



Denton AAUW Newsletter



Volume 1, Number 2

Denton, TX

August 2004

Congratulations to the AAUW Denton (TX) Branch for being a 2003-04 AAUW Platinum Award Winner!

Wel come Back!

Meetings will be held the first Wednesday of each month at Fremaux's Metropolitan Catering and begin at 6:00pm. Join us for our first meeting, September 1.

If you have not yet paid for your 2003-2004 dinner reservations, please mail your \$16 check to Kay Duncan, 2 Rolling Hills Circle, Denton, Texas 76205. Remember, if you make a dinner reservation and do not attend, we must still pay for your meal.

2004-2005 Membership Dues

Membership dues for 2004 – 05 were collected at the May meeting. Only 41 members have paid the \$61 fee. If you wish to pay your dues, contact Kay Duncan.

EF, LAF, and Schol arship Donations

Each year members of the Denton branch are asked to contribute to the AAUW Education Foundation, AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, and the Denton Branch Scholarship Fund. Our contributions as members of AAUW help to insure that the mission and goals of our organization are successfully met. In order to continue supporting and funding women's studies, equality in education, and equality in the work place, the national organization has set a monetary goal for each branch. To successfully obtain our goal, each member is asked to contribute \$25 to the Education Foundation and \$5 to the Legal Advocacy Fund. In addition, we ask members to purchase Home Tour tickets to support our branch

scholarship. In the past, our branch has collected these funds at the November meeting. This year, in order to ease the immediate drain of your pocket-book, we will be asking for your contribution at different meetings.

- September \$5 Legal Advocacy Fund
- October Home Tour Tickets
- November \$25 Education Foundation

If you wish to contribute with a check, an individual check for each fund must be written for accounting purposes. If you wish to make your contribution for each fund at the September meeting, we will gladly accept it then. All funds collected should be presented to Kay Duncan.

Denton Branch Officers and Committee Chairs 2004-2005

- Shandi Davis*, President
- Dr. Sandra Spencer*, Vice-President for Program Development
- Stephany Compton*, Vice-President for Membership
- Kay Duncan*, Treasurer
- Nancy Gaillard*, Recording Secretary
- Carolyn Kacena*, Corresponding Secretary
- Dr. Margaret Griffin*, Historian
- Deborah Dail*, Parliamentarian
- Lisa Nagaoka*, Communications Officer
- Linda Lavender*, Public Policy
- Dr. Louise Alton*, By-laws Chair
- Carol Rowley*, Christmas Home Tour Chair
- Carmen Underwood*, Diversity Chair
- Susan Myatt*, Educational Foundation Chair
- Deborah Dail*, Legal Advocacy Chair

AAUW Texas Convention

~*Shandi Davis*

The 41st AAUW Texas biennial State Convention was held April 23-25 in El Paso, Texas. Denton Branch President Shandi Davis attended the convention. The convention, *Bridging Borders: Women as Leaders, Women in Charge*, was comprised of women leaders from Texas and New Mexico. Guest speakers for the convention were Dr. Ann Stuart, President of Texas Woman's University, and Dr. Diana Natalicio, President



of University of Texas, El Paso. Among the many special events and workshops, members were called to vote for a new slate of AAUW Texas officers. The new state officers are President Patricia Ross (Fort Bend County), Vice-President Lynn Smith (West Harris County), Membership Vice President Linda Conger (Austin & Tarrant County), Educational Foundation Vice President Mary DuBoise (Tarrant County), Treasurer Loyce Collenback (San Antonio), and Secretary Cindy Scott (Fort Bend County). Among the many awards given at the convention, the Denton Branch was recognized for **Outstanding Membership Growth 2002-2003** (14.3%) and **Outstanding Membership Growth 2001-2004** (53.10%).

Christmas Home Tour

~Carol Rowley, Chair

The December Home Tour Committee has met periodically throughout the summer on the fund raising project. As of the end of July, we can report that we have one home selected and are working with great diligence to get four more homes. Due to family health issues, Margaret Brennan was unable to continue as co-chair. The committee will present a brief summary of their efforts at the September Branch Dinner Meeting. The committee will also begin to solicit members' help for the major fund raising project at that meeting as well. We are looking forward to a successful 2004 December Home Tour and the enthusiastic help of all our membership too make it successful!

Celebrating Long Time AAUW Members

Congratulations to the following members who were recognized at the May 5 meeting for their many years of service to the Denton Branch of AAUW:

Dr. Margaret Griffin, member since 1976



Dr. Jane Mott, member since 1976

Dr. Aileen Lockhart, member since 1973

Dr. Louise Alton, member since 1973

Dr. Suzanne Labrecque, member since 1968

Dr. Dorothy Demoss, member since 1967

Mrs. Marie Healey, member since 1967



Dr. Lavon Fulwiler, member since 1952

Dr. Mary Evelyn Blagg-Huey, member since 1944

Members In the News!

This year TWU presented Service Recognition honors to **Marilyn Dunham**, 5 years of service, and **Patrice Frisby**, 15 years of service. Congratulations!

Carol Hyatt, economics teacher at Denton High School, was invited to represent the United States as a instructional ambassador to Russia where she shared her teaching and instructional strategies with Russian educators.

Virginia Gallian, secretary and member of the Denton school board, has received the prestigious "Friend of Education" award from the Texas State Teachers Association.

Anita Hawley was selected to teach English to high school students in Poland. Her adventure began in late June and occupied most of her summer.

Pennie McCrackin Vail, MS, LPC opened her new psychotherapy practice in Frisco. She is focusing her practice on women's and couples' issues as well as working with those in recovery from an addiction. Her practice is located at 6911 4th Street in Frisco. Her business phone number is 214.924.8195.

Romania Report Summer 2004

~Linda Lavender

Thanks again to all of you in our local AAUW Branch who donated materials and supported our volunteer work in Romania. Local Dentonites: Marilyn Smith, Carol Soph and Maggie Watt joined me and three other Texas ladies for what turned out to be the best work team yet. We had made-in-heaven weather, cool and misty, cooperation from the Romanian officials and a wonderful welcome everywhere we went. Because this was our 4th trip, I think we have passed some sort of subconscious commitment test and people opened their homes and hearts to us and fed us till we could only stagger home to recover and go again the next day.

Our work with the children was wonderful beyond measure. Physical conditions continue to improve in the

orphanages, rooms are now clean and bright though some were crowded with cribs. Staff ratio has improved also because many children have been moved to foster homes. There is now talk that the large orphanages like the ones we work in are to be closed by 2007. Children will be put into smaller centers in towns and villages throughout the very large county, This had the potential to be a real improvement, or on the pessimistic side, to be a place that it is easy for a busy bureaucrat to forget. We did make two trips to visit center like this and were impressed with the staff and the care the children were receiving there, but they feel very insecure about their funding which is often late and not what was promised.

In Brasov, our mornings were spent with the infants and toddlers; each pair of us was assigned to a room of 9-12 children. Fortunately we were outside a great deal, walking, playing and letting the babies get a taste of fresh air. Though there were many more international volunteers than in years past, the children always need more one-on-one stimulation. Afternoons we visited other centers, or for the most part, worked with older children and teenagers in a neighboring village center. Each of us was "claimed" by a group and we basically spent hours just talking, walking to buy cokes and playing beauty shop with the girls. They wiggled like puppies when we brushed their hair and all the teenagers gave us make overs with the cosmetic samples. You should see me with dark purple lipstick!

The workers were thrilled with the wonderful donations from Denton. We carried 560 pounds of gifts in our baggage and a substantial amount of cash. The jewelry was an instant hit and I saw earring etc. immediately on display. With a portion of the dollars, we were able to rescue a family (double amputee Dad, teenage Mom and gorgeous 7 month old baby) from living in the bathroom of the train station. Though their circumstances were grim they had kept their baby when so many would have abandoned him to the system. For \$800 we are buying them a tiny house in a village and we have also contributed to a fund to help the Dad get prosthetic legs, which will enable him to work.

The generosity of AAUW members was an important part in making our work successful and I hope that many of you will consider joining me in the future. During the fall I will be teaching on Wednesday nights so I'll miss seeing you for a while, but please remember to save your cosmetic samples etc. I'll see you at the Christmas tour if not before.

Study Abroad in the UK

~Sandra Spencer

My colleague Tom Preston and I led a group of 29 students through England and Scotland on a Study

Abroad program during Summer I. This was the first time Women's Studies and English had collaborated in a Study Abroad venture at UNT. This was one of only seven Women's Studies programs in the US offering summer study abroad opportunities as well.

The first course in the program, entitled "Dissenting Voices," began in London. It emphasized the British Suffragette Movement and Victorian women writers. Daytrips included Chawton (home of Jane Austen), Stonehenge, Salisbury (for a tour of the cathedral), and Chatsworth. The Yorkshire moors provided one particularly memorable class: we hiked on the moors during a bone-chilling rain to discuss *Wuthering Heights* and *Jane Eyre*. Sheep grazing nearby interspersed a few "bahs" into the literary discussions, much to the delight of all.

The next course, "Scottish Transnational Literature," began on the isle of Arran, off the west coast of Scotland. The island captured the students' hearts, but we soon departed for Glasgow, where we stayed for the remainder of the trip. Several contemporary novelists spoke to the group here, as did faculty members from the University of Strathclyde. We also enjoyed daytrips to Edinburgh, Culzean Castle, New Lanark, and Crossraguel Abbey as well.

From London to Scotland, students visited museums, historical and literary sites, a literary festival, and art venues. We walked the London streets in unprecedented heat; we hiked from the standing stones on Machrie Moor to King's Cave, legendary hiding place of Robert the Bruce; and we dodged traffic on the Glasgow streets as walked to museums, City Chambers, and to the Willow Tea Room. Although students affectionately referred to these walks as "the death marches," they unanimously agreed that the trip was life-changing experience.



TITLE IX
FAIR PLAY ON AND OFF THE FIELD

On the playing field and in the classroom, Title IX guarantees that every student is treated fairly and has the opportunity to learn without fear of sexual harassment or unfair admissions, discipline, financial aid, and evaluation.

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