



THE BRANCH CONNECTION

DALLAS, TEXAS BRANCH
FEBRUARY 2016 - MARCH 2016

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

Message from the President

AAUW presses on, and we have many women's issues to keep pressing. At our January meeting, we viewed and discussed National's film "One AAUW" which touches on AAUW's many activities, including research, education, legal advocacy support, and others. If you'd like to watch the video, please visit aauw.org. We also watched a portion of the "Solving the Equation" video; the full video and many resources are available at aauw.org.

Our December holiday luncheon was an enjoyable celebration with member friends while fundraising for the Legal Advocacy Fund. Thanks to all who participated in the auction and in the book and shoebox collections.

We look forward to more mission-based programs coming up, including a Harriet Tubman performance by Dr. Njoki McElroy in February and a speaker in March on helping public schools support girls' education.

In the next few months, we have many other activities: Ignite Dallas, the SMU Women's Symposium, International Women's Day, and the AAUW Texas convention. Please join us; more details are included in this newsletter.

We're already planning for May scholarship awards and officer elections for next year. We'd welcome other volunteers for officer positions. Serving is a great way to get to know other members even better.

Carla Young

AAUW Dallas Branch President 2015-2017

Announcements

A Few Notes...

1. A list of all meetings for the year can be found on page 16 of your member directory, or yearbook! Read Column 2 on this page for the most immediate meetings.

2. The Dallas Branch of the American Association of University Women is grateful to the Meadows Foundation for the Meadows Conference Center (formerly called the Center for Community Cooperation).

Our first meeting of 2016 was last Saturday, and the Center renovations look great. Plus, we're very grateful for the policy changes of no fees, no cleanup, no hauling carts; these changes make our meetings less stressful and more productive. We're even more appreciative of all the work and support the Foundation staff provides to help nonprofits like ours

Upcoming Meetings

February Meeting

Date & Time: Saturday, February 6, 2016, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Meadows Conference Center, Trinity Room

2900 Live Oak St, Dallas, TX 75204

Cost: Free

Program: "The Life of Harriet Tubman"

Performed by **Njoki McElroy**

Music by international artist **Lena Conquest**

March Meeting

Date & Time: Saturday, March 5, 2015, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Meadows Conference Center

2900 Live Oak St, Dallas, TX 75204

Cost: Free

Program: Speaker, **Patty Leyendecker**, Chief Development Officer, Young Woman's Preparatory Network, a Dallas group that partners with public school districts to create and support all-girls schools with a focus on leadership, college readiness, and health and wellness.

Member Highlight

Nelda Reid, has been selected for the AAUW 60th UN Commission on the Status of Women Delegation!

The selection committee was extremely impressed by her credentials, knowledge of AAUW, and commitment to women and girls. The Delegation is comprised of the AAUW UN Team and five other members.

AAUW submits a written statement to the CSW annually addressing the priority themes. AAUW's statement offers recommendations to governments, corporations, and institutions of higher education on how to increase women's access to education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The 2016 themes:
Priority theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development. Review theme: The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.



Community

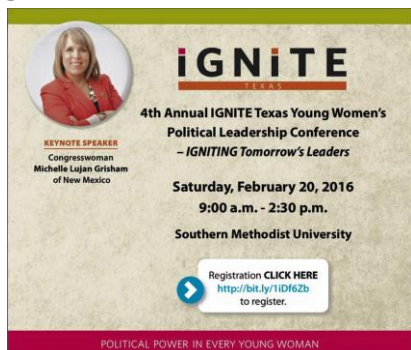
Ignite! Political Power in Every Young Woman
The 4th Annual IGNITE Texas Young Women's Political Leadership Conference is coming up!

Date: Saturday, February 20, 2016

Time: 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Location: Southern Methodist University

Program: Southern Methodist University



Registration: <http://bit.ly/1iDf6Zb>

Cost: \$0 - \$125, depending on your level of participation

51st Annual Women's Symposium at SMU



Our AAUW Dallas branch will have a table at the event. If you are interested in volunteering, contact **Margaret Gilmore**.

Date: March 2, 2016

Program: The annual forum brings together women and men of differing ages and multicultural backgrounds to examine and discuss

topics of national interest.

This year out theme is **Breaking Through**.

Cost: Varies

Registration: www.smu.edu/womsym

Contemporary Literature Group

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

2016 Selections and Schedule

February 10 *The Paying Guests*
Hosted by by Sarah Waters
Melinda Valentine

March 9 *Molokai*
Hosted by By Alan Brennert
Carla Young

April 13 *A Star for Mrs. Blake*
Hosted by by April Smith
Sandra Kindler

For more information, including a full schedule and list of selections for 2016, contact Barbara Davis at 972.850.9918 or refer to page 18 of your yearbook directory.

For our Younger Members...

YOUNGER WOMEN'S TASK FORCE
powered by AAUW

All AAUW members in their 20s and 30s are invited to complete the Younger Women's Task Force [e-survey](#). Your participation will help AAUW develop

content that interests and affects our millennial members.

YWTF memberships are free with an AAUW membership. All Dallas events are announced on their website, Facebook page, Meetup.com group, and a new website, so visit <http://ywtf-dallas.aauw.net/> to stay up-to-date. Contact **Farah Ellenbogen-Najera**, Director of Communications & Marketing, at ywtfDallas@gmail.com

International Women's Day

Join the Women's History Initiative to celebrate women here and around the world. This will be the 115th International Celebration and the 15th Annual Dallas Celebration of International Women's Day.

Date: Saturday, March 5, 2016

Time: 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Location: The Dallas Bathhouse Cultural Center, White Rock Lake, Dallas

Program: Celebrate with fun, food, and conversation. Hear the 2016 *Words of Women* Essay of the Year and share stories

Details: Call 347-933-1256

Human Rights

Refugee Services of Texas Open House

Date: Saturday, February 6

Time: (after our AAUW meeting)

Location: 9696 Skillman, Suite 320, Dallas 75243

Program: Enjoy refreshments, meet the staff and volunteers and refugee clients, learn about volunteer opportunities!

Remembering Refugees, sponsored by the SMU Department of Anthropology and the Embrey Human Rights Program

Date: Thursday, January 28, 2016

Time: 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Location: SMU, Simmons 144

Program: See attached Flyer

Whose Protection? Interrogating Displacement and the Limits of Humanitarian Welcome

Date: Friday, January 29, 2016

Time: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: SMU, Simmons 144

Program: See attached Flyer

New Members

At our January 9th general meeting we welcomed **Rachel Sakala**. We are also excited to welcome **Sara Mahmood**!

Past Meetings

November 2015

At our November 7th AAUW Dallas general meeting we welcomed **Janice Scheiffer**, **Edna Moazzami**, **Georgina Tedeaz**, and **Joan Schellenberg**'s two daughters **Joanna** and **Rena** and their respective daughters **Miranda** and **Serena**.

At this meeting, we celebrated 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, covered first person highlights of the women's suffrage movement from 1848 to 1920. Jantho was joined by the following cast members:



From left to right, Patty Jantho, Nelda Reid, Pat Clendenin, Njoki McElroy, Janice Schieffer, Marva Jo Curry, Joan Schellenberg (a new member).

Refreshments were benevolently provided by **Julia Young** and **Peggy Cargile**.

December 2015



We were pleased to have twenty-two AAUW Dallas members attend our Holiday Luncheon and Silent Auction at Celebration Restaurant on December 5, 2015. Our guests included **Para Lee Curry**, **Sara Mahmood**, **Edna Moazzami**, and **Sophie Lehr**.

At this meeting, we conducted a **Holiday collection** to provide new or gently used books for children in the two

elementary schools in the Vickery Meadow area. Our collection efforts allowed us to donate 31 books through The Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation for 2nd and 3rd grade children at McShan and Lowe Elementary Schools. Other donations included 7 shoeboxes and 3 full bags of clothes for the homeless. We raised \$371 for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

January 2016

We brought in the new year together on January 8, 2016 at the Meadows Conference Center. First, our board met to reflect upon our advocacy and community efforts, adjusting course for the new year. Then, the branch meeting commenced with a delicious panoply of refreshments provided by **Pat Clendenin**, **Belinda Burks**, and **Carla Young**.

AAUW National News Initiatives

Diversity

Download the new [Diversity and Inclusion Tool Kit](#), which provides a wealth of ideas and step-by-step exercises for growing membership.

AAUW is partnering with DiversityComm Inc. to provide all AAUW members and leaders with FREE digital issues of the company's five nationally recognized diversity-focused magazines: [Professional Woman's Magazine](#), [U.S. Veterans Magazine](#), [Black EOE Journal](#), [Diversity in STEAM Magazine](#), and [Hispanic Network Magazine](#). This is a great opportunity to learn about issues and interests that these audiences care about. To access the free issues, click on the link and enter **username** AAUW and **password** 2015. You may also download the DiversityComm app, available on [iTunes](#), [Google](#), and [Amazon](#).

Research

In late March, AAUW will launch a new research report, *Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership*. [Sign up](#) now to receive updates and a copy of the report once it's released.

Membership

Take 50–75 percent off national dues for new branch members

Recruit new branch members with the half-price national dues rate of \$24.50 between January 1 and March 15. Use the [Shape the Future campaign](#) and double the discount!

Celebrate winter graduates with a free membership

Celebrate the success of a graduate this season with [Give a Grad a Gift](#). Anyone who graduated within the last two years is eligible, so don't forget interns or student teachers you know. Give graduates a free, one-year AAUW membership in honor of their accomplishments.

Conferences

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders — Register Now!

Registration for the 2016 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders is open. [Register now for the early-bird rate!](#)

Midwest Ten State AAUW Biennial Conference

Date: June 3 – 4, 2016

Time: Noon Friday - Saturday Late Afternoon

Location: Great Wolf Lodge, Kansas City, Kansas

Cost: \$20 Student, \$45 Registration, \$26 Saturday Buffet

Registration: Attached

Editor's Note

Thanks to all those who submitted articles. I am so proud to be a member of an organization of women devoted to creating an inclusive society!

Melissa Chapman, AAUW Dallas Branch Corresponding Secretary 2015 – 2016
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