



EMPOWERING WOMEN
SINCE 1881

San Antonio Branch NewsLetter

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President's Corner

When I approach this column my initial goal is to connect to the monthly program, but this month I diverged. While looking for a starting point, I found an AAUW website article on the 2013 Women's History Month which honored Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. **The National Women's History Month's 2014 theme Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment** honors the extraordinary and often unrecognized determination and tenacity of women. **The 2014 Honorees** represent a wide-range of occupations and accomplishments, ranging from an Indian Rights Activist to a Pharmacologist to a Member of Congress and Iraq War Veteran. A complete list of the 2014 honorees with brief biographies (along with those honored from 2006-2013) may be found on the NWHP website: <http://www.nwhp.org>.

What an amazing list! The following statement is from the NWHP website:



"Our shared history unites families, communities, and nations. Although women's history is intertwined with the history shared with men, several factors — social, religious, economic, and biological — have worked to create a unique sphere of women's history. The stories of women's achievements are integral to the fabric of our history. Learning about women's tenacity, courage, and creativity throughout the centuries is a tremendous source of strength. Until relatively recently, this sphere of women's history was overlooked and undervalued. Women's achievements were often distorted, disdained, and denied. But, knowing women's stories provides essential role models for everyone. And role models are genuinely needed to face the extraordinary changes and unrelenting challenges of the 21st century."

I invite everyone to check out the National Women's History Project website to read the stories of the women honored over the last nine years—definitely inspiring. ~ **Barbara Kyse**

March Meeting

Saturday, March 1, 2014 • 11:30 am-1:30 pm • **Formosa Garden** • 1101 NE Loop 410
210-828-9988 • Between Broadway and Nacogdoches

Lunch will be selected from a menu of 15 entrée choices. Served with Fried Wonton or Eggroll, Soda, Iced and Hot Tea • **Cost \$15** • Reservation deadline is **Tuesday night, February 25, 2014**. Contact Kate Vettters, kvettters@sbcglobal.net or 210-696-1804.

Program Environmental education programs at the Phil Hardberger Park. **Details on page 2.**
Speaker Susan Campbell, Education Coordinator with City of San Antonio's Parks & Recreation



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Phil Hardberger Park Urban Ecology Center

Environmental education programs abound in many of the natural areas in and around San Antonio with attention to native plant communities and wildlife. However the Phil

Hardberger Park is a rare remnant of degraded, yet undeveloped land in the midst of urbanized and urbanizing areas of San Antonio, and offers the opportunity to both cooperate with and supplement the programs that exist in the area. The park is in a unique position at the convergence of the Edwards Plateau Savanna, Blackland Prairie and South Texas Plains, which gives it the potential to support elements of each of these regions' habitats. The surrounding urban settings combined with the ecological potential of the site enables the park to serve as an environmental model and learning facility of urban ecology for the South Texas Region.

The opening of the \$6.3 million **Phil Hardberger Park Urban Ecology Center** in 2013 marked a milestone in the development of San Antonio's prized 300-acre natural urban park. This community gathering place in PHP West with classroom, office space, and gathering hall provides a special setting for education programs covering issues of sustainability and ecology. *Source: Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy website (philhardbergerpark.org)*

Our March speaker, Susan Campbell, Education Coordinator with the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Natural Areas was named one of five 2011 National PLT (Project Learning Tree) Outstanding Educators. PLT's Outstanding Educators are selected for their commitment to environmental education and exceptional teaching skills. **Project Learning Tree** aims to teach students "how to think, not what to think" about complex environmental issues and help students learn the skills they need to make sound choices about the environment.

2013-2014

Branch Officers

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Newsletter

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Email Kate Veters for Reservations

kveters@sbcglobal.net
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March Interest & Study Groups



CHAT-N-CHEW • Sunday, March 2, 2014 • 2:00 pm
Contact: Malinda Gaul • 210-410-8992 or mgaul@satx.rr.com

CULINARY ADVENTURES • Thursday, March 20, 2014 • 11:30 am
Location: **Speisen European Cuisine** (Austrian), 7115 Blanco (NW corner of Loop 410 and Blanco) • 210-541-8911 (speisens.com)
Contact: Fran Vettters to reserve • 210-481-7765 or frankenvettters@sbcglobal.net

HISTORIC SOUTHWEST • Saturday, March 8, 2014 • 12:00 pm
Program: **Texas Legacy, Old Three Hundred**
Speaker: **Pricilla Montgomery**, member of DAR, DRT, 1812 and more lineage societies
Location: Doubletree Hotel at McCullough and Loop 410
Contact: Sophie Lim (before Thursday, March 6) • 210-445-0654 or limsoph@gmail.com

NIGHT BRIDGE • Monday, March 3 and 17, 2014 • 6:45 pm
Location: **La Madeleine** at Park North (Loop 410 & Blanco)
Contact: Marilyn Traylor • 210-696-8299 or mjanetray@yahoo.com

SATURDAY BOOK DISCUSSION • Saturday, March 8, 2014 • 10:00 am
Book: **The Art of Fielding** by Chad Hardbach
Location: Pat Sanford's house
Contact: Diantha Perelli • 210-497-4121 or cyclobabe1946@yahoo.com

WANDERING WONDERS • Friday, March 21, 2014 • 10:00 am
Location: **Cibolo Nature Center**, 140 City Park Rd, Boerne, TX
Contact: Nancy Fix Anderson for information, to sign-up or arrange carpooling
210-370-9459 or anderson@loyno.edu

WINE, WISDOM, AND WOMEN • Wednesday, March 26, 2014 • 5:00-7:00 pm
Location: **Tribeca**, 4331 McCullough • 210-320-0698 (www.tribecadiolmos.com)
Contact Malinda Gaul • 210-410-8992 or mgaul@satx.rr.com to reserve a place

WORLD AFFAIRS DISCUSSION GROUP • Tuesday, Marcy 4, 2014 • 10:00 am
Topic: **Defense Technology**, topic #1 in the upcoming 2014 *Great Decisions* book
Contact: Margaret Mayberry • 210-496-5333 or mfmayberry@aol.com

Chocolate & Champagne for Scholarships



At the March meeting, Malinda Gaul will be conducting her **Annual Chocolate/Champagne Fundraiser** to benefit the Branch's 2014 textbook scholarships; so be sure to bring your checkbook. A \$25 donation will be rewarded with chocolate, each \$50 donation will receive chocolate and champagne, and a \$100 donation will receive a special gift along with the chocolate and champagne.



March Philanthropy Focus

The San Antonio Youth Literacy (SAYL) mission is to promote the literacy skills of San Antonio's at-risk youth. SAYL trains volunteers to work one-on-one with elementary school-aged children who are reading below grade level. San Antonio has an illiteracy rate of 12.5%, **one in eight adults** can't read this message. A child's educational success can be determined by the end of third grade. San Antonio Youth Literacy serves over 900 students in 65 schools throughout San Antonio. Confident readers make life-long readers. Life-long reading leads to life-long success!

Reading Buddies Volunteers. Volunteers are essential to the success of SAYL's Reading Buddy program! **Reading Buddies** must be at least seventeen years old and be able to commit at least one hour per week, for a full school year, approximately 16 sessions. During this time, the volunteer works one-on-one with two students, each for thirty minutes. If **Reading Buddies** are able to commit to more time each week, they are encouraged to work more than the minimum requirement of one hour. Check their website for further information: <http://www.sayl.org/>

Book Drive at the March meeting. Children's books (kinder-2nd grade, please no bilingual, religious, or board books). AAUW San Antonio branch member, Malinda Gaul, is a SAYL board member and will be accepting new (or gently used books) for children in the SAYL mentoring program at our **March 1 meeting** at Formosa Garden.

Annual Meeting • April 2014

Elections. At the April Annual Meeting, we will be electing four officers: **President, Vice President Programs, Vice President Membership, and Secretary.** The Treasurer is currently serving the first year of her two year term. The nominating committee will submit their proposed slate of new officers to Branch at the March 1 Membership Meeting for vote at the April Annual Meeting. Our April Branch newsletter will contain information on the slate of nominees for 2014-15.

Revised Dues Rate. For 2013-14, individual Branch membership dues totaled \$71; \$49 for National, \$10 for AAUW Texas, and \$12 for the Branch. The Branch's Board of Directors is recommending a \$4 increase in Branch dues to \$16. The Branch dues were set at \$12 in April 2005, when the board's goal was to increase Branch membership back up to the 200 membership level in the late 90's. It's no secret that membership in AAUW-San Antonio Branch has declined from 200+ at the turn of the century to less than 100 today. In fact, the Annual February 1 AAUW Membership Count reveals that the branch has 78 members, but only 74 pay local dues as 50-year life members are exempt from paying all AAUW dues. When the dues were raised nine years ago, the Branch's operating expense budget was \$5,410. The single highest expense item at that time was \$1,650 for printing and mailing our newsletter. Over the last decade, in an effort to align operating expense with our operating income, the Branch converted the newsletter to electronic distribution in 2009-10. The Branch now spends less than \$100/year for the newsletters.

As the Branch membership has declined, operating expenses have been drastically pared and we are continuing to research alternatives to reduce operating expenditures further. However basic organizational costs (such as nonprofit liability insurance, postage, mailbox, membership directory printing and supplies) are currently projected at ~\$1,000 per year and cannot be reduced much further. Over the last decade, the Branch's continuing operating deficit has been covered by the surplus reserves and income from the investment accounts. If we have 75 members next year, the requested \$4 increase in Branch dues would switch the projected operating deficit (\$100) to a slight surplus to give us a cushion for the unexpected. Therefore, your Board recommends increasing our Branch dues by \$4, bringing the local Branch membership dues to \$16. Such a small amount can accomplish so much in keeping the Branch strong in the future.

Upcoming Events


March 6, 2014. CAN WE TALK. Can We Talk is a coalition of over 65 women's organizations in San Antonio (including our branch). Each year the **Can We Talk** coalition schedules an event in March to commemorate Women's History Month and in August to commemorate Women's Equality Day and Texas Women's Independence Day. **Topic: Human Trafficking, in our Backyard.**

Speaker: Krista Melton, Bexar County Assistant District Attorney

Location: Bright Shawl Restaurant, 819 Augusta St. **Cost:** \$25 postmarked by 2/24, and \$35 after 2/24 and at the door. **Time:** 5:30 pm Networking, 6:15 pm Dinner, and 7:00 pm Program

Mail to: Can We Talk, c/o Pat Jasso, 326 Anton Dr, San Antonio TX 78223

April 25-27, 2014. AAUW State Convention. The AAUW Texas 46th Biennial State Convention, hosted by the Northeast Tarrant County Branch will be held in Hurst, Texas. The Saturday evening keynote speaker will be **Jan Reid**, the author of the book, **Let the People In: The Life and Times of Ann Richard**. Also scheduled to speak at the convention will be Branch member Malinda Gaul, a National AAUW director, and Mark Hopkins, the National AAUW's Chief Strategy Officer. Any interested AAUW members may attend the State convention. Early Bird registration for the convention is only **\$195**. After March 1, the registration fee for the convention will be \$225. The AAUW Texas website has more information, and registration forms (<http://aauw-tx.aauw.net/events-projects/events/2014-state-convention/>). If you are interested in representing the AAUW San Antonio branch as a delegate, please contact branch president Barbara Kyse.



Moments in AAUW History—Finding “Mrs. Richard J. Walsh”

Referred to by her married name, “Mrs. Richard J. Walsh,” this AAUW member was hidden in AAUW's archives, allowing her work and contributions to easily go unnoticed. She was a member of the AAUW Philadelphia (PA) Branch and in 1942 became active at the national level, serving on the AAUW Committee on the Economic and Legal Status of Women, which studied and discussed subjects such as equal pay, equal rank for women in the armed services, the fight to repeal discriminatory employment practices against married women, and the ERA. AAUW officially adopted a position **against** the ERA at the 1939 National Convention. At that time, many organizations working for women's equality opposed this amendment because of concerns that the ERA would weaken other active pieces of legislation designed to protect women. These organizations believed in legal equality for women but disagreed over the method to obtain it. Mrs. Walsh was one of three AAUW committee members who were pro-ERA. As educated women, the AAUW strove for a balanced representation of opinion, debate and consideration of every issue, especially the controversial ones. Mrs. Walsh's work did not end with the ERA. In 1941, she wrote *Of Men and Women*, a collection of nine essays about gender relations in America. In this work, where she lamented that American women too often allowed themselves to be relegated to the home and let their intellectual curiosity and desire to learn die. For Mrs. Walsh, *“it was time for women to step up and demand the same opportunities as men.”*

AAUW leaders quickly realized the potency of this message and how it would resonate with their members. In 1942, AAUW arranged for a special edition printing of the book for AAUW members at a cost of 50 cents a copy. Introducing the book in the **AAUW Journal**, the editor wrote, “This book is for the citizen who knows that if our democracy is to stand we must recognize the place of women, afford them proper opportunity for service, and advance the cooperation between men and women.” Per Suzanne Gould (author of posting), “In the future, I will have my eyes open for “Mrs. Richard J. Walsh” (and the many other women with hidden identities). She will not be overlooked. She ... will always occupy an important place in AAUW's history. **We know Mrs. Richard J. Walsh as Pearl S. Buck (1892 -1973) the Pulitzer Prize-and Nobel Prize-winning author who lived in China as a missionary and whose experiences there influenced her writing. But how many know of her commitment to and work on one of the most important legislative issues for women, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)?** (Extracted from a January 13, 2014 posting on National AAUW website)

AAUW Fund Spotlight

Career Development Grants

AAUW originally designed **Career Development Grants** in 1972 to offer “encouragement” funding to AAUW members seeking to renew or resume academic work for credit toward career or employment advancement. **Career Development Grants** provide funding to women who hold a bachelor’s degree and are preparing to advance, change careers, or re-enter the workforce. Primary consideration is given to women of color and women pursuing their first advanced degree or credentials in nontraditional fields. **Applicants** must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents whose last degree was received before June 30, 2009.

Source: aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/career-development-grants

Simple Truth about Gender Pay Gap (Fall 2013)



You’ve probably heard that men are paid more than women are paid over their lifetimes. But what does that mean? Are women paid less because they choose lower-paying jobs? Is it because more women work part time than men do? Or is it because women tend to be the primary caregivers for their children? **AAUW’s The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap** succinctly addresses these issues and explains the pay gap in the United States; how it affects women of all ages, races, and education levels; and what you can do to close it.

Here are the Facts

- (1) **The pay gap hasn’t budged in a decade.** In 2012, as in 2002, among full-time, year-round workers, women were paid 77 percent of what men were paid.
- (2) **Women in every state experience the pay gap**, but some states are worse than others. The best place in the United States for pay equity is Washington, D.C., where women were paid 90 percent of what men were paid in 2012. At the other end of the spectrum is Wyoming, the worst state in the country for pay equity, where women were paid just 64 percent of what men were paid.
- (3) **The pay gap is worse for women of color.** Compared with non-Hispanic white men, Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian women were paid 66 percent, African American women were paid 64 percent, American Indian/Alaska Native women were paid 60 percent, and Hispanic women were paid just 53 percent.
- (4) **Women face a pay gap in nearly every occupation.** From elementary and middle school teachers to computer programmers, women are paid less than men in female-dominated, gender-balanced, and male-dominated occupations.
- (5) **The pay gap grows with age.** Among younger workers, women are paid about 90 percent of what men are paid. From around age 35 through retirement, women are typically paid 75–80 percent of what men are paid.
- (6) While **more education** is an effective tool for increasing earnings, it is **not an effective tool against the gender pay gap**. At every level of academic achievement, women’s median earnings are less than men’s earnings, and in some cases, the gender pay gap is larger at higher levels of education.
- (7) **The pay gap also exists among women without children.** AAUW’s Graduating to a Pay Gap found that among full-time workers one year after college graduation—nearly all of whom were childless—women were paid just 82 percent of what their male counterparts were paid.

Source: aauw.org/research/the-simple-truth-about-the-gender-pay-gap