM Location: Center for Community Cooperation 2900 Live Oak St, Dallas, TX 75204 Cost: FREE Program: Film released by AAUW National

## Community

Holiday Book Collection 2015



For several years AAUW Dallas has participated in a **Holiday collection** to provide new or gently used books for children in the two elementary schools in the Vickery Meadow area.

Research shows that children who are just beginning to read often lose reading skills during the breaks around the holidays, but are more likely to read during school holidays if they have the opportunity to choose their own books and to keep the books. The Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation is collecting books to provide a buffet of books from which 2nd and 3rd grade children at McShan and Lowe Elementary Schools may select two books each for the two weeks of winter break.

The books we are looking for may be gently used or new. Reading skills of the children vary greatly and so the difficulty of the books could be from kindergarten to fifth grade levels.

Both schools are located in the Vickery Meadow area which is in northeast Dallas where Greenville Avenue and Park Lane intersect. The schools report that 98% of the students are on free or reduced lunch. McShan has counted 27 languages spoken in the school. In surveying the families, many reported not having any books in the home.

Books brought to the November or December AAUW meetings will be delivered to the Foundation office before the deadline.

## UN 70 Strong: celebrating the 70th anniversary of the United Nations

Date & Time: January 3, 2016, 7:30 PM Location: Dallas City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. at Routh, Dallas 75201 Cost: Adults \$25, VIP \$75, Students \$10 Tickets available at Dallas-UNA.org

Program: Keynote speaker Dr. Srgjan Kerim of Macedonia, a strong nominee for next Secretary General, will focus on human rights and the application of the Golden Rule to refugees and migrants as well as host countries, as we face today's most pressing issues. The program will also feature Universal Language, a commissioned musical work composed by Margaret Barrett, with libretto by Dr. David Silva based on the UN Declaration of Human Rights, and performed by local world-folk music group The Obscure Dignitaries. Our representative from the UN Foundation, Mike Beard, will share the new Global Goals (Sustainable Development Goals).



#### New Film: Suffragette

This year we celebrate the 95th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment that gained women the right to vote in 1920. The film, *Suffragette*, will be released on Friday, October 23, starring Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter, Brendan Gleeson, Anne-Marie Duff. Ben Whishaw, Romola Garai and Meryl Streep. The dramatic film tracks the story of the foot soldiers of the early feminist movement, women who were forced underground to pursue a dangerous game of cat and mouse with an increasingly brutal State. These women were not primarily from the genteel educated classes, they were

working women who had seen peaceful protest achieve nothing.

Special thanks to **Joan Schellenberg** for sharing this information. She is our new member who is always upto-date on the latest movies.



#### Contemporary Literature Group

The AAUW Dallas Contemporary Literature Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM.

2015 Selections and Schedule	
November 11 Hosted by	A Reunion of Ghosts by Judith Claire Mitchell
Pat Clendenin	
<b>December 9</b> Hosted by Sandra Kindler	<i>Norwegian by Night</i> by Derek Miller
<b>January 13</b> Hosted by Barbara Davis	All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

For more information, including a full schedule and list of selections for 2015 – 2016, contact Barbara Davis at 972.850.9918.

## YOUNGER WOMEN'S TASK FORCE

For our Younger Members...

YWTF, an affiliate entity of AAUW for younger women, is up and running! Over the past year, YWTF Dallas has hosted social gatherings, a gubernatorial debate watch party, partnered with NARAL Pro-Choice Texas at their "Our Bodies, Our Lives" event, and has formed an active board of directors.

YWTF Dallas is looking for bright, motivated women in their 20s and 30s to join them, so spread the word to your favorite younger women! YWTF memberships are free with an AAUW membership. All events are announced on their website, Facebook page, Meetup.com group, and a new website, so visit <u>http://ywtf-dallas.aauw.net/</u> to stay up-todate. Contact **Farah Ellenbogen-Najera**, Director of Communications & Marketing, at <u>ywtfdallas@gmail.com</u>

#### **New Members**

AAUW Dallas welcomed **Rahel Tekola** and **Linda Payne** as new members during the summer. We are pleased that our former scholarship recipient **Diamond Amie**, who spoke on NCCWSL at our August 29th meeting, also joined AAUW Dallas at this meeting. At the Meadows Museum we welcomed another new member **Joan Schellenberg**..

## **Past Meetings**

#### September 2015

On August 29, the AAUW Dallas Branch held its first member meeting of the 2015 – 2016 year. Our speaker was **Diamond** Amie, a former AAUW Dallas Branch scholarship recipient who attended the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCWSSL) last year as a representative of our branch. She remarked that she enjoyed the energy of the conference and we learned more about her work as a Special Education teacher in a Dallas charter school. We also heard from Nelda Reid regarding the UNA - USA 70 Strong - UN Day Celebration, commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations, which will take place on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Dallas City Performance Hall. Linda Evans announced her involvement with the release of the film Still Waiting: Life After Katrina, and follow-up

book, Standing in the Need: Culture, Comfort. and Coming Home After Katrina. honoring victims of Hurricane Katrina, 10 years now after the devastating storm. Linda also demonstrated how to use Google to find AAUW Dallas Branch information!



#### October 2015

On October 3, the AAUW Dallas Branch met at the Meadows Museum at SMU for a guided tour of *Treasures from the House* of Alba: 500 Years of Art and Collecting. The

docent provided detail into the lives of the artists and nobility comprising the collection. We were joined by a few guests.



## AAUW National News Membership Webinar Recap

On October 13, from 7 - 8 PM, AAUW National broadcasted a live webinar to teach the basic building blocks of membership recruitment. This webinar outlined the role that every member plays in recruitment and how to welcome newcomers once they join.

Our Vice President of Membership, **Dr. Margaret Gilmore** and I, **Melissa Chapman**, attended the webinar. It included a presentation and speaking led by our national office. The webinar is archived on <u>www.aauw.org</u> and can be viewed at any time. Discover best practices for when, where, and how you should be recruiting new members, and hear tips about how to use AAUW's new materials as well as the campaigns that are available to you.

## **Message from the President**

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We look forward to socializing and activities during the holiday season. In this newsletter, we have more information about collecting items for the homeless, collecting books for Vickery Meadows students, and raising funds for AAUW programs.

We'll talk more about activities at the November 7th meeting, and we'll have a special play presented by **Patty Jantho** and several of our talented members. Patty's play will be an informative, entertaining way to hear women's movement history. The December luncheon will be at Celebration Restaurant again this year. It's a good time to kickoff holiday shopping, while contributing to scholarships and the Legal Advocacy Fund. Plus, we enjoy the good food and visiting with each other.

At the branch level, we'll have a nominating committee soon to recruit board members. Please consider joining the board and helping with branch activities, which are great ways to get to know our members and organization better.

#### Carla Young

AAUW Dallas Branch President 2015-2017

## **Editor's Note**



As we dive deeper into the fall season and experience the transition to winter, I find myself warmed by the bustling of activity among our AAUW branch to encourage peace, culture, and community. During this time, we

have many opportunities to celebrate: 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNA – USA, ten years of growth following Katrina, Halloween, the Day of the Dead, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice, New Year's Day, Three Kings Day, Eid Milad Un Nabi, and many others. I hope to cross boundaries this season to celebrate diversity.

**Melissa Chapman,** AAUW Dallas Branch Corresponding Secretary 2015 – 2016 (214)790-6839 or <u>Chapman.Melissa@gmail.com</u>