



EMPOWERING WOMEN
SINCE 1881

San Antonio Branch NewsLetter

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President's Corner

As my term is winding down, I have been going through my files for ideas for this column and discovered that many relate to books and/or education, certainly timely considering this month's program. Last year on a group tour at UTSA's Applied Engineering and Technology library, we observed that the library was book free, but still had librarians. After our April presentation, I anticipate gaining a better understanding of the role of librarians, especially in the digital age.

Over the weekend, I came across a 2008 book published by the Sierra Club titled, *Seven Wonders for a Cool Planet, Everyday Things to Help Solve Global Warming*. Number six on their list was "The Library Book." While libraries clearly decrease the demand for paper, reuse also reduces the consumption of other resources. With the advent of digital libraries, libraries may now be an even better tool for addressing global warming.

AAUW History includes the following item for 1939: "Julia Wright Merrill, chief of the Public Library Division with the American Libraries Association, publishes *Libraries and the AAUW*. The guidebook is intended for branch study and action because AAUW has a "natural interest in the public library as a strategic community agency for adult education." AAUW branches used the report to establish and improve many public libraries in their communities. Natural for the AAUW to be synonymous with books and libraries based on its mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

~ Barbara Kyse

April Meeting

Saturday, April 5, 2014 • 11:00 am 1:00 pm • Pompeii Italian Grill

16109 Nacogdoches Rd • 210-946-5518 • Cost \$20

Lunch options include: Grilled Chicken, Lasagna, or Chicken Parmesan (Eggplant Parmesan is available for vegetarians). Served with a Salad, and Cheesecake for dessert • Tea and coffee

The reservation deadline is Wednesday night, April 2, 2014

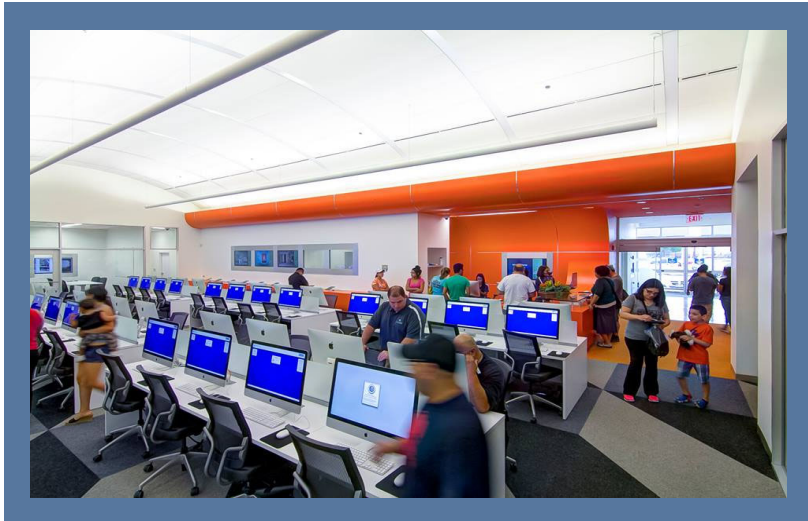
Contact Kate Vettters at kvettters@sbcglobal.net or 210-696-1804

PROGRAM Librarians, from Guardian to Gatekeeper

SPEAKER Ashley Eklof, head librarian at BiblioTech, the new book free library.

Introduced by branch member, Karen Cool

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDS • **ANNUAL MEETING** with the election of 2014-15 officers



Interior photo of Bexar County's new BiblioTech

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April Program — From “Guardian to Gatekeeper”

In this era of Google, Amazon and eBooks, the question is often asked, “Why do we need librarians and libraries?” To be viable in the digital age librarians and their libraries have had to change with the times. Early U.S. libraries were private clubs where rich, well educated men such as George Washington, could share their collections. The most famous, the Boston Athenaeum founded in 1807, remains a private subscription library today.

The first truly public, free library, the Boston Public Library was billed as the “People’s Palace” where the public would be allowed to sit, read, and enjoy the splendor. It was the first to allow public checkout and to have a children’s room. With the advent of the children’s room, women were finally permitted to be librarians, because of “their more nurturing nature”.

Before this time, librarians had all been male. Over the centuries stereotypes grew, but change is here. The new trends were discussed in an article in a 2011 edition of the Library Student Journal, aptly titled “*From Spinster to Cyberpunk*”. Modern librarians want to combine a love of books and technology to teach and help others find and use information accurately and ethically, and to protect freedoms of speech and privacy.

Ashley Eklof, our April speaker, is the head librarian at Bexar County’s BiblioTech which opened last September on Pleasanton Road. Through technological advancements, BiblioTech contains no physical books and is the first all-digital library in the United States. It is free and accessible to anyone with a library card—truly state of the art. Newspapers across the country ranging from the New York Times, Dallas Morning News, and Los Angeles Times have had feature articles on this book-free library. ~ *Karen T. Cool, San Antonio branch member and recent recipient of a masters in Library and Information Science.*

2013-2014

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Finance Lisa McDougle
Scholarships Karen Reichensperger

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Annual Meeting • April 2014

As mentioned in the March newsletter, members will vote on the Board's recommendation to increase the annual branch membership dues **\$4** to bring the local dues to **\$16** per year. Additionally, at the April Annual meeting, branch members will be electing the officers for 2014-15. The slate of officers being presented to members by the nominating committee for election is: President: **Pat Sanford**, Vice President Membership: **Malinda Gaul**, Vice President Programs: **Fran Vettters**, Co-Secretaries: **Diantha Perelli** and **Karen Reichensperger**. Brief biographies and information on each nominees follows.

President: Pat Sanford

When I was asked to speak at the April 2012 AAUW meeting, I knew little about the organization. Now, two years later, AAUW has enriched my life. I want to pay it forward by serving as your president for two years. I believe this will provide continuity and smoothness to the work we do. I am currently the Director of Leadership Development and Safe and Drug Free Schools for the North East Independent School District. Before that, I was an Educational Specialist at Education Service Center, Region 20; and the Program Director the American Lung Association.

I have a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Illinois at the Medical Center, and an undergraduate degree in English and Education from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. I am married and have one son, Danny, a lawyer, and two stepsons, Sam, an artist and Jack, an activist. At home I am surrounded by men, all the more reason for me to relish and cherish my time with AAUW members and my commitment to our organization's purpose. Thank you for considering me for this important position.

Vice President Membership: Malinda Gaul

I am running for Vice President Membership because I would like to use what I am learning while serving on the AAUW National Board to help recruit, retain, and engage the membership of the San Antonio Branch. For almost 25 years, I have been an active member of this Branch serving in many positions on the Board, including President. We are the oldest Branch in Texas with a 100 plus years of tradition. If elected as your Vice President Membership, I will work hard to introduce the AAUW mission to new members and reintroduce the work of AAUW to lapsed members. I ask for your vote and your help in beginning the next 100 years of the San Antonio Branch.

Vice President Programs: Fran Vettters

My experience with AAUW has been nothing but positive! I joined in 2009 and was made welcome immediately. The following year I became Secretary and served two consecutive terms. In 2012, I was elected Vice President Membership, again serving two terms. I came to the Branch through the "back door," after participating in the Book Discussion Group prior to becoming an AAUW member. Others have also been recruited through our Interest Groups, so we should continue to promote new enthusiasms. I started Culinary Adventures this year and hope to develop a moviegoers' group next year. Another strong recruitment tool is outstanding programs at our monthly meetings. I want to continue presenting speakers and subjects that are timely and interesting.

BIOGRAPHIES *Fran Veters - continued*

I earned a BS in Special Education from University of Missouri-St. Louis (University Scholar). My MA in Teaching is from Webster University, Webster Groves, Missouri (Who's Who Among Students in Universities and Colleges; Distinguished Graduate). I have been a Head Start volunteer, counselor assistant, special education teacher and teacher of gifted and talented in rural, suburban, and inner city settings. As such, I am proud to be part of an organization that promotes education, combats bullying, and advocates for women and families—AAUW.

Co-Secretary: Diantha Perelli

I was born in Wisconsin but, with my dad being in the Air Force, my family of eight kids moved about the United States. I continued to travel with my husband Layne during his military career and later after retirement. I studied Drama in college, teaching Theater, English and Special Ed for a total of 36 years: 15 of those in Harlandale ISD and 10 at Fort Sam Houston.

We have one daughter who is a professor of Demography in Winchester, England. They have two children. We visit as often as possible. I am somewhat of a gym rat, totally enjoying Yoga, Pilates, spinning and walking. When I returned from living seven years in Germany my friend Nancy Crockett, sensing my need for intellectual stimulation, suggested I join AAUW. I have been a member on and off (mostly on) since 1994. I have served as Co-Vice President Programs and almost forever as facilitator of the Book Discussion group, which is one of my greatest joys.

Co-Secretary: Karen Reichensperger

I have always looked at ways I can contribute to AAUW since I have believed in its mission since 1964. As a winter Texan, the co-secretary position fits perfectly with residing in San Antonio November through April. Chairing the branch scholarship committee for the several years has offered a true privilege to learn about and potentially assist promising young women. I am currently a dual member of the Ely MN branch since I summer at my lake home near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. In the past while wintering along the Texan border, I belonged to the Laredo TX branch. I was a long time member of the Duluth MN Branch where I served many roles, including Branch President and co-chair of STEM workshops for students. I was also MN State Historian for 2 years.

I have a BSN and MS in nursing, MA in education and Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. I did staff nursing and taught nursing, culminating as dean of a baccalaureate nursing program. I was an accreditation visitor for the National League for Nursing which accredits nursing programs nation-wide. I taught psychology and counseling at the University of Minnesota. Currently I do disaster work with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

April Interest & Study Groups



CHAT-N-CHEW

Sunday, April 6, 2014 • 2:00 pm

Contact Malinda Gaul 210-410-8992 or mgaul@satx.rr.com

CULINARY ADVENTURES

Thursday, April 17, 2014 • 11:30 am

Location: **Rocoto's Sabor Latino Grill**, a Peruvian restaurant
10555 Culebra Rd (inside 1604) • 210-521-4367

Contact Fran Veters to reserve 210-481-7765 or frankenveters@sbcglobal.net

HISTORIC SOUTHWEST

Saturday, April 12, 2014 • 12:00 pm

Program: **The Butterfield Stage Line**

Speaker: **Linda Fisher**, NEISD Teacher and former AAUW member

Location: Doubletree Hotel at McCullough and Loop 410

Contact: Sophie Lim (before Thursday, April 10) 210-445-0654 or limsoph@gmail.com

NIGHT BRIDGE

Monday, April 7 and 21, 2014 • 6:45 pm

Location: **La Madeleine at Park North** (Loop 410 & Blanco)

Contact Marilyn Traylor 210-696-8299 or mjanetraylor@yahoo.com

SATURDAY BOOK DISCUSSION

Saturday, April 12, 2014 • 10:00 am

Book: **Wolf Hall** by Hilary Mantel

Location: Beverly Baucum's House

Contact: Diantha Perelli 210-497-4121 or cyclobabe1946@yahoo.com

WANDERING WONDERS

Date to be determined due to Good Friday and Fiesta

Location: **Medina River Natural Area**, 15890 Hwy 16 South

Contact: Nancy Fix Anderson for information, to sign-up or arrange carpooling
210-370-9459 or anderson@loyno.edu

WINE, WISDOM AND WOMEN On break for Fiesta

WORLD AFFAIRS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday, April 1, 2014 • 10:00 am

Location: La Taza Coffee House (US-281 and Brookhollow)

Topic: **Israel and the U.S.**, topic #2 in the upcoming 2014 *Great Decisions* book

Contact: **Margaret Mayberry** 210-496-5333 or mfmayberry@aol.com

AAUW San Antonio Scholarships

After our April 5 program on the role of Librarians in the digital age, we will be presenting our annual scholarships awards to seven promising young women. This year the San Antonio branch will be awarding three \$2,000 graduate student scholarships to the following recipients: **Sarah Friend, Ginnifer Gee, and Corine Johnson**. The recipients of the four \$500 textbook scholarships for undergraduate and/or graduate students will be **Brandi Kemp, Mercedes Rodriguez, Nora Sanchez, and Casey Whitney**.

Once again the branch appreciates the time and commitment of the two scholarship committees expertly chaired by Karen Reichensperger. Members serving on the graduate student scholarship committee were: **Karen Cool, Diantha Perelli, Ann Marie Rehner, and Pat Sanford**. Members on the textbook scholarship committee were: **Leslye Altemeier, Cheryl Davis, Susanne O'Brien, and Kate Vettters**. And of course the branch and board appreciates the member support that made our scholarship awards possible.

AAUW Fund Spotlight International Fellowships

Originally designed to provide Latin American women opportunities for graduate and postgraduate study in the United States, the International Fellowships program awarded its first fellowship in 1917. The program now includes women from around the world, and International Fellowships have been awarded to more than 3,300 women from more than 130 nations. International Fellowships are awarded for full-time study or research in the United States to women who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Recipients are selected for academic achievement and demonstrated commitment to women and girls. Recipients return to their home countries to become leaders in business, government, academia, community activism, the arts, and sciences.

Source: aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/international-fellowships

Public Policy



Equal Pay Day 2014 is particularly significant because it falls between two legislative anniversaries that have helped women make progress in the workplace—but not quite enough progress. January 29, 2014 is the fifth anniversary of the **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act**, and July 2, 2014 is the 50th anniversary of the **Civil Rights Act**. April 8 is Equal Pay Day, the day that symbolizes when women have earned as much as men did in the previous year. As part of the Equal Pay Day events, AAUW Texas will be delivering the **Stand Up For Texas Women and Families** petition to Governor Rick Perry on Thursday, April 24, 2014. If you have not signed the petition, do so today at <http://aauw-tx.aauw.net>.

April Philanthropy Focus — United Way

For over seventy years, United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County has funded agencies and programs that change lives by reaching out to individuals, families and children throughout San Antonio and Bexar County. Today, United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County is the largest private health and human care service organization in Bexar County.

- United Way funds 135 strong programs at 62 agencies.
- Donations are invested in more well-managed programs that change lives and strengthen families than any other organization in this community.
- Through quality programs that yield results, United Way supports every member of the family—from children and teens to adults and grandparents.
- United Way is also getting to the heart of problems through business and community partnerships that improve early care and education for our children strengthen families to become more financially stable and develop individual capacity for success.

United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County is a local organization and is independent and separate from all other United Ways in the country. United Way is helping to change people's lives. For more information on United Way and its partner agencies or to donate, check out their website: www.unitedwaysatx.org

Moments in AAUW History — 1960's

1965 - Education: An Antidote to Poverty

During the 1960s, the decade of change, AAUW was also in the midst of change. Old program structure was overhauled and a new program style called "topics," was designed to address the pressing social issues of the day. Each topic remained a focus for two years: one year for study and the second for action. The topic for 1965-67 was *Education: an Antidote to Poverty*, still a timely topic today.

1968 - This Beleaguered Earth —Can Man Survive?

As the nation was awakening to the ecological distress and the deterioration to the environment and people, the AAUW introduced a new program, *This Beleaguered Earth Can Man Survive?* with "focus on the ecological problems faced by mankind—how and why we are threatened as a species." The AAUW held national conferences, and also produced educational publications and documents such as *This Beleaguered Earth: Models for Citizen Action* and the *Tool Kit for Community Action*.

1969 - Action for a Unified Society & Coretta Scott King Fund

In response to the race riots in Washington, D.C., the AAUW Board of Directors launched the Action for a Unified Society program, and also created the Coretta Scott King Fund, which provided scholarships to African American women to study history, culture, and peace.

Educating America for the 21st Century

The idea that the nation faces a crisis in science education has more than hit home: Many Americans think U.S. teens perform even worse on standardized science tests than they actually do—according to a new national survey by *Smithsonian* and the Pew Research Center that also found unusually strong support for boosting math and science instruction in school. The survey, done to gauge public scientific literacy and educational priorities, involved a representative sample of 1,006 adults in the continental United States.

Supporters of strengthening science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education warn that U.S. students are falling behind other nations in technical subjects. This gloomy forecast has sunk in. Asked how 15-year-olds in the United States compare with those in other developed nations on a standardized science test known as PISA, for Program for International Student Assessment, respondents tended to rank American youths at the bottom of the pack. In fact, they place in the middle, scoring 17th out of the 34 developed nations in 2009, the most recent year for which results are available.

The survey included a question that has apparently not been asked in such open-ended fashion in a poll before: What one subject should schools emphasize more? People's answers fell into 12 main categories, with nearly half of respondents offering a STEM subject: 30 percent said mathematics, 11 percent said science and 4 percent said computers or computer science. After math the subject most often said to need more emphasis in school was reading and writing, favored by 19 percent of those surveyed.

When asked the key reason young people don't pursue degrees in science and math, 22 percent of those surveyed said such degrees weren't useful to their careers and 20 percent said the subjects were "too boring." By far the most common response, though, was that science and math were "too hard," a belief held by 46 percent of respondents. This might be a problem educators need to study.

Extracted from an article written by Terenca Monmaney, **SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE**, May 2013. The complete Smithsonian Magazine article is available online at: www.smithsonianmagazine.com/innovation/how-much-do-americans-know-about-science-27747364/