

Saturday April 25 Breakfast & Art Center Tour

We will meet for breakfast at 9a.m. on Saturday April 25 at the Ranch Steakhouse (1435 N. Hwy. 67, Suite 200, Cedar Hill. This is accessed from the southbound service road, just south of Wintergreen Rd.) The breakfast cost is \$13, including gratuity. The menu is juice, coffee, fresh omelet (bacon, sausage, or ham) or eggs Benedict, and hash browns. Please RSVP to Betty Minshew (972-291-8696 or eminshew@sbcglobal.net) by April 23 if you are going to attend.

After breakfast there will be a tour of the Creative Art Studio and Gallery located in that same complex.

Election of Branch Officers in April

Our April meeting will include our election of 3 officers for 2-year terms, July 2009 through June 2011. The slate of candidates is: President—Marilyn Barnes, Program & Hospitality VP— Penny Ball (assisted by Eileen Sexton), and Secretary— Leilani Salisbury.

Monday May 18 - Garden Party

Our annual Garden Party will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday May 18 at the home of Sandi Ciarochi. In addition to the traditional food, socializing, and installation of new officers, the event will feature a Bunco Party. (Need info about Bunco? See <http://www.buncorules.com/rules.html>) More information will be in the May newsletter.

AAUW Leadership Training Workshop

The AAUW Texas Board is offering a one day conference that includes training and networking opportunities. The Dallas conference will be held May 30 at Brookhaven College from 10:15 am to 3:00 pm. Registration is \$15 and includes a box lunch.

Ann Berasley (AAUW Texas Board President), Margaret Bentley (AAUW Texas Board Financial Officer), Priscilla Mowinkel (AAUW Texas Board Membership V.P.), and other State Board members will lead the various workshops. Sessions will include: President, Financial Officer, Membership V.P., LAF/EF V.P., and Program V.P., with additional sessions for Communication/Publicity Chairmen. There will also be a session on the new By Laws by Jackie Littleton, AAUW National Director at Large.

Registration deadline for the Dallas Area Conference is May 21, 2009. Please fill out the attached registration form (see page 5 of this newsletter) and mail to Elaine Wells, 7809 Abbey Ct. Tyler, TX 75703. You can also reach Elaine at 903-561-8703 or: gramcentral@sbcglobal.net.

Free Conference: A World of Women for World Peace

U.S. Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson sponsors an annual conference on women's contributions to the global peace movement. The event is free and open to the public. It will be held on Saturday April 18, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. at Thanks-giving Square, 1627 Pacific Avenue, Dallas, TX 75201.

The 2009 panelists include: The Honorable Bisera Turkovic (Former Bosnian Ambassador to the United States); Ms. Aisha Al – Adawiya - KARAMAH (Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights and Founder, Women in Islam); Dr. Qudsia Mirza (Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Cincinnati focusing on the areas of Islamic Law, Discrimination Law, and Feminist Legal Theory); Ms. Karen Blessen -(MasterPEACE: Young Artists Making a Kinder World. This curriculum uses visual arts, music and theatre to educate children on conflict resolution, International Peace Day and human rights); Ms. Tatiana Androsov (President and Executive Director of Thanks-giving Square)

[Note: Thanks-Giving Square is surrounded by Akard, Bryan, Ervay and Pacific Streets. The Republic Tower parking garage is across from the square on St. Paul Street; this garage has access to Thanks-giving Square through the downtown tunnel system. The closest DART stations are St. Paul Station and Akard Station. Street parking is available.]

Trip to Singapore—Report by Pat Gregory

Singapore is a fascinating city/country. Alison, Jeff, and I visited with Lisa and Rex in January and early February. [editor's note: Pat's daughter Lisa and her husband Rex are currently living in Singapore. Alison is Pat's other daughter and Jeff is Alison's husband.] It is always between 80 and 90 degrees there and the sun is up from 7:30am to 7:30pm year round.

Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles founded the city in 1819 and divided the city up into four sections to avoid disharmony. There is the Muslim area, Little India, Chinatown, and the white area. Then the white government legislated against prejudice – there must be respect for all colors and religions. It's difficult to think you can pass legislation about this, but since it's been in effect for nearly 200 years, it seems to have worked.



Singapore suffered a great deal during World War II. It was occupied in February, 1942, (shortly after Pearl Harbor) until 1945. Nearly everyone was put into a concentration camp. The white population had finished building a new jail in 1941 and they were all incarcerated in this new jail for the duration of the war, jammed 10 into a cell meant for two. As one guide said to us, the entire island is a cemetery because of all the deaths during this time.

Since 1990, Singapore has focused on building its manufacturing industry, shipping, developing large public housing estates, and investing heavily on public education (nearly everyone goes to college – there are 4 universities in Singapore). It is now one of the world's most prosperous nations. Lisa calls living here Asia 101. Their national language is English, so one has no problems talking to people. You just need to listen carefully to understand Malaysian English, Chinese English, Indonesian English, Indian English, etc.

We toured the Muslim area, Chinatown, and Little India and did lots of shopping. We also visited the World War II Museum.

We were there during the Chinese New Year – the year of the ox (which is Rex's and my year). We spent the Chinese New Year's night in a Buddhist Temple. We had monks chanting, the lion and dragon dances, firecrackers going off, and drums banging. It was exciting. We went to River Hung Bao, which was on a raft in the Singapore River. There were all lighted lanterns and depictions of all 12 of the Chinese years. In the picture for the year of the ox, you can see how huge it was (with the children in front).



Another exciting event that we attended was the 2009 Chingay Parade. We had seats across from City Hall. There were at least 20 lighted floats from all the nearby nations, along with incredible dancers and again fireworks. There was a Chinese dragon breathing and throwing out molten lava with dancers leaping through it.

The five of us flew to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for three days and stayed at the five-star Mandarin Oriental Hotel, which was an experience in itself. It was across from the Petronus Towers, the world's tallest buildings, and our rooms looked out on them. We also went to Genting, which has the largest hotel in the world – 6,000 rooms – and all of them like cells, no amenities at all. There was a casino there and an amusement park and it was sheer bedlam.

Jeff flew back to Oregon and Rex to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on Super Bowl Sunday. In fact, we got up at 4:30am and were in an Irish pub at 6am to watch the Super Bowl with all the other demented American ex-patriots. Nothing like drinking beer at 6am.



After the guys left, the three of us had a blast. We went on the Singapore Flyer, a giant ferris wheel similar to the London Eye, and then went to submerge our feet in water while fish nibbled off our dead skin (and we had a back and neck massage at the same time).

Some of the things I discovered about Singapore were first of all how cheap transportation was. There was an impressive subway system with 4 different lines that cover almost all of Singapore. An incredible bus system covers the whole city also. There is one computer card you fill with money and use to get on either the subways or busses. We used them constantly and didn't use up \$25 during the 2 week stay. A taxi ride to the airport, a 45 minute trip, cost \$25 which is about \$17 American. Food, other than beef, was inexpensive at the restaurants and food halls. (A hamburger at McDonald's cost \$24.) Medical expenses are incredibly inexpensive in a socialistic country. I went to the doctor and it cost me \$10. At the expensive range there is apartment rent, liquor, paper products, and beef. There are no homeless people in Singapore, no litter, no graffiti, very little crime. It was an amazing place to visit.



Member News

- ** **Everybody**: Don't be shy - send your reports to Penny@acm.org or call Penny Ball at 972-709-1957.
- ** **Carol McConnell's** email is no longer valid; it was taken over by a hacker. Contact her by phone.
- ** **Eileen Sexton** and **Luclare Hambey** attended the Texas Library Association Conference in Houston in early April. Featured speakers were Paula Poundstone and Gloria Steinem.
- ** **Evelyn Mitchell** attended the 29th Annual State Convention of the Association of Texas Professional Educators (A T P E) from April 2-4, 2009 at the Austin, Texas Convention Center.
- ** **Penny Ball** attended the national Red Hat Society convention at the Gaylord Texan, March 26-29, and had fun dressing up for the dinners, shopping the vendor booths, and seeing some amazing outfits.
- ** Welcome to our new members **Sheryl Lumbley** (professor of biology at Cedar Valley College) and **Barbara Vogler** (professor of mathematics at Northwood University).
- ** **Karen Elyse White** has some of her art work now available at Orison's Art Gallery in McKinney (www.orisonsart.com). She notes that McKinney has fun events (with art, live music, winery, and shopping) on the town square on the 2nd Saturday each month (7-10pm).

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:
April 6—Eileen Sexton
May 4—Ann Montgomery

COUPLES' BRIDGE

Chair: Eileen Sexton 972-293-1749
Meets 3rd Saturday of month at 7 PM.
Hosts for next meetings:
April 18—Ward
May 16—Hamby

GOURMET GROUP

Meets 1st Saturday of month at 7 PM
Hosts for next meetings:
April 11—Hughes, Hamby (Italian)
May—TBD

BOOK EXCHANGE The Branch Book Exchange group does not hold meetings, but shares interesting books. 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 Anderson at nancy.j.anderson@worldnet.att.net.

Adelante! Book of the Month Selections: 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, 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. Buy your books at Barnes & Noble (www.bn.com/aauw) 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, mrbar40@sbcglobal.net) for details.

Southwest Investment Group (SWIG): Contact Carol McConnell (972-299-9572 or 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 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. (You can start your Barnes & Noble shopping from the link on the Adelante page.)

Texas www.AAUWtexas.org.

North Texas Metroplex Interbranch Council

www.AAUWntmibc.org

Our Branch (EYH info) www.EYH.aauw-swdc.org

Our Branch (newsletters) www.aauw-swdc.org

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

Registration Form

Job Training for Branch Officers

AAUW Texas/North Texas Interbranch Council Leadership Training
Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch, TX, 75244

May 30, 2009 10:15am -3:00pm

Please print or type clearly. One person per registration form. Registration deadline May 20. Meal availability cannot be guaranteed with late registration. Full payment (\$15 for box lunch and materials) must accompany this registration form. Enclose check payable to: AAUW Texas

Name	Badge Name
Address	City
State	Zip
Home Phone	Work Phone
Email	Position in Branch
AAUW Branch	State Office
Please indicate any special needs:	

Tentative Schedule

10:15 Welcome & Introductions

10:30 What's New & How Does it Affect Your Branch:
Ann Berasley, AAUW Texas President
Margaret Bentley, AAUW Texas Finance Officer
Priscilla Mowinkel, AAUW Membership VP

11:45 Lunch

12:15-1:30 Counterparts Sessions

1:30 Jackie Littleton, Proposed Changes in AAUW Structure

2:00 Town Hall Q & A

Dallas/Ft Worth area members:

I would be willing to pick up an officer from an out of town branch at the airport

DFW _____ Love _____

I would be willing to host an out of town branch officer on Friday and/or Saturday night.

Out of Area members:

I will need to be picked up at the airport

DFW _____ Love _____ Flight _____ Time _____

I will need a match with a local host for rooming: Friday _____ Saturday _____

Mail this form and your check to: Elaine Wells 7809 Abbey Ct. Tyler, TX 75703. 903-561-8703
gramcentral@sbcglobal.net