



San Antonio Inc. (TX) Branch  
 Advocating for Women and Girls since 1908

# Newsletter

January/February 2015 Volume 106, Issue 4

*Our Mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.*

## President's Corner

Greetings and Happy 2015!

The book club is one of the AAUW interest groups I really enjoy. Our January selection is *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Kidd tells about the abomination of slavery by relating the struggles and enduring relationship of main characters Sarah Grimke, one of the children in a land-owner family in Charleston, and Hetty Handful, one of the slave children on the estate. The inhumanity of slavery is the main storyline, and it's told powerfully and well. The underlying story is about women's rights, that is, the lack of them. I'm glad we read the book at this time of year when it is traditional to contemplate resolutions for the New Year. I know the book has inspired me to be a better person.

Whether or not we make formal resolutions, we can each strive to be a better person in small or large ways. There are acts of benevolence we can commit to doing each day. There are people we can reach out to who need the voice of human kindness or an empathic ear. There are causes we can support with our time and energy.

That's the beauty of reading – and of the beginning of a new year. Each gives us pause to reflect as well as the opportunity to act.



*Pat Sanford*



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## February's Meeting

**Saturday, February 7, 2015**

**Where:** Palenque Grill, 389 North Loop 1604 West, (next to Trader Joe's)

**Time:** 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

**Cost:** \$20

**Program:** Empowered to Achieve Business Success;

**Presenter:** Letty Dodd, Human Resource Manager, The Corner Stores, Valero Corporation



Please RSVP to Pat by  
 Wednesday, February 4th

[pacmsan@me.com](mailto:pacmsan@me.com) or 210-392-0728

**Menu Choices:**

Street Tacos – 4 sirloin tacos, corn or flour tortillas, charro or refried beans, and beverage.

Or

Enchiladas – 3 green, mole, or red cheese enchiladas with rice, charro or refried beans, and beverage

Or

Tilapia with Veracruzana Sauce, steamed vegetables, rice, and beverage.

### San Antonio Branch Officers

*President Pat Sanford*

*President-Elect Pat Sanford*

*VP Membership Malinda Gaul, Esq.*

*VP Programs Fran Veters*

*Treasurer Janina Kuzma*

*Co-Secretaries Diantha Perelli*

*Dr. Karen Reichensperger*



## February Featured Speaker

### **Letty Dodd, Manager of Human Resources Communications, Employee Relations and Creative Development, CST Brands**

Our February 7 speaker has a demanding, exhilarating job! Letty Dodd is in charge of internal communications for CST, event planning, creation of employee recognition programs, wellness programs, and travel, office services, and fleet departments. CST was known as the Corner Store before it became a spinoff of Valero last year. Now it is the second largest publicly traded fuel and convenience retailer in North America, with 1900 outlets and 12,000 employees.

Every day must be a road race in a whirlwind for Letty! But, as she has gained experience in many HR areas since starting in 2000 with Ultramar Diamond Shamrock (it later merged with Valero), she seems highly qualified to steer her way through any force at any speed that comes her way at CST. Letty has been a payroll analyst, a compliance analyst, a benefits supervisor, a benefits and leave and disability manager and benefits and communications manager. As this newsletter goes to press, Letty is supervising a convention of 2,500 CST employees who will all be converging on San Antonio, filling local hotels, and gathering at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center the weekend of January 15 - 18.

Nevertheless, Letty still finds time to attend the University of the Incarnate Word through their ADCaP (Adult Degree Completion Program). She plans to obtain a degree in Human Resources. After reading her job description and seeing the positions she has held, we think Letty could be the teacher instead of the student in this program.

*Fran Veters*



## Chat - N - Chew

When: Sunday, February 1, 2015, @ 2:00 pm

Where: The home of Mynda McGuire,  
20015 Encino Royale, SAT 78259

Contact: Please RSVP to Malinda Gaul @  
210-490-7315, 210-410-8992 or  
[mgaul@satx.rr.com](mailto:mgaul@satx.rr.com)



## Moviegoers

When: Saturday, January 24, 2015,  
early matinee time.

Where: TBA via email on Friday,  
January 23, 2015

Contact: Fran Veters to add your name  
to the list @ 210-347-8962 or  
[frankenveters@sbcglobal.net](mailto:frankenveters@sbcglobal.net)

Lots of award nominees at this time. We  
can't wait to see what's available!

## Historic Southwest

When: Saturday, February 14, 2015,  
@ 12:00 pm

Where: Doubletree Hotel on the corner of  
McCullough and IH 410 East

Cost: Lunch & Meeting is \$21

Speaker: Priscilla Montgomery

Program: "Texas Legacy, Old Three Hundred"

Contact: Please RSVP to Sophie Lim @  
(210) 445-0654, no later than Wednesday prior  
to the meeting.

## World Affairs Discussion Group

When: Monday, January 26, 2015,  
@ 10:00 am

Where: La Taza Coffee House

What: The topic is the last in the Gt.  
Decisions book—U.S. Trade Policy

Contact: Margaret Mayberry @  
210-496-5333 or [mmayberry@aol.com](mailto:mmayberry@aol.com)

No February Meeting

## Night Bridge

When: First and Third Mondays @ 6:45 pm

Location: La Madeline at Park North  
Loop 410 and Blanco

Contact: Marilyn Traylor @ 210-696-8299



## Book Discussion

When: Saturday, **January 17, 2015**, @ 10:00 am

Where: The home of Sherline Fox,  
116 Shady Trail Street, SAT 78232

What: The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd  
Contact: Please RSVP to Sherline @ 210-545-5592  
or sherlineH@me.com

When: Saturday, **February 14, 2015**, @ 10:00 am

Where: The home of Pat Sanford,  
18314 Beargrass Court, SAT, 78258

Marilyn Traylor will co-host.  
What: A Star for Mrs Blake by April Smith  
Contact: Please RSVP to Pat @ 210-392-0728 or  
pacmsan@me.com



## Wine, Women, and Wisdom/ Cocktails and Convo's

When: Thursday, **January 22, 2015**, @  
5:00 pm until 7:00 pm

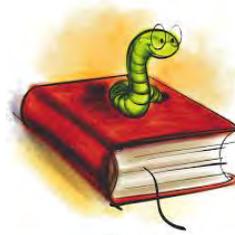
Where: Tribeca 212 just north of the  
Olmos Circle at 4331 McCullough.

<http://tribeca212.com/>

Cost: \$10 per person includes wine and pizza.  
Contact: Malinda Gaul @ 210-490-7315,  
210-410-8992 or [mgaul@satx.rr.com](mailto:mgaul@satx.rr.com)

When: Thursday, **February 19, 2015**, @ 5:00 pm  
Where: Paloma Blanca, 5800 Broadway SAT 78209

<http://www.palomablanca.net/>  
Contact: Malinda Gaul @ 210-490-7315,  
210-410-8992 or [mgaul@satx.rr.com](mailto:mgaul@satx.rr.com)



## Wandering Wonders

When: Friday, **January 23, 2015**, @ 10:00 am

Where: Mission Reach  
(starting place to be announced).

What: We will walk about 3 miles, at a moderate  
pace, along one of the new beautiful trails along  
the San Antonio River, with a fun lunch at a  
nearby restaurant afterwards.

Contact: Please contact Nancy Anderson to sign  
up for the walk or get more information @  
210-833-1291 or [anderson@loyno.edu](mailto:anderson@loyno.edu)

When: Friday, **February 20, 2015**, @10:00 am

Where: Eisenhower Park  
(19399 NW Military Hwy).

What: We will walk about 3 miles, at a moderate  
pace, in this popular park with  
beautiful natural trails.

Contact: Please contact Nancy Anderson to sign  
up for the walk or get more information @  
210-833-1291 or [anderson@loyno.edu](mailto:anderson@loyno.edu)

## Culinary Adventures

When: Thursday, February 19, 2015,  
@ 11:30 am

Where: Jerusalem Grill,  
3259 Wurzbach Road, SAT 78238

Contact: Please RSVP to Fran Vetter  
@ 210-347-8962 or  
[mfrankenvetters@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mfrankenvetters@sbcglobal.net)





## **Fired for Doing the Right Thing: An Interview with College Administrator in Sex Discrimination Case**

November 20, 2014

In the last 33 years, AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund has supported more than 100 cases. But demonstrating our impact isn't about the numbers; it's about the stories of the people we support.

Former Feather River employees Paul Thein, Laurel Wartluft, and Michele Jaureguito allege that, among other claims, Feather River violated their rights under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 by retaliating against them for complaining about gender discrimination on campus. More than eight years after they first filed suit, the plaintiffs hope that their long journey for vindication is almost over.

At the beginning of his career in education, Thein wanted to coach. His own coaches had been important mentors in his life. "I entered higher education because I was mentored by some good people, and I wanted to give back." Observing his success as a coach, a colleague urged him to pursue higher education administration. He eventually became the vice president of student affairs at Feather River.

Through his work at Feather River, Thein witnessed firsthand the value that community colleges provide to students. "The college [really helped] young people who have the talent and need a place to sharpen their skills, or it was a more affordable option for a working parent and provided a great start. Graduation, when you see those students excel — that's the reward. There is nothing better than seeing students succeed."

In the summer of 2005, things changed. Thein became concerned that the college wasn't properly complying with Title IX and urged the college to remedy what he considered discrimination in their athletic programs. He advocated for equal treatment of women's and men's coaching staff, supporting the hire of Wartluft as a full-time, tenured head coach. During the same summer, Thein and Jaureguito (who directed the school's Upward Bound and Talent Search programs for disadvantaged students) received complaints that a staff member was sexually harassing students. When they reported the complaints, they say, the college president told them to watch out for retaliation by the staff member in question's father, a senior faculty member.

The warning turned out to be justified. Not long after reporting the students' complaints, Thein was abruptly placed on administrative leave and informed that his contract would not be renewed.

When he initially filed the lawsuit, says Thein, "I was very naïve. It was so cut and dried in my mind. I'd lost my job, and I knew it was not right. I thought I'd file, send them a wake-up call, and surely I'd be able to retain my position." But he was disappointed. "I never thought it would lead to this. I lost my job in September 2005, filed in 2006, and the wake-up call never really happened."

Years later, still fighting for a fair result, he remembers how little he understood about the cost of a lawsuit. He didn't realize that financial resources could determine whether he was able to pursue his claim. "We never would have had deep enough pockets to continue [on our own]."

The huge imbalance of resources became clear when the plaintiffs arrived for a hearing before the California State Personnel Board. "When we walked into the State Personnel Board, the attorneys on the other side — they were opening up laptops one after another, they had depositions all scanned and loaded, and we were wheeling in cardboard boxes. They had attorneys behind attorneys. We had three plaintiffs trying to work out of a Kinko's."

Overwhelmed and drained, they came to LAF for help. "AAUW's support is so important. It's fuel to the mind that lets you know you're not in this by yourself," says Thein. "The financial support is absolutely needed — to fight against a major college is nearly impossible. We would've been dead in the water because we wouldn't have been able to pay for the case. ... [The college] would have dumped us all early if it hadn't been for my father, my family, and AAUW."

Having that team made all the difference. "We really needed emotional support. I think every one of us felt we were being attacked, and knowing that AAUW was backing us really was an emotional comfort. We needed both."

For this story and more stories like this, please visit <http://www.aauw.org>

--Editor

## ➤ *Public Policy*

In this year's Global Gender Gap Report 2014, The World Economic Forum tracked the degree of gender based disparities and their progress over time. The gap index presented in this report concentrated on the relative gaps between women and men in the following four areas: health, education, economy, and politics (<http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/>).

The study shows the gap has tapered in the health domain, with the gap standing at 96% globally with 35 countries closing the gap; the educational gap stands at 94% globally with 25 countries closing the gap; the gap for political empowerment now stands at 21%, showing some improvement since 2006; unfortunately the disparity for economic participation continues to need improvement (<http://www.weforum.org/reports/global-gender-gap-report-2014>).

For the 6th consecutive year, the findings conclude that Iceland continues to be the leader in overall rankings for The Gender Gap Index followed by Finland, Norway, Denmark and Sweden. For more detailed information regarding which countries lead the rankings for the Gender Gap Index, the following article can be found on the AAUW website: No Passport Required: A Look at Where Women Have It Best <file://localhost/http://www.aauw.org:2014:11:11:where-women-have-it-best:>



By: *Monica Ruiz-Mills*



## *Elaine Talariski, PhD*

*Learning, Serving, Empowering*

Dr. Elaine Talariski, an AAUW member since 2003, has never stopped learning! And she has the degrees to prove it. Her first was a BSN in Public Health Nursing from Marquette University, which enabled her to be Instructor in Nursing of Children at St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing and a school health nurse with the Public School System in Kansas City, Missouri.

In 1973, Elaine began a 20-year career in the US Air Force as a Public Health Officer, overseeing a wide range of public health activities for airbase communities in the United States, the Philippines, and Japan. During a tour in Texas, she earned a Master's in Business Management from Webster University.

After retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel from the Air Force in 1993, Elaine returned to San Antonio and pursued a Master's Degree in Political Science at St. Mary's University. She then became an adjunct professor, teaching political science courses at St. Mary's, UTSA, and St. Phillip's College.

On May 9, 2014, Elaine was awarded a Ph.D. with a concentration in International Education and Entrepreneurship from the University of the Incarnate Word. The title of her dissertation is "Volunteers' Cross-Cultural Immersion Experience in Tanzania and Zambia," for which she collected data showing that volunteers benefit as much as their clients from their interactions and assistance, experiencing a powerful sense of reward. The University of the Incarnate Word conducted 21 Reach-Out Africa immersion trips in 2013-14 which volunteers praised as leading to personal and professional growth.

Elaine currently serves on Boards with the League of Women Voters, the Alzheimer's Association, and the Bexar County Senior Advisory Committee for the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG). She is also a volunteer advisor for research with the Women's GlobalConnection (WGC), supported by the Sisters of Charity at the University of the Incarnate Word.

Among programs the WGC promotes are teacher training, education for girls, micro-lending, improved farming practices, nutrition instruction, and building networks of women and local government agencies. Elaine has been to Bukoba, Tanzania; Mongu, Zambia; and Chimbote, Peru, as a volunteer and a witness of the work the Women's Global Connection does to bring about women's economic development and empowerment.

*--Fran Vettters*

## **Texas Hill Country Wild Flowers**

Including Frog Fruit, Cow Slobber, Cowboy Roses, and Fried Eggs

Did you know that Mynda Holman McGuire prepared and published a book of photographs with the above title in 2007? Several good rains at just the right time in late 2006 produced spectacular blooms.

The book contains 88 photos with a few words for each plant. There are fun facts about the common flower names, plus a few botanical names. Some, such as Phlox, are known only by their botanical names. The beautiful and fragrant phlox plant was collected by Scots botanist Thomas Drummond, who visited Texas in 1835. Its seeds were shipped to England and much later came back "civilized" for gardens everywhere. Those seeds were shipped to England, and much later came back "civilized" for gardens everywhere.

The first 15 pages of the 77 page book can be viewed on-line @

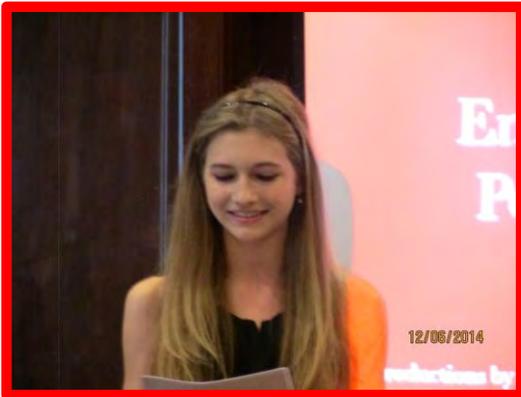
[www.Blurb.com/b/54786-Texas-Hill-Country-Wild-Flowers](http://www.Blurb.com/b/54786-Texas-Hill-Country-Wild-Flowers)

## ***Texas Hill Country Wild Flowers***

*Including Frog Fruit, Cow Slobber, Cowboy Roses, and Fried Eggs*

*By Mynda Holman McGuire*





Please check out our website for more information  
including our history and how to join:

 <http://sanantonio-tx.aauw.net/>

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 <https://www.facebook.com/aauw.sanantonio>

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 [https://twitter.com/AAUW\\_SanAntonio](https://twitter.com/AAUW_SanAntonio)

If you need to drop us a line via email, you can reach us at:

 [AAUW.SanAntonio@gmail.com](mailto:AAUW.SanAntonio@gmail.com)

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 [https://plus.google.com/u/0/b/104302918292245957288/  
104302918292245957288/about](https://plus.google.com/u/0/b/104302918292245957288/104302918292245957288/about)

We would love to be added to your network.

You can connect with us at:  
 <http://www.linkedin.com/in/aauwsanantonio/>