

Dinner meeting -January 19

We will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Ojeda's Mexican Restaurant (2109 N. Hampton Rd, DeSoto 75115) on Thursday January 19. Our program speaker will be Katy Hubener, who is serving her first term as a Dallas County Justice of the Peace. You can order your meal from the full menu. Please RSVP to penny@acm.org by Wednesday evening (Jan.18) so we know how many seats we need.

Katy Hubener is the Dallas County Justice of the Peace for Precinct 4 (Place 2). She was elected in 2010 and her term expires in 2014.

Katy is a graduate of Duncanville High School, has a bachelor's degree in education from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, and a master's in higher education from Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California.

Katy is a community leader and longtime resident of southwest Dallas County. She and her mother own a successful residential and property management company in Duncanville and Katy has served on the Dallas County Appraisal Review Board.

Katy ran for State Representative in the House District 106 (Grand Prairie and Irving) in November 2004 and again in a Special Election in 2006. Although she won more than 47% of the vote each time, that was not enough to win the seat. In 2006 a political blog (Burnt Orange Report) reprinted the following item from a newsletter called Texas Tuesdays: As an advocate for clean air, Katy has lobbied the Texas legislature, the EPA, and Congress, protecting our right to breathe. In that role, she has served on numerous committees with business, industry and government leaders including the North Central Texas Council of Governments Clean Air Steering Committee, the American Lung Association Clean Air Committee, and the Holcim Cement Citizens Advisory Council. According to her own statements in the Burnt Orange Report, "Texans must renew our commitment to public schools; and in doing so, renew our commitment to lasting economic prosperity for our state and for our children.Public education is the cause that brought me into this campaign and the need for a strong, independent voice is what will keep me fighting for Texas schoolchildren and educators on the House floor. "

Although she was not able to break into the Austin political circle, she didn't give up her interest in public service. In November 2010 Katy Hubener won the race for Justice of the Peace with over 51% of the vote.



Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) on Saturday March 3

February is traditionally our month for our EYH career day for girls of grades, 6, 7, and 8, so we do not hold a regular branch meeting. See page 3 for Other Activities and consider coming to our info meeting about Costa Rica on Sat. Feb.25. Our next branch meeting will be Thursday evening March 15 at the home of Leilani Salisbury.

Penny Ball and Pat Gregory are finalizing the presenter program for our 19th annual EYH event . We ask that you help promote this event with any teachers or youth group leaders. The hands-on workshops at EYH provide a valuable introduction to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) careers for girls.

Full information is available at www.EYH.aauw-swdc.org. Our registration fee is very low: \$3 or \$4 for girls, plus a free program for the adults who bring the girls.

Members are needed to help as assistants in the student workshops, so please reserve this date to help with this important community project.

Thursday December 15—Holiday Party

Once again we owe a very big **THANK YOU** to **John and Carol McConnell** for hosting our dinner and silent auction. Their beautiful table settings and house decorations contributed to the festive feel. **Eileen Sexton** obtained the turkey and ham for the dinner, members provided side dishes, and **Carol McConnell** took the responsibility to make everything ready for us. **Sandi Ciarochi** organized our donations for the silent auction, and treasurer **Pat Gregory** collected our payments at the end. These people made great efforts to insure that our annual holiday party would be a success.

In the future we need to lighten the work load and simplify the proceedings so that some other members can host our holiday gathering. We are thinking of limiting the food to appetizers and desserts so we don't need to have a sit-down arrangement. Who would like to host a gathering next year?



Other Activities

Saturday January 21 is the date of the next **North Texas Interbranch meeting**. After a short business meeting, the program will feature Leadership Training for branch president/facilitator by AAUW Texas Board President, Jeanne Best. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn what is involved in keeping the branch going. See the Interbranch website www.AAUWntibc.org for details, or ask our Marilyn Barnes (the Interbranch secretary). (So far there is no published info about where the meeting will be held.)

On **Thursday Jan. 26**, the Cliff Dwellers square dance club of Duncanville will hold a **community dance**, at Trinity United Methodist Church (1302 South Clark Rd, Duncanville) from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. This free event is designed to let you experience the fun of **square dancing** by participating in some simple routines. In September the club will be offering a set of lessons to teach the 40 basic moves that are needed for regular square dances.

Saturday February 25 at 11 a.m, Bamboo Palace restaurant, Cedar Hill: Travel Agent Cindy Peck will talk to us about **Costa Rica**. Margaret Bentley and Penny Ball are going to be taking a wonderful tour with her on July 20-29, but this meeting will be of general interest if you want to learn more about this beautiful country.

April 13 – 15 is the **AAUW state convention** in Austin. Check the AAUW state website, <http://www.aauwtexas.org> for hotel and registration information. Early bird registration closes 2/24/2012.

MEMBER NEWS

Hattie Hammer has a new email address: hattie.hammer@sbcglobal.net

Pat Gregory's daughter Lisa and her husband Rex, who just returned to the US from their stint in Singapore, had an unpleasant experience when they were visiting friends in Oklahoma City. Their car was broken into and most of their personal belongings, including an iPad and all their financial documents, were stolen. After reporting this to the Oklahoma City Police, who could do nothing, Lisa reported it to her sister Alison who is a Criminalist with the Portland Oregon Police Department. Thanks to help from Apple, Alison was able to pinpoint the exact location of the iPad, the police held a stake out, and 2 men were apprehended. Rex and Lisa got their property back and the Oklahoma City police were grateful that a crime ring that had been plaguing the area was finally broken up.

Nancy Anderson, our branch VP for AAUW Funds, reported that only twelve members contributed to the AAUW Funds for 2011. If the fall is a bad time for you to consider this annual appeal, you can send a donation for 2012 at any time to Nancy. See details in the October or December newsletters (online at www.AAUW-swdc.org).

Julie Crider: We visited my daughter in England. We spent much of the time at a farmhouse in Dorset, near the coast. We spent New Year's Eve in London, where we watched the city's fireworks display.

Eileen Sexton: Four generations gathered together for the holidays at our home. My 92-year old mother from Michigan, Amy, Eric, and 5-yr. old Caroline from Flower Mound, Rob, Yvette, and 7 yr. old Kaitlyn from the Houston area, and, of course Hoyt and me. We had a fun-filled, exhausting time!

Rhonda Real: My in-laws, Alex and Irene Real, drove out from Florida to spend 5 days with us over the holidays. One of our Christmas traditions is to drive Prairie Lights in Grand Prairie while listening to Christmas music. They joined us this year, and we really enjoyed all the new lights. We also visited with Santa at the stopping point in the middle and had hot cocoa. Another tradition is to have menudo on Christmas morning, which they also joined us for. We had a very nice visit with them.

Obituary info: Former branch member **Roberta Sappington**, retired teacher and journalist, died Dec.21,2011. Roberta was born on June 29,1929 in Ripley, OK, one of five sisters. She married Thomas Sappington on 4/18/48 in Weatherford, OK. She taught music, English, Spanish, journalism, creative writing, and bilingual kindergarten, in Levelland, Lubbock, Sonora, Dallas, and Monterrey, Mexico. Memorial Services will be at the First United Methodist Church, Cedar Hill, at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, January 7, 2012. Memorial donations may be made to the Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines, Dallas, TX 75219 or to UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Submit information for newsletter to penny@acm.org

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.

COUPLES' BRIDGE

Chair: Eileen Sexton 972-293-1749
Meets 3rd Saturday of month at 7 PM.

GOURMET GROUP

Meets 1st Saturday of month at 7 PM

BOOK EXCHANGE The Branch Book Exchange group does not hold meetings, but shares interesting books- usually fiction, biography, autobiography, or history. If other members are interested in participating in this group, please email Nancy Anderson at NJAnderson29@sbcglobal.net. She currently has a copy of "The Help" available for loan.

Adelante! Book Selections: A list of recommendations of books written from diverse perspectives is available at www.AAUW.org/connect/adelante, OR, from the AAUW.org home page, select **Connect** from the 3 major topic tabs at the top, and then select **In Person**, then **Community Programs**, and then **Adelante! Book Club**.

AAUW-Southwest Dallas County
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AAUW websites:

- * National www.AAUW.org
(Many shopping links there will generate a bonus to AAUW and perhaps a discount for you.)
- * Texas www.AAUWtexas.org
(President is our member Margaret Bentley!)
- * North Texas Interbranch Council
www.AAUWntibc.org
- * Our Branch:
EYH info: www.EYH.aauw-swdc.org
newsletters and bylaws: www.aauw-swdc.org

Branch Business

Most of the business of our branch is handled by the elected officers and major committee heads. We hold one joint meeting at the start of the fiscal year to plan the branch budget. During the year most discussion is done via email or at the regular branch meetings.

All branch officers, committee chairs, and members should contact our president or treasurer if you have issues the Board should consider.

Officers for July 2011—June 2012:

President—Eileen Sexton
Treasurer—Pat Gregory
Program VP—Penny Ball
Secretary—Edna Bolinger
Funds VP (EF/LAF) - Nancy Anderson
Membership VP—Marilyn Barnes

Committee Chairs:

EYH—Penny Ball, Pat Gregory
Newsletter, website—Penny Ball
Directory—Luclare Hamby
Scholarship—Eileen Sexton

Positions to be open for election next April are Treasurer, Funds VP, and Membership VP.

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