



San Antonio Branch Newsletter



Vol 105 • Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Happy Belated New Year Everyone!

I hope everyone has had an amazing beginning to their year, full of time with family and friends. I was blessed to be able to celebrate my parents' 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on Christmas Day in 1952 at Gary AFB in San Marcos. Christmas was a quiet and low key affair this year, and much to my surprise, I think I preferred it that way as it gave me time to reflect on the year past and the year to come.

Speaking of the year to come, I am very excited for the upcoming events with our AAUW branch. The Book Club and Historic Southwest have already had their first

meetings of the year, and I am sure all of you are looking forward to our **Breaking the Glass Ceiling** luncheon in February where we will get a chance to enjoy Coleen Grissom. In addition, be sure to check out the items that will be up for silent auction this year! All proceeds from this auction are applied to our textbook scholarships.

Breaking the Glass Ceiling always has me thinking about how far we have come as women and the journey ahead of us. There is much more to be achieved if we want to live in a society where a woman is recognized as a valued member whether she stays at home or has a career. According to Forbes, women comprise "47 percent of

Message continued on Page Two

BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING
FUNDRAISER FOR AAUW SCHOLARSHIPS
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2013 • 11:30 AM
OAK HILLS COUNTRY CLUB • 5403 FREDERICKSBURG RD

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER - COLEEN GRISSOM

MENU Baby Garden Greens with Cherry Tomatoes, Hearts of Palm, Gorgonzola Cheese and Walnut Balsamic Vinaigrette
Honey-Pecan Crusted Breast of Chicken with Sherry Cream Sauce
Wild Rice with Apricots and Almonds • Seasonal Vegetable Medley
Assorted Rolls and Butter • Tea and Coffee • **Goldbrick Sundae**

TICKETS ARE \$40 EACH

All reservations **must** be paid in advance on or before **January 29, 2013**.
Mail reservations w/ payment to: AAUW, c/o Barbara Kyse, 7887 Broadway #404,
San Antonio TX 78209. For more information, contact Barbara at 210-824-8884 or bckyse@msn.com

President's Message - cont ...

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2012-2013

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the US work force, account for 57 percent of US undergraduates and spend more than 70 percent of consumer dollars worldwide." So that begs the question as to why 21st century women are still left behind in many areas such as equal pay for equal work and equal job opportunities.

This is where our work as AAUW members is important. We need to continue efforts to encourage girls in STEM and nontraditional careers. Breaking the Glass ceiling is not only possible, but it is just the beginning. Once the dust and the shards has settled, it is important to know what to do next. Ultimately, the success of any woman in her chosen field will depend on both vision and drive. And as AAUW members, I think we can help to make these efforts for the future generations of professional women possible.

Debbi Sochia Eyfells, President of this Branch

BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING FUNDRAISER

FEBRUARY 2 • 11:30 AM

Our special fundraising event is quickly approaching. As in the past, the **Breaking the Glass Ceiling** Fundraiser benefits our branch scholarships. Each year the San Antonio AAUW Branch offers one or more \$2,000 scholarships to assist local women to pursue and complete a graduate degree. Net income from the fundraising lunch augments the funds available for our graduate scholarship program. The more members and guests who attend the more scholarships we might be able to award in 2013.

The silent auction proceeds fund our textbook scholarships which assist women to purchase required academic textbooks for their studies. Carol Lahser, the silent auction chair, reports that members have donated over 100 items for our auction. The auction will be the perfect opportunity to find a one-of-a-kind item, purchase a gift for a special occasion, or locate a treasure. Bring your checks and cash to the lunch, so we can award more scholarships this year.

Our guest speaker will be **Coleen Grissom**, the author of **A Novel Approach to Life**. Per the book jacket, "**Coleen Grissom** is a professor of English at Trinity University. A faculty member for more than forty-five years, she has received "honorary alumna status," as well as a scholarship named in her honor. As a dean of students, then vice president for student affairs, she has mentored, counseled, and influenced the lives of thousands of young men and women." Per Dr. John R. Brazil, the former president of Trinity University, "Dr. Grissom is a singularity, comic and cosmic—irrepressible and unrepeatable. I treasure her past and present place at Trinity." Coleen's book, **A Novel Approach to Life**, published by the Trinity University Press will be available to purchase at our fundraiser.

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Don't Give Up on Reauthorizing VAWA

Source: January 9, 2013 column by Anne Hedgepeth, the AAUW's Government Relations Manager

Working with Congress on a regular basis can be exhilarating and infuriating. The past few months have been both when it comes to reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), a policy priority for AAUW. Members across the country have been speaking out about the need to reauthorize VAWA and ensure it protects all victims. In December, there was hope that a compromise might be reached and that the House and Senate would send a bill to the president's desk. But that did not happen before the 112th Congress adjourned. The Senate passed a bipartisan bill in April that would improve VAWA programs and ensure all victims get the services they need. The House, on the other hand, passed a bill a month later that would hurt some victims and failed to make the strides that we need. On January 3, 2013, the clock ran out on finding a middle ground.

VAWA – meaning the current protection and prevention programs and victim assistance that are in place – is not dead, though. In fact, as with many of our laws, VAWA will continue in its current form even if Congress doesn't act on a reauthorization. That's good news for the 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men who will experience severe physical violence by

an intimate partner in their lifetimes. It's bad news, though, for the victims who are overlooked under current law. It's also bad news that Congress failed to listen when advocates and service providers spoke out about the need to update the law. Isn't that what we elected our members of Congress to do? When first responders, local law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and victims' service providers agree that a policy needs updates, it seems logical that policy makers would respond.

Help convince Congress yet again that they need to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. A few options available to AAUW members: (1) Use AAUW's Two-Minute Activist tool to look up your member of Congress and call their office to tell them to pass a VAWA reauthorization that helps all victims ASAP! (2) Consider writing a letter to the editor, calling on Congress to prioritize VAWA reauthorization. (3) Schedule an in-district meeting with your Congress member and their staffs to discuss VAWA!

If you need information or guidance on the process, contact the National AAUW office via e-mail advocacy@aauw.org or call them at 202.785.7793 for talking points and sample letters. Also, you can contact Malinda Gaul, our branch Public Policy chair (210-410-8992 or mgaul@satx.rr.com) for further information.

INTEREST & STUDY GROUPS

CHAT-N-CHEW

Sunday, February 3, 2012 • 2:00 pm
Contact Malinda Gaul for directions 210-410-8992 or mgaul@satx.rr.com

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

We will not be dining out in February

HISTORIC SOUTHWEST

Saturday, February 9, 2013 • 12 Noon
Speaker: Carol Poss with The Friends of the Leon Valley Public Library
Topic: Leon Valley, Images of America
Location: Doubletree Hotel at McCullough & Loop 410
Contact Edna Sharp 210-492-5206

NIGHT BRIDGE

Mondays, February 4 and 18 • 6:45 PM
Location: LaMadeleine at Park North (Lp 410 & Blanco)
Contact Marilyn Traylor 210-696-8299

SATURDAY BOOK DISCUSSION

Saturday, February 9, 2013 • 10:00 AM
Book: **The Language of Flowers** by Vanessa Diffenbaugh
Location: Beverly Baucum's home. Janina Kuzma, co-hostess.
Contact Fran Veters 210-481-7765, frankenveters@sbcglobal.net

WALKING

Wednesday, February 20, 2013 • 9:30 am
Site: Buddy Calk Park/Trailhead (Babcock Rd)
Contact Nancy Fix Anderson 210-833-1291 for directions, or Anderson@loyno.edu. (Per Nancy, the group will walk 2–3 miles along Leon Creek North Greenway on paved path and dirt trails through woodland. Wear sturdy walking shoes.)
http://www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/pdfs/LeonCreekNorth_map.pdf

WORLD AFFAIRS DISCUSSION GROUP

Next meeting, **March 5** at 10:00 am
Topic: **Future of the Euro**. Location: Meeting room at Patriot Heights Assisted Living. Contact Margaret Mayberry at 210-496-5333 or mfmayberry@aol.com

NEW MEMBERSHIP – WE JUST KEEP GROWING! BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING BRINGS MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANSION

San Antonio Branch AAUW continues to grow. Renewing members as well as brand new members are adding to our roster. In December, three members sent in renewals, and a new addition joined our ranks. We have prospects for five additional members in February under the Shape the Future program offered by AAUW National. The talented list of newcomers ranges from a principal to a poet.

Shape the Future, which extends low rates to new members, may only be offered at an event open to the public. Our Breaking the Glass Ceiling provides just such an opportunity. And there is yet another incentive for joining on February 2: From January 1 through March 15 new members only have to pay one half the year's dues. But the deal is doubly attractive during this period if they join during a Shape the Future event, as the half-year dues which are forwarded to National are cut in half again! Brand new members can join for just \$34.25 at our Breaking the Glass Ceiling luncheon.

We urge you to bring guests to Breaking the Glass Ceiling, and if they decide to join AAUW, now is the time.

AAUW & PHILANTHROPY – FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Communities In Schools of San Antonio was established in 1985 by a group of concerned community leaders to address our city's high dropout rate. The founders' vision was to provide a positive environment for at-risk students, insuring their access to educational opportunities, social services and support services.

Every summer CIS sponsors **Stuff the Bus school supply drive** at various HEB stores. Check out their website <http://www.cissa.org/> for more information on their mission and for ways to get involved.

Books for Literacy. The San Antonio Youth Literacy organization that was featured in the January newsletter needs donated books (Kindergarten through Third Grade). The books can be new or slightly used. Please bring your book donations to our AAUW meetings. Also, if you take a book to the **Egg & I** restaurants, you will receive a discount on your meal.

March 2, 2013 Meeting

March is **Women's History Month** and Adele Dendy, with your help, will lead the discussion of achievements and advancements of women throughout the years.

In keeping with AAUW's focus on **S.T.E.M.** this year, please plan to bring to the meeting your quotations from prominent women, particularly in scientific fields, and stories of their accomplishments to share with the group.

The luncheon will be at **Earl Abel's** on the Austin Highway. Be sure to mark the date on your calendars!

AAUW IN 2012

*Per Linda Hallman, the AAUW
Executive Director*

In 2012, the AAUW spearheaded an ambitious voter turnout (**It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard**), campaign that surpassed their high expectations in getting young women to the polls. The AAUW continued important research, gaining huge media attention for exposing the realities behind the gender pay gap with the release of **Graduating to a Pay Gap: The Earnings of Women and Men One Year after College Graduation**. The AAUW awarded more than \$4.3 million in fellowships and grants to more than 270 deserving women. Through the Legal Advocacy Fund, AAUW helped achieve some significant legal victories for women in precedent-setting workplace discrimination cases. All of these milestones help level the playing field for women and girls.