



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

Newsletter

November 2014 Volume 106, Issue 3

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

President's Corner

My wish to each of you is that the peace, joy, and renewal of the season touches you and your loved ones deeply and profoundly this holiday season. We have so many blessings to be thankful for and have such abundance in our lives to share and celebrate. This season truly is a time of joy.

Thank you for making our AAUW-SA branch a dynamic, living force. Our monthly meetings and our varied interest groups are well attended because there is so much energy when we get together. I know I leave each encounter in high spirits and hope you feel the same way!

We have an uplifting meeting planned for December 6th. I look forward to seeing you there.



Pat Sanford

Social Media.....	2
Interest Groups.....	3-4
National News.....	5
Member Resources.....	6
STEM.....	8
Public Policy.....	9
Member Spotlight.....	10
Did You Know.....	11
Local News.....	11-12
December Speakers.....	13
November Pics.....	14

December's Meeting

Saturday, December 6, 2014

Where: Aldino at the Vineyard, 1203 N. Loop 1604 W. at Blanco **Time:** 11:30 am – 1:30 pm **Cost:** \$20

Program: *International School of the Americas Director Kathy Bieser & ISA Student Paige Johnson Speak about Global Perspectives and Political Leadership*

Entrees are served with a House Green Salad, Aldino's Focaccia, Beverage, and Dessert

Menu Choices:

Pescue Florentine: Talapia, potato encrusted and sauteed, cherry buerr blanc, vegetables, and pasta **Or**
Lasagna Al Forno Or Pollo Picatta: Chicken breast, lighted coated and sauteed with mushrooms and capers, served with pasta
Or Kale Caesar: Chicken Caesar Kale Salad, served with a cup of tomato or leek soup

Please RSVP to Pat by Wednesday, December 3rd

pacmsan@me.com or 210-392-0728

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

\$500 Visa Gift Card Drawing Money Raised will be used for Textbook Scholarships

The drawing for the \$500 Visa Gift Card will take place at the December meeting, just in time for holiday shopping. You do not need to be present to win. Proceeds go to the Textbook Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Buy your tickets at the December meeting or send your money and the top portion of your tickets to Sue Ewers in the envelope provided in Sue's letter. Thank you!

➤ Social Media and Web

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



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

Please take a moment to like us on Facebook at:



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

You can also Tweet to us, with us and retweet for us:

Please follow us @AAUW_San Antonio or



https://twitter.com/AAUW_SanAntonio

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



AAUW.SanAntonio@gmail.com

You can add us to your Google+ circles at:



[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/>

December Interest Groups!



Chat - N - Chew

When: Sunday, December 7 at 2:00 pm

Where: Malinda Gaul's home located at 15734 Knoll down, San Antonio, Texas 78247, 210-490-7315. 210-410-8992 or mgaul@satx.rr.com to RSVP



Historic Southwest

When: Saturday, December 13 at 12:00 pm

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

Lunch: \$21

Speaker: Helen Kyse – (A member of AAUW and Historic Southwest)

Program: "The Christmas Star in Heraldry." The fascinating legend of the lineage and heraldry of the Three Magi (or the Three Kings).

Reservations: Contact Sophie Lim @ (210) 445-0654 no later than Wednesday prior to



Moviegoers

When: Saturday, November 22, early matinee time.

Where: TBA

What will it be? Homesman? Birdman? Interstellar? While I Was Sleeping?

*Film, time, and location to be announced to Moviegoers members via email on Friday, November 21.

Contact Fran Veters, francesveters@yahoo.com if you would like your name added to the list. (Moviegoers will not convene on Saturday, December 22.).

Night Bridge

First and Third Mondays, 6:45 pm

Location: La Madeleine at North Park

Loop 410 and Blanco

Contact: Marilyn Traylor, 210-696-8299 or mjanetray@yahoo.com



Book Discussion

When: Saturday, December 13 at
11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Where: Fran Vetter's home

Book selection: *Crossing To Safety* by
Wallace Stegner.

*Fran Vetter is planning a luncheon before
the book discussion. Members always have
the option of leaving earlier if need be.
Contact: Diantha Perelli, 210-497-4121 or
cyclobabe1946@yahoo.com



World Affairs Discussion Group

When: Monday, December 1 at 10:00 am

Where: La Taza Coffee House,
Brookhollow and 281.

Topic: No. 7 - China's Foreign Policy.

*Margaret will be out-of-state but
meeting will continue.

Contact: Margaret Mayberry,
210-496-5333 or mmayberry@aol.com

Wandering Wonders

We will not be meeting in December.

Culinary Adventures

We will not be meeting in
December.



Wine, Women, and Wisdom (AAUW's Cocktails and Convos)

We will not have Wine, Women, and Wisdom in
November or December due to the holidays.





AAUW Vice President of Government Relations Lisa M. Maatz and Associate Director of Field Operations Patty Snee held a post-election analysis call on November 5, 2014.

A recording of the presentation is available on AAUW's YouTube channel.

After this midterm election, our work continues and is more important than ever. Here are three things you can do to keep pushing forward AAUW's mission and public policy goals:

- Encourage friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to sign up for AAUW Action Network so they can take action on urgent legislative issues. You can spread the word about AAUW Action Network via e-mail or social media. You can also collect sign-ups at AAUW events, such as branch meetings, issue forums, rallies, and tabling events.
- Comment on the AAUW Public Policy Program's proposed revisions for 2015-17. Your comments and suggestions will be used to shape AAUW's advocacy in the future, with the new Congress and other elected officials.
- Register for AAUW National Convention in San Diego, where you can get the latest public policy updates (live and in person!), learn how to make big public policy change, and network with other AAUW members. Only two months left to get the best-value rate!

☺ For 8 takeaways from the 2014 Midterm Elections, please check out Lisa Maatz's blog @ <http://www.aauw.org/2014/11/05/midterms-takeaways-2014/>

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How to Use the Relational Recruitment Method to Grow Your Branch

Let's face it: Whether you want to ask a friend to sign up to be an AAUW member or invite a stranger to attend your event, recruiting people can be awkward. An uncomfortable feeling creeps in when we feel like we are putting someone on the spot by asking her to do something she might not want to do.

But recruiting doesn't have to be uncomfortable. This resource will show you how to focus on getting to know the person and what she wants so that you can invite her to participate in a way that is meaningful to her. Then, using the "ask, inform, involve, thank" model (adopted from the Sierra Club), you can move away from that uncomfortable feeling and begin building vital personal relationships that will lead to successful recruiting.

Why Might Someone Get Involved with AAUW?

There are many reasons why someone might want to get involved in your branch or state. Before you recruit someone, think about different motivations and speak about how joining your AAUW branch or state will be a good match for the potential member and those motivations. Here are a few of the reasons why someone might be interested (and how you can address them in your pitch).

•Belief in the mission.

The number one reason people get involved in AAUW is passion for AAUW's mission and issues. Strong belief in the mission can motivate members to participate and take on leadership roles, even in the face of challenges or competing commitments. Be prepared to talk specifically about the diverse issues that AAUW works on, from fair pay to the gender gap in STEM to human trafficking. If someone can see how being a part of AAUW matches with her values and passions, she will be eager to get involved.

•Professional development.

Many women who are in or are looking to enter the workforce are seeking opportunities that will help them in their careers. That's not to say these women don't also care about women's empowerment. When choosing between several organizations, however, they may choose one that affords them the most personal and professional development.

- **A desire to give back to the community.**

Many women are looking for opportunities to make a difference in their local community in a tangible way. Luckily, AAUW has great opportunities for local impact, from raising scholarships for young women to running STEM programs for girls. Make sure you know how someone can get involved in such local opportunities.

- **Social interaction.**

Women who are new to your community or are looking for a group of people they can connect with may be excited to learn about AAUW. Time and time again, we've heard volunteer leaders say they originally joined AAUW because they were looking to make friends.

What opportunities are there for individuals to get involved?

Now that you are clear on why someone might get involved, let's talk about how she could get involved. Be ready to point the potential member to opportunities that will be the most meaningful for her. Before you talk with someone, brainstorm the answers to the following questions:

- What events and projects are on the calendar?
- Besides attending, are there additional ways she could contribute to the success of your upcoming event?
- Are there existing committees or projects she can work on?
- Whom should you put her in touch with if she's are interested in any of the above?



Computer Science Education Week

DECEMBER 8-14, 2014

Looking for a Few Good Reviewers

The application review period begins next week and we could sure use your help.

Please share this request with colleagues and contacts who might be interested in volunteering a few hours of their time to support young technical women. Follow the prompts to register as a Volunteer and Application Reviewer -

please sign up today at <http://www.aspirations.org/volunteer-support/volunteer>

CALL TO ACTION!

1. Support Computer Science Education Week
2. Sign the petition
3. Support a school or girl

Our AAUW Texas STEM Task Force would love to connect with members who are engaged with education. Task Force members, Karen North and Tricia Berry met at the University of Texas to brainstorm scaling equitable access to computer science education with coordinators of Project Engage, Texas Girls Collaborative Project, Code.org affiliates, Texas Computer Education Association and The Texas Regional Collaborative. We would love for you to be a part by supporting Computer Science Education Week December 8-13, 2014.

No one questions the need for critical thinking, creative thinking and college and career readiness skills. Half of future STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) jobs are in Computer Science. Yet, very few girls are exposed to the computer sciences. Coding is an easy free tool that can build the 21st century mindset that our economy needs. Google is investing \$50 Million to attract girls to CS. Code.org has developed lessons for K-5 children and non-readers. But, we need your help!

Please go to the Computer Science Education Week website to sign the petition supporting that every student in every school should have the opportunity to learn computer science. Teachers need our help! I am dreaming every AAUW branch in Texas would support one school, and every AAUW member would support one girl. See codetexas.edublogs.org for more ideas or contact Karen at knorth@wt.net. And, challenge yourself by doing the puzzles at code.org/educate/k5.

IT is good for your brain, too!!

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Plan Update

AAUW reported from the hearings pertaining to the Violence against Women Reauthorization Plan on a live blog that began in January 2014. On October 1, 2014, University Campuses were to have updated their statistics and include safety provisions as outlined in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Plan, also referred to as SAVE. Schools are now required to adopt student discipline procedures, such as notifying victims of their rights and adopting policies to prevent sexual assault. The annual security reports must now include data and incidents per year regarding: sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and hate crimes (gender bias and national origin bias). The Department of Education (DOE) did not provide a federal definition of consent but campuses are required to follow these new provisions (<http://www.aauw.org/2014/10/20/final-vawa-step/>).

In Texas, the following data was acquired for the 2013 Security Report and published in the Eagle ford Texas News (<http://eaglefordtexas.com/news/id/136267/colleges-expand-reporting-sexual-violence-domestic-abuse-2013/>):

UT Enrollment: 52,000; Sexual Assault – 21 incidents; Domestic Violence – 25 incidents; Dating Violence – 15 incidents, Stalking – 36 incidents.

Texas A&M Enrollment: 56, 000; Sexual Assault - 9 incidents; Domestic Violence – 0 incidents; Dating Violence – 3 incidents; Stalking – 0 incidents.

Texas State Enrollment: 36,000; Sexual Assault – 3 incidents; Data not available for remaining categories.

UTSA reported the following information in their University Security Report:

UTSA Enrollment 28, 623; Sexual Assault – 0; Domestic Violence – 1 incident; Dating Violence – 4 incidents; Stalking – 2 incidents; Gender Bias reports – 2 incidents.

To read UTSA's complete 2013 Security Report, with policies and procedures in regards to SAVE, can be found at: https://utsa.edu/utsapd/Crime_Statistics/2013SecurityReport.pdf.

Checking campus reports to ensure the law is followed and guidelines have been implemented is a way to continue advocating for and empowering women in higher education institutions.



By: Monica Ruiz-Mills



Susan Albert

Passion for Environment, Social Justice Lead Branch Member to Empowering Jobs

Susan Albert, who joined our Branch a little over a year ago, has a history of aligning her passions for the arts, the environment, and women's issues with the many jobs she has held since earning her BFA in Textile Design from Rhode Island School of Design. She spent 13 years in the textile industry in New York and New Orleans and followed that with working in marketing and communications for a contemporary art museum and for Whole Foods Market in Dallas.

While at Whole Foods, her job required partnerships with the nonprofit community. She then moved to North Carolina where she held two similar positions at another museum and again with Whole Foods. When a job opportunity in nonprofit fundraising presented itself, Susan joined the staff at local offices for the Muscular Dystrophy Association as a fundraiser and found she thoroughly enjoyed it.

A move to San Antonio and a position at Planned Parenthood as the Annual Gifts Manager provided a chance to be involved in social justice and women's issues. However, "the lure of the great outdoors called with "Audubon" and she "jumped at the chance to meet new challenges and work with a newly formed Nature Center that was a part of the National Audubon Society." Susan was Mitchell Lake Audubon Center Director for eight years, responsible for day-to-day operations, fundraising, and all operations and staff.

Now Susan has yet another job. She is Director of Donor Relations for Texas Public Radio. If you went to any of the TPR Cinema Tuesdays at the Bijou this summer, as our AAUW Moviegoers group did, you would have seen her in action. Fundraising and event planning are her primary duties in this new position.

In her spare time, Susan works with local volunteer group Friendship Bridge as Co-leader with another Branch member, Jeanette Pierce. The mission of Friendship Bridge is to empower the impoverished women of Guatemala to make a better life for themselves, their children and their communities through microcredit and education. Susan says she was "fueled first by love of Guatemala's natural beauty and incredible textiles" and then driven by the history of a war-torn country and the needs of the Friendship Bridge clients.

Susan has received many honorifics over the years, but the one she treasures most is the First Inaugural Women Making A Difference Award presented to her as a Visionary by the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in 2010. Susan plans to come full circle some day and will return to the visual arts, getting back into the studio to create her own work again.

By: Fran Vettters

➤ Did you know?

Did you know Barbara Bird was a police officer for 20 years as a criminal investigator? Long before that she earned a BA in Sociology from the University of Texas-Austin. After graduation, the 19-year-old bride moved to San Antonio where she and her husband opened the pizza concession at Ft. Sam Houston. Later they opened a second concession in Louisiana. Barbara became a member of AAUW in 1980.

Did you know Kate Vettters graduated from Texas Western University, now called UTEP (University of Texas-El Paso) in 1959 with a degree in geology? There were not a lot of jobs in geology for a woman in those But because she had a science degree, USAA gave her her first job as a computer programmer. Later she became administrative assistant for the Downtown Optimists' Club and remained in that position for 20 years.

➤ Local News

Branch Food Bank Donors Do It Again!

For the second year, San Antonio Branch AAUW has donated more than 100 pounds of non-perishables to the San Antonio Food Bank. Our contribution, in time for Thanksgiving, totaled 135 pounds. Thank you for helping to fight hunger this holiday season!!

Members, who were not able to donate at the November 1 meeting, may take their non-perishable foods to a Security Service Federal Credit Union at any of their 26 locations.

–Fran Vettters

Scholarships

Scholarship announcements have been sent out to eighteen (18) accredited colleges and universities. This should give students plenty of time to meet the February 7th deadline. The textbook and graduate committee members are Susan Albert, Karen Cool, Diantha Perelli, Jeanette Pierce, Ann Marie Rehner, Monika Ruiz-Mills, Ginny Taylor, and Marilyn Traylor. Many thanks for their willingness!

Remember to purchase raffle tickets for the Visa gift card in support of our textbook scholarship fund. The winner will be announced at our December branch meeting. Of course, monetary contributions are always welcome. This might be an idea for a Christmas gift in honor of your grandkids, or whomever, to demonstrate the value of philanthropy to them.

–Karen Reichensperger



AAUW Writer Inspires Branch Members

Laura Van Prooyen, a published author and San Antonio Branch member, made some magic at Gemini Ink on October 22. She turned six tentative scribblers into assured writers in one evening! Through games and writing exercises she brought out the talent hidden in her students.

Laura, who received a Career Development Scholarship from AAUW National when starting on an MFA in Poetry a few years ago, has always wanted to "give back" to AAUW and offered a free creative writing workshop to interested Branch members. She is a gifted poet and talented teacher.

Laura's second collection of poems, *Our House Was On Fire*, will be released in January. We are fortunate to have her as our speaker at the April, 2015, meeting.

By: Fran Vettters

International School of the Americas Director Kathy Bieser, Fosters Learning From Global Perspectives &

ISA Sophomore, Paige Johnson Works Toward Her Goal of Being an Agent of Change in Political Leadership

How many of us knew what we were destined to do at the age of 10? Paige Johnson, a sophomore at NEISD's International School of the Americas, has always wanted to effect change in government through political activism. Being elected to student council in 4th grade made her see the possibility of serving others, something she feels is in her "hardwiring."

There is no doubt that she will achieve her goal. Paige was one of only 50 high school girls in the United States chosen to attend a Young Women's Political Leadership Program — sponsored by the non-profit, nonpartisan group Running Start in Washington, DC, this summer. There she attended workshops on public speaking, networking, fund-raising, on camera training, and advocacy, all with the goal of encouraging young women to run for office.

US News and World Report rank Paige's high school, International School of the Americas, among the Best High Schools in the United States. ISA principal, Kathy Bieser, will also speak at the December meeting. The school is notable for its small, highly motivated student body and its Model United Nations Conference, the largest of these student-run conferences in the country. Innovative and with an international perspective, ISA inspires its students to think globally. We look forward to learning what Paige has learned from her experience and excited to hear how Kathy works toward fostering global learning within her student body.

By: Fran Vettters

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November Meeting!

