

## Branch Dinner Meeting—Monday November 10

Our next branch meeting will be held at the Olive Garden restaurant, 639 N.Cockrell Hill Rd, Duncanville at 6 p.m. on Monday November 10th.

Our program will feature Ben Wilkins, the Director of Recruitment and Training at Dallas CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) . This organization advocates for the best interests of abused and neglected children in protective care, to help them find safe, permanent homes. According to their web site ([www.dallascasa.org](http://www.dallascasa.org) ) they have been in operation since 1979. There are 35 full-time CASA employees who support more than 350 volunteers.



Ben Wilkins has worked at Dallas CASA since 1995. He holds a Master's in Social Work and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. He is a current member and former chair of the National CASA Association Curriculum Advisory Committee, a current member of the Texas CASA Program Services Committee, and the facilitator of the Dallas County. celebration of National Adoption Day.

Our AAUW Branch member Ann Montgomery is a CASA volunteer, and she reports: CASA is an organization that works with CPS to help to find foster homes for children who have been removed by CPS from their own homes because of a variety of reasons. CASA keep track of each child and a volunteer is given one case for which they are responsible. This means they visit the child regularly to make sure their situation is good, and twice a year they go before the judge to report. “It is a very rewarding job but at times heart breaking.”

### December Meeting & Silent Auction; Popcorn For Sale

We will have a Silent Auction at our December 15 Holiday Dinner at the home of Carol McConnell. Be looking for new and gently used items that you would like to donate for the Silent Auction. E-Mail Eileen Sexton ([eileen6770@yahoo.com](mailto:eileen6770@yahoo.com)) if you have any questions.

The gourmet popcorn fund raiser is going well. If you need popcorn to sell, contact Eileen Sexton. The popcorn is packaged in individual sized bags and is available for \$1.50 per bag. Flavors are caramel corn, vanilla, white cheddar, and salsa. They make great snacks, gifts, stocking stuffers!

These two activities are important ways to supplement our Branch operating budget without raising member dues. We may also hold a garage sale in the spring.

### **EYH Planning Update- by Penny Ball**

On Saturday February 28, 2009 our Branch will be offering its 16th annual Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) career day for girls of grades 6, 7, and 8, with a concurrent program of speakers for interested adults.

Pat Gregory and I are now in the process of arranging the programs. At present I have confirmations for 10 of the student workshops and a likely presenter for an opening session keynote speaker. Updates will be published on our website at [www.EYH.aauw-swdc.org](http://www.EYH.aauw-swdc.org) and the registration brochure will be available in late December. We would like everybody to help spread the word to school or other youth groups.

It has been suggested that a session in Spanish for the parents of some of the girls might be a valuable addition to our program. If you would like to help set up such a session, please let us know.: Penny Ball at [penny@acm.org](mailto:penny@acm.org) or Pat Gregory at [pat@zulus.us](mailto:pat@zulus.us). You do not have to be a Spanish speaker yourself; you would contact some likely sources for speakers for such a program.

### **EF and LAF Annual Contributions**

If you have not yet made your annual donations to the AAUW Educational Foundation (EF) and Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), please try to do so before December, so that our Branch can submit your checks to the national AAUW office in time to get your tax credit for this year. Both funds have tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service and thus donors can deduct contributions to EF and LAF on their tax returns as charitable contributions.

However you must make separate checks (one for EF and one for LAF) that are payable to AAUW, not to our branch. The suggested minimum donations are \$35 for the EF and \$5 for the LAF. Please consider increasing your donations to these worthy causes, if you can.

If you have questions, contact Julie Crider, our Branch VP for EF/LAF, by email at [Julie.Crider@AlconLabs.com](mailto:Julie.Crider@AlconLabs.com) or leave her a phone message ( Home: 817-572-1240 or Mobile: 214-796-7930). You can mail your checks to Julie Crider, 6900 Hollow Oak Trail, Mansfield, TX 76063 and she will submit them to the appropriate contact at national AAUW so that we can get the credit for our branch

### **Member Book Recommendations**

Byron White, Karen's husband, recommends **The Divided Mind –the Epidemic of Mindbody Disorders by John E. Sarno, MD**: His report: Read the readers' reviews [at Amazon.com] because they make a very important point, which is that the pain the patient experiences is *real*, not imaginary, not "all in his/her head." Some people will be turned off by what they think is a "blame the victim" mentality, where the patient is feeling pain because he/she is weak, cowardly, etc. etc. In reality there's nothing remotely like that involved. Sarno believes that the *cause* of the pain, which can be crippling, may be psychosomatic. Sarno is the author of several other books specifically about back pain. .... After 17 years of literally crippling back pain I may be on the way to real recovery. I haven't had to spend a day in bed for something like two months, which is unheard of for me. I can't praise this guy enough. I don't know whether it will help other people but it certainly seems to have performed a miracle for me.

Margaret Bentley, Pat Gregory, and Penny Ball recommend "**The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society**" by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. It uses a format of personal letters to and from a woman writer living in London just after the close of World War II. Her correspondents include residents of Guernsey, the one piece of British territory that the Germans took over and occupied for 5 years, cutting the residents off from all communication and information about the outside world. It is light reading with interesting details of the daily life of the people of Guernsey during and after the occupation.

### Member News

\*\* **Everybody:** Don't be shy - send your reports to Penny@acm.org or call Penny Ball at 972-709-1957.

\*\* **Karen Elyse White** is now a full-time artist, working primarily in graphite pencil, colored pencil, pen and ink, and oil. She specializes in portraits and pet portraits from photographs. She also creates crematory egg urns for pets. You can reach Elysean Art at 972-896-2160 or [karenelyse9733@att.net](mailto:karenelyse9733@att.net). Her website is not yet established. She won 2<sup>nd</sup> place and the People's Choice Awards for two of her drawings in last May's DeSoto Art League competition. Innocent Joy, the People's Choice is shown here.



\*\* **Marianne Brewer** reported: We had a beautiful month in September here in Northwest Arkansas, and October seems to promise more of the same. We have a grandson who is in Little League sports: Baseball, Soccer, Basketball and Football, according to the season, and attending those events are a big part of our weekly schedule. Though in all fairness I must add that Butterfield Trail Village (Our Retirement Center) is full of retired faculty members from the U of Ark and they arrange for very interesting programs and speakers, usually following the Evening Meal, and we take advantage of those, as well. We miss Texas, of course, but this is where we need to be at this stage in our lives.

\*\* **Eileen Sexton** reports: My son Rob, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter will be moving to Perth, Australia right after Christmas. They plan to work there for 2-3 years. You know where Hoyt and I will be spending next summer's vacation (winter in Australia!).

\*\* **Sandi Ciarochi** and **Betty Minshew** organized a branch outing to see the King Tut exhibit at the Dallas Museum of Art on Saturday November 15. A group signed up last spring and thus will have their visit before the doors open to the general public.

\*\* Ralph and **Sandy Jones** flew to New Hampshire in October and then rented a car for a drive that included Vermont, New York, Maine, Massachusetts, and a little part of Canada. She reports "The colors were beautiful! Highlights of the trip were Niagara Falls and the beautiful scenery on the back roads."

\*\* **Penny Ball** will be taking a weekend bus tour to Branson MO with the Our Gang travel group on Nov. 7 - 10. The schedule includes attendance at 5 special events, the highlights being a Daniel O'Donnell concert and a dinner show on a riverboat.

\*\* **Margaret Bentley** will be driving to Abilene for our AAUW-TX Board Meeting Nov 7, 8 and 9. They will be discussing the next Texas AAUW Leadership Conference as well as the 2009 AAUW Texas Convention to be held in Houston.



\*\* **Lucille Dunn** and family had a terrific trip to Germany, France, and the Czech Republic earlier this fall. In short: The Oktoberfest in Munich was exciting, fun and crowded. Garmisch was quaint and Neuschwanstein impressive. Prague, with its imposing castle, was historic and lovely. A visit to Nurnberg's Deutsche Bahn Museum for husband Bill was interesting. Our old home in Oberursel was almost unrecognizable. Kaiserslautern, and staying with old friends, was great. Heidelberg castle is just about perfect. Strasbourg, France, has the tallest cathedral we'd ever seen. Schwabia is almost as lovely as Bavaria. The photo shows Lucille in Heidelberg.

## STUDY AND INTEREST GROUPS

Study & Interest Group Chair : Sandy Jones 972-780-0569

### MEMBERS' BRIDGE

Chair: Gayle Bailey 972-780-1781  
Meets 1st Monday of month at 7 PM.  
Hostesses for next meetings:  
Nov. 3—Arlene McMains  
Dec. 1—Leilani Salisbury  
Jan—no meeting

### COUPLES' BRIDGE

Chair: Eileen Sexton 972-293-1749  
Meets 3rd Saturday of month at 7 PM.  
Hosts for next meetings:  
Nov—Jean & Andre Meyer  
Dec—Leilani & Jim Salisbury

### GOURMET GROUP

Chair: -TBD  
Meets 1st Saturday of month at 7 PM  
Hosts for next meetings:  
Nov. 1—Ralph & Sandy Jones  
Dec— Phil & Ellen Ward  
Jan— none  
Feb—Salisbury

**BOOK EXCHANGE** The Branch Book Exchange group is beginning its reading cycle this month. One book starting the round is a collection of short stories by Katherine Anne Porter. Currently, the group members are Marilyn Barnes, Dana Edgin, Pat Gregory, Rosemary Udell, and Nancy Anderson. The members read one new book each month - usually fiction, biography, autobiography, or history. If other members are interested in participating in this group, please email Nancy at [nancy.j.anderson@worldnet.att.net](mailto:nancy.j.anderson@worldnet.att.net).

**Adelante! Book of the Month Selections 2008-2009:** There are now 3 book recommendations each month: one to highlight Diversity, one on Organizational Change, and one on Financial Literacy. A list of Adelante! selections (from the past and for the coming year) is available at the AAUW website. See [www.AAUW.org](http://www.AAUW.org), select **Education** from the topic tabs under the top header, and then select **Community Projects** and then **Adelante! Book Club**, or just type Adelante in the Search box on the AAUW home page. Use the link to Amazon.com and the AAUW will receive a commission.

Some non-AAUW activities in which many of our members participate:

**Cool Cats in Red Hats** meet for lunch or some other fun activity each month. Contact 'Queen' Marilyn Barnes (972-283-3755, cell 214-738-8828, [mrbarn40@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrbarn40@sbcglobal.net)) for details.

**Southwest Investment Group (SWIG):** Contact Carol McConnell (972-299-9572 or [celisemc@yahoo.com](mailto:celisemc@yahoo.com)) for information. Group meets 3rd Wednesday of month at 7 pm at Thorntree Country Club.

**Our Gang Travel** organizes about 4 trips per year. Some are short bus trips in Texas or nearby locations and some are major tours conducted by Collette Vacations. Penny Ball has the current information. To get on their distribution list, contact Perry LeGrand (send email to [perrylegrand@att.net](mailto:perrylegrand@att.net) or telephone 972-938-1123) The major trips for 2009 include Northern National Parks (Yellowstone, etc) from June 11-18, Heritage of America (history sites in the eastern US) from Oct.3-11, and Canada's Winter Wonderland (resorts in the Rockies) from Dec.3-9.



**AAUW**  
**Southwest Dallas County**  
**P.O. Box 381771**  
**Duncanville Texas 75138**

### Branch Board Meetings on First Wednesday of Month

Most of the business of our branch is handled at the monthly Board meetings. These are usually held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6 pm in the ladies' locker room (down stairs) at Thorn-tree Country Club.

All branch officers and committee chairs are requested to mark their calendars and try to attend. Any branch members who are interested are welcome to attend. Check with our President or a Board member to be sure there is no change in the time or location.

This schedule does not apply during June, July, and August.

### AAUW websites:

National [www.AAUW.org](http://www.AAUW.org). {Remember to start your Amazon.com shopping from the link on this site.)

Texas [www.AAUWtexas.org](http://www.AAUWtexas.org).

North Texas Metroplex Interbranch Council

[www.AAUWntmibc.org](http://www.AAUWntmibc.org)

Our Branch (EYH info) [www.EYH.aauw-swdc.org](http://www.EYH.aauw-swdc.org)

Our Branch (newsletters) [www.aauw-swdc.org](http://www.aauw-swdc.org)

**AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.**