



NEWSLETTER December 2017 Volume 109 Issue 4

2017-2018 THEME
Equity: Putting Advocacy into Action

BRANCH OFFICERS

President Karen Reichensperger
President-Elect Suzanne Benson
VP for Programs Fran Vetter
VP for Membership Pat Sanford
Secretary Kathy Dicke
Treasurer Mary Heye

From the President

Greetings! We are rapidly approaching the season of hope and celebration. Or, should I say, more than usual?

We hope for peace. We hope for justice. We hope for equity. We hope for fewer disasters. We hope for health. We hope for understanding. We hope for love. We hope for so much. We hope, and we celebrate! We celebrate our friends. We celebrate occasions. We celebrate the ballet recital of our granddaughter. We celebrate the positive outcome of a surgery. We celebrate people who help us along our way. We celebrate the joyous reunion of family. We celebrate the many businesses who are paying women equally to men. We celebrate the schools that are honest in reporting cases of sexual assault. We celebrate AAUW for its many efforts to make the female world as good as it is. And we celebrate its continued efforts to make our world more equitable.

Right now, I am celebrating the women who are engaged and willing to spend some time contacting colleges and universities about AAUW college/university membership so that their female students can avail themselves of the many benefits of AAUW membership. I celebrate the community organizations, like [Texas Business Women San Antonio](#), who are active in support of laws that are fair and equitable, and who want to bring “[Work Smart](#)” to their membership and San Antonio businesses. I celebrate the justice system as it strives to direct women away from adversity and toward healing. I celebrate the friendships formed in AAUW. I celebrate the many talents of women who help others overcome adversity, who mentor others, who speak up in support of equity, who carry out their love for others. Let us truly celebrate! Let us work toward making our hopes reality.

Many good wishes to you during this season of hope and celebration.

Karen Reichensperger

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DECEMBER MEETING

Saturday, December 2 11:30am

Paesano's at Lincoln Heights
555 E Basse Rd, 78209
Between the Quarry Market and Broadway
Please see map on page 4

Program | Domestic Violence in Our Court System
Speakers | The Honorable Justice Sandee Bryan Marion
The Honorable Judge Crystal Chandler

RSVP to Kate Vettters by Wednesday, December 1
kvettters@sbcglobal.net

Menu

House Salad

Farfalle Primavera with Shrimp and Scallops

Sole with Lemon Butter and Capers

Chicken Marsala

Tea, Coffee, and Soft Drinks

Assorted Cookies

\$25 cash or check payable to AAUW
Members should cancel reservations prior to the meeting.
No-shows will be charged.

New VP for Programs

The Branch and the Board of Directors give a huge thank you to Alicia Hyk for all the work she did in finding such good and varied meeting sites and speakers that expand on our mission. We will miss her and look forward to her joining us again.

The Board of Directors has appointed Fran Vettters to complete the VP for Programs role through the end of the year. Fran has given us whole-hearted effort and quality programs in the past. We look forward to the same this year. Thank you, Fran, for accepting this responsibility.

Domestic Violence: Celebrities Raising Awareness

Our speakers this month will speak on domestic violence in the courts. You will hear that AAUW is not alone in recognizing everyone's right to healthy, happy, and safe relationships on campus, in our homes, and at work.

Over the past year, several celebrities have used their voice as a platform for awareness and advocacy on this critical issue. You might not be able to write your own song or PSA about it, but there are still ways that you can help end domestic violence and sexual assault.

Do watch this video:

www.aauw.org/2015/10/28/dv-awareness-videos/

If You Can Get There, We Can Get You Home

We want to see our AAUW friends more often, and we want you to hear the great presentations at our monthly meetings. To help make this possible, the Board will guarantee that if you are able to come to the meetings, we will assure you of a ride home.

Perhaps you can get a lift from a friend or a family member on Saturday morning. If they can drop you off, we can take you home.

Another option is to meet an AAUW friend at a designated location, such as a shopping center, and ride together to the meeting.

Finding the restaurant has been a problem for some of us, so from now on, the newsletter will include brief directions and a map.

Voting Rights

The right to vote is an essential part of our democracy. During the 2016 election voters in many states faced new restrictions at the polls. Without the protections of the Voting Rights Act (which was weakened in a 2013 U.S. Supreme Court decision), new laws were enacted, producing a chaotic voting environment that confused voters and created unnecessary barriers to the ballot box. Voter suppression tactics, such as voter identification laws, make it increasingly difficult for Americans to vote — particularly people of color,

TEXTBOOK SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

We are continuing our tradition of raising funds for the textbook scholarships AAUW SA awards annually to women attending a college or university in Bexar County. Please support this worthy effort by purchasing tickets for our Textbook Scholarship Fundraiser. We will have a drawing for a \$500 Visa gift card at our December meeting. Tickets are \$10 each, or three for \$25, and will be available for purchase at the meeting. You do not need to be present to win or a member of AAUW to purchase tickets.

Recipients often tell us that the AAUW SA scholarship has enabled them to stay in school, or work less so they can study more and achieve better grades. Last year our branch awarded six \$500 textbook scholarships thanks to your generosity.

older people, low-income people, and those living in rural America, some of whom may not have driver's licenses or any means of obtaining one. Women are also affected by these laws. For example, many women have changed their names after marriage but have not updated their ID cards to reflect that change. We need Congress to act now to uphold the fundamental right to vote. **CONT PS**

YOUNGER WOMEN'S TASK FORCE

powered by AAUW

Connecting With Younger Women Leaders

I am delighted to serve as the executive director of the [Younger Women's Task Force of San Antonio](#) and the college/university liaison for AAUW San Antonio. Since incorporation in September 2016, YWTF San Antonio has grown to 24 members, adding to the membership of AAUW Texas and AAUW nationally. We have begun to establish active relationships with several colleges and universities across the city, making it a natural fit for me to champion these efforts.

San Antonio has three active college/university affiliates — Our Lady of the Lake University, Palo Alto College, and San Antonio College. We see the value and importance of these affiliates and want this number to grow. With our branch's mission including scholarships, it is even more pertinent that we engage and connect with our current and prospective college/university affiliates and the YWTF community.

San Antonio is unique as it is home to [Sanah Jivani](#) of UTSA, a former member of the [AAUW National Student Advisory Council \(SAC\)](#), which leads and organizes the [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders \(NCCWSL\)](#). Our 20, 30, and 40-somethings are doing mighty things in our city and will be the torchbearers for the future of AAUW. I am excited to embark on this journey to connect, engage, and work alongside these unique AAUW members.

Shenee Simon

It's Almost Tax Time

In these uncertain times, there is talk about Congress removing non-profit charitable deductions from our income tax for those who itemize. However, those of you who routinely donate to AAUW throughout the year, and especially now before December 31, 2017, can continue to make and claim such deductions this year. This is your opportunity to take advantage of giving to enhance our mission of supporting women and girls before filing your 2017 income tax documents. All donations, large and small, are most welcome whether or not you plan to itemize.

Branch members are asked to please designate on your 2017 AAUW donations the number 4428. This number applies to the AAUW Honorary Fund for the San Antonio Branch. Your personal donations will help pay off our branch's commitment to give \$2,500 as the final payment of \$5,000. Those donations will be deducted from the final payment, leaving fewer dollars for the branch to pay. No amount you donate will ever be publicized, but will be most gratefully received.

In addition, the end of the year may be the time to consider leaving a legacy for AAUW in your will or trust. Again, there is no minimum or maximum amount or percentage required. These are totally private decisions. Check with your financial advisor for details, including how you can donate tax free with an IRA.

Choose now to leave a personal legacy to AAUW in the future. To locate the forms to become a member of AAUW's Legacy Circle, or if you have questions about donating this year, contact Mynda Holman McGuire at 210.287.1423, or mynda@satx.rr.com.

There is also information about both AAUW Funds and the Legacy Circle on www.AAUW.org.

Nov Board Meeting Highlights

• Cheryl Fuller will convene the Nominating Committee which also consists of Debi Sochia, Ruth Lyle, Michele Aichele and Malinda Gaul. The slate of officers will be presented at the March meeting and voting will take place in April.

• Our Branch has met all the requirements for the TX MAP Award. Membership: recruited seven new members. Advocacy: All branch meetings have been mission-based programs. Philanthropy: Our branch will achieve a goal of \$500 for the Ann Richards Fund.

• The Board nominated Malinda Gaul as AAUW TX Member of the Year.

• The Board nominated Cheryl Fuller as AAUW TX New Member of the Year.

INTEREST GROUPS

Bridge 1st & 3rd Mon

La Madeleine at Park North
722 NW Loop 410 at Blanco, 78216
6:00pm Dinner
6:30pm Bridge
Contact Pearl Eng
pquaneng@hotmail.com
210.240.8118

Historic Southwest Sat, Dec 9

William Fannin and the Goliad Massacre
Sherri Driscoll
DoubleTree Hotel
37 NE Loop 410 at McCullough, 78216
12:00pm
RSVP to Lola Hill
lnhill25@gmail.com
210.334.5897

Wandering Wonders Thu, Dec 14

Museum Reach Christmas Lights
The Pearl [Directions and Parking](#)
5:00pm Dinner at Cured
6:30pm Meet at the stairs to the river
in front of Hotel Emma
8:00pm Dessert/Drinks at Supper
RSVP to Helga Anderson
handerson5@satx.rr.com
210.573.8424

Book Discussion Sat, Dec 16

Hero of the Empire
by Candice Millard
Host Fran Vettters
25018 Burnt Arrow, 78258
11:00am *note the time change*
RSVP to Fran Vettters
francesvettters@yahoo.com
210.481.7765

Culinary Adventures

Does not convene in December

Moviegoers

Does not convene in December

Wine, Women, & Wisdom

Does not convene in December

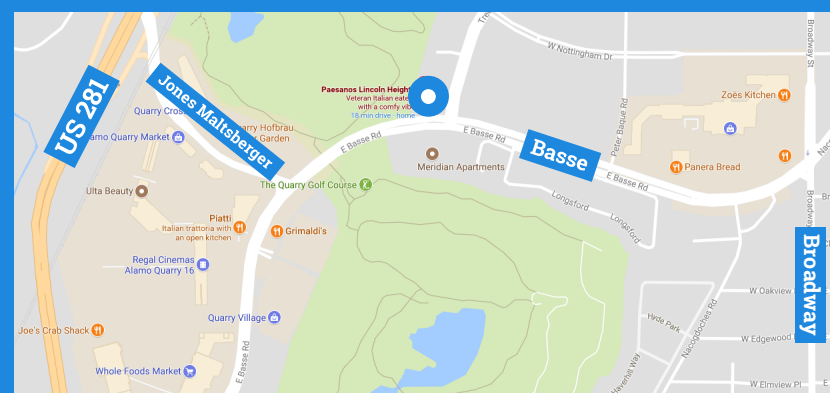
Members were recently reminded and encouraged to become an AAUW Two-Minute Activist. By using this great tool you can impact actions affecting women and girls by contacting your members of Congress and making your voice heard. Background information on the issues is provided on the site. You can join the AAUW Two-Minute Activist by visiting www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/ or with your cell phone by texting "AAUW" to 21333.

Below are some of the current issues needing our help. The site provides pre-drafted letters that you can customize if you desire. You simply forward the message to your members of Congress (they even tell you who they are!). You fill in your name and address just once and you can forward your position via message/letter to your congressional representatives on multiple issues. Here are some examples:

- Tell Congress: Protect Dreamers and Pass the Dream Act. Action taken by the administration is morally and fiscally irresponsible and Congress must take action.
- Tell Congress: Don't Repeal the Affordable Care Act. Attempts to repeal the ACA specifically put women's access to health care in danger and threaten their economic security.
- Protect Women and Families in the Federal Budget. The FY 2018 proposed budget adversely impacts women and family economic security, access to education, and civil rights.
- Stand Up for Equity in Education. The Patsy T. Mink Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA) will ensure schools and educational institutions comply with Title IX.
- End the Student Debt Crisis. Debt isn't just a student problem – it's a gender inequity problem, and it impacts us all.

Have a look at the site and join in the advocacy push to get the word out for corrective actions to the priority issues of our time!

DECEMBER MEETING MAP



Save the Date

48th Biennial State Convention
April 20-22, 2018
Houston



Mynda and Malinda's Convention Adventures

DAY THREE

On Friday, June 16, 2017, Mynda and Malinda began the day as presenters at *Inside Look: Programs That Work* telling attendees about the project AAUW San Antonio did last year contacting Title IX coordinators and celebrating Title IX at the WNBA Stars basketball game. The day was full of plenary sessions and workshops, including women pollsters Linda DiVall and Celinda Lake discussing the importance of women in politics, and Laura Dunn, J.D. who founded SurvJustice to help victims of campus sexual assault.

The day ended with an extraordinary banquet featuring Dr. Tererai Trent, an AAUW International Fellow. Dr. Trent recounted growing up in Zimbabwe where she told the group she was the next generation to be passed the baton of illiteracy. She rejected the baton and came to America for higher education, including receiving a fellowship from AAUW. Now she says she will pass the baton of education instead of illiteracy to her children. We had goosebumps after her rousing speech.

Then came Justice Sonia Sotomayor. She was being interviewed by AAUW CEO Kim Churches on the stage when she asked if she could move around and answer questions. What she did next stunned the whole room of 800 plus people. She proceeded to walk around the room shaking hands, hugging, and doing selfies with every table. Kim followed her, as did her six Secret Service officers, including one woman, and asked questions. Never has there been a more intimate experience with a speaker. Mynda and Malinda have attended many national conventions, but this was by far the best.

VOTING P2 On October 3, 2017, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Gill v. Whitford*, a case challenging partisan gerrymandering in Wisconsin. Gerrymandering — the practice of drawing electoral district lines to benefit one political party — poses serious problems for our democracy. In jurisdictions nationwide, legislators have drawn maps that allow them to choose their voters rather than enabling voters to choose their representatives, a reversal that undermines the concept of fair representation.

AAUW has long advocated expanding voting rights and ensuring equitable political participation and representation. But poorly drawn or purposefully unfair electoral district lines can threaten these ideals. With

the 2020 census looming, many advocates, legislators, and judges are taking a hard look at their electoral district boundaries.

Legislators in gerrymandered districts are less accountable to voters; elections in those districts frequently become uncontested or lopsided; and in states where gerrymandering is widespread, legislatures are able to push through policies that fail to reflect voters' values or needs.

States have an important opportunity to reshape the redistricting process and better police gerrymandering abuses ahead of the 2020 census, and citizens can play a vital role in making sure reform happens.

Tererai Trent, Ph.D.
2017 AAUW ALUMNAE RECOGNITION AWARD

Tererai Trent, Ph.D., is one of today's most internationally recognized voices for quality education and women's empowerment. Distinguished as Oprah Winfrey's "all-time favorite guest," Trent is a scholar, humanitarian, motivational speaker, educator, author, and the founder of Tererai Trent International whose mission is based on the belief that education is the pathway out of poverty.

Trent grew up in a cattle-herding family in rural Zimbabwe. Despite facing many obstacles, she never lost sight of her dream of going to America for higher education. Trent's steadfast determination, hard work, and belief in herself would eventually earn her a prominent global platform with world leaders and international audiences. Alongside them, she leads the global charge in the fight for quality education and women's rights. Trent has been a keynote speaker twice at the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit, where she used her growing voice to appeal to international businesses to invest in equal access to quality education. She is currently an adjunct professor in monitoring and evaluation in global health at Drexel University's School of Public Health.

Trent's new picture book, *The Girl Who Buried Her Dreams in a Can*, is based on her story of perseverance. She has become an international symbol of hope and living proof that anything is possible. Her favorite motto is "tinogona," which in Shona means, "It is achievable!"