



AAUW TCB - Winter 2021

GREETINGS from the Tarrant County Branch of the AAUW, founded in 1881. **Our Mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.**

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Website: <https://tarrantcounty-tx.aauw.net/> National: <https://www.aauw.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aauwtarrantcounty/>

Letter from the AAUW TCB President



Dear Members of AAUW Tarrant County,

What happened to January? Did it melt? We have wrapped up a truly amazing fall and now are fast moving into the spring semester. For those who attended the January Program and General Meeting, I hope you enjoyed building relationships with your fellow members and celebrating a recap of our progress to fulfill our AAUW mission.

In these unusual times, there are still things we can take comfort in. We have met the need to re-envision our relationships with others, in our personal relationships and in our society. We have found new ways to learn and grow and share and give, in spite of and sometimes because of the pandemic. Hats off to TCB leaders and members who have met the challenges of the year with resilience and hope.

If you haven't joined our virtual Zoom events, I encourage you to try it out!. If you need help getting started, see Tips for Productive Zoom Meetings on our website. If you want to practice or need a one-on-one helper, drop me an email and I will set you up with a Zoom pal. Virtual meetings can be a lot of fun. And they help us keep in touch with our friends and to move forward in our lives.

Speaking of moving forward, we have fine programs and activities for you to enjoy this spring. I will just highlight two things: We must remember that AAUW is a non-partisan organization and request that you refresh your awareness with this [link](#) from national. Secondly, please look forward to an invitation to our February 17 Program and General Meeting which will feature a panel of three community nonprofits: [Center for Transforming Lives](#), [One Safe Place](#), and [The Warm Place](#). I urge each of you to tune in to enjoy the fellowship and many events that have been planned for you.

As I rolled up my yoga mat this morning, I again reviewed the four words that are printed on the mat: insight, joy, grace, harmony. That will be my mantra for the week. I invite you to think on these four words with me, a gift of creating ties.

Blue Skies, Orlew Lauger o.lauger@sbcglobal.net

Public Policy Update



Interviews of Tarrant County State Legislators

In the last couple of months, a team of Tarrant County Branch members interviewed four State Legislators in advance of the 87th Texas Legislature Session that began January 12. We interviewed State Senator Beverly Powell (D) and Representatives David Cook (R), Matt Krause (R), and Ramon Romero, Jr. (D). Our legislators and their staffs were very cooperative and encouraged us to reach out with our opinions on upcoming legislation. See highlights below from our full report sent to the Board and AAUW State Public Policy Chair.

Texas AAUW priority legislative issues are Healthcare and Education which absorb some 75% of the Texas Budget. Our state consistently ranks in the low 30s out of 50 states in both of these important areas. When we asked why, the legislators had no ready answers but one blamed it on the size of the state, and others mentioned the State's refusal to expand Medicaid.

There are serious concerns on both sides of the aisle with the apparent unintended consequences of the Medicaid decision including that Texas lost the highest number of rural hospitals in the country since 2010. But Texas also has the highest number of uninsured, the highest prices (before insurance) for hospital care, and high maternity and infant mortality rates. All situations not helpful when the pandemic hit last year.

Why not expand Medicaid? We were told because Federal funding might someday decline and also there is a concern that illegal immigrants (an estimated 1.7 million) might somehow get a healthcare benefit illegally. Our state is losing billions of federal dollars annually!

All of our interviewees supported the overhaul of education funding accomplished in the 2017 Legislative session and support maintaining that planned funding for the 2021-2022 budget. It seems on line shopping has benefited the state coffers.

In the county, public education is still under serious threat. The pandemic has disadvantaged children who do not have internet access. FWISD has a high percentage of students who can't read by the third grade. One legislator pointed out that hunger, lack of healthcare, and homelessness contribute to our education attainment failures. In addition, there are concerns about students' mental health. There is a serious need for mental health counselors and a bill has been proposed. We were advised: FWISD needs a lot of help from everyone.

Our thanks to all the team members: Rebecca Green, Lorraine Levine, Brittnee Thomas, and Gloria Long.

-- Dawn Ellison, Public Policy Chair





TCC Scholarship Recipients

Tarrant County College Scholarship Program

We are truly excited about our two new scholarship recipients, Aniya Smith Kennedy and Alliyah Stone. The trait they share is a dogged ambition to get a college degree in education to make a difference in a young person's life, and they both volunteer in their churches.

Alliyah Stone is a first-generation college student and is responsible for all of her student finances. She has worked full time at the same job for the past five years to support herself and fund college. After graduating TCC she hopes to transfer to Midwestern State University to complete a degree in education and teach elementary math. Alliyah says, "I want to make my parents proud and fulfill the things they didn't get the opportunity to do."

Aniya Smith Kennedy is also an education major who would like to eventually pursue a master's degree in child psychology. Aniya is determined to finish her education after some initial setbacks. In her freshman year at Baylor she had medical issues that forced her to drop out. She is now picking up the pieces and is ready to start again. She graduated high school at age 16 and education and learning have always been important to her. Aniya is responsible for all of her student finances and this scholarship money is a lifeline to pursue her educational goals. She says, "Receiving this scholarship is a blessing to me, especially in a time of uncertainty! It feels amazing to know that I can still go to school to pursue my career."

Emily Harding is our returning STEM Scholar. This is Emily's third semester receiving our branch scholarship and it will continue in the spring. We are proud of Emily for maintaining her goal to complete her TCC associate degree with high grades. She will transfer to a university to pursue a career

as a behavioral psychologist. Emily states, "I just want to thank you for giving me a chance to prove myself in the science field."

Thank you to all branch members who support the AAUW Tarrant County Branch Scholarship Program.

--Pat Auping and BJ Hoskins, Co-Chairs, TCC College Scholarship Program

Membership Updates



We welcome new member [Renee Hoke](#). Please open and print this [Member Handbook Jan 2021 Update](#) to put in your directory. This includes phone number and email changes. If your contact information has changed since our directory was published in September, please inform Ellen Myers, sellenmyers@gmail.com, so that we can share your new information with our membership. Also, please go to the AAUW National Membership Database and make your own corrections there.

In case you missed it: [AAUW TCB Member Orientation](#). Learn about our branch communications and Members Only password.

CHANGES IN REQUIREMENTS FOR AAUW MEMBERSHIP

"This spring, the AAUW membership will vote on an important proposal to amend the AAUW bylaws to open membership and eliminate the degree requirement to join AAUW." Please read the proposal and take advantage of the opportunity to comment on it before the vote takes place this Spring. See this National Webpage for the scoop! [AAUW National Election 2021](#) All members may **vote April 7 through May 17 online.**

-- Ellen Myers and Elizabeth Barron, Membership Co-VP's

Spotlight on Interest Groups - Meeting Via Zoom



- **Adelante Book Club, third Monday at 10 am ([Tina Caliga](#))** See our [2020-21 Reading List](#), books by women about topics of interest to our members.
- **Great Discussions, second Saturday at 11 am. ([Tina Caliga-temp](#))** Members suggest topics and resources to discuss to each month.
- **Out to Lunch, second Wednesday at 11:30 am ([Marla Parvey](#))** A way to keep in touch with friends.
- **Women Writing, fourth Tuesday at 4 pm ([Eileen Frey](#))** We are sharing our writing and learning together.
- **Women and Wine, last Wednesday at 4:30 pm ([Margaret Duryee](#))**. Join us for a relaxing time together, just chatting.

Gratitude for 2020 North Texas Giving Day Results!



We wish to express our **Gratitude** for the **51 online donors** for **2020 NTDG!**

Online Gifts , excluding fees covered by donors, totaled **\$4,048.10.**

Plus we received a Net Bonus (Line K) of \$22.88.

NTGD Check Total \$4,070.99 + MATCHING FUNDS \$3,000.00 =

GRAND TOTAL \$7, 070.99

We CERTAINLY exceeded our goal of \$6,000!

Disbursements have been made as follows:

- Tarrant County College Scholarship Fund \$ 3685.50
- Girls, Inc. for Activity Kits \$ 3000.00

Thank you so much Tarrant County Branch for a Job Well Done!

-- Barbara Cager, Chair

Fundraising Made Easy Year Round

Do you shop at Tom Thumb? If so, PLEASE ENROLL in their Good Neighbor Program. Click [here](#) to access the form. Print a copy and complete it with your loyalty card number and our AAUW TCB Charity # 5773. Turn the form in to Customer Service the next time you next shop. Using your Tom Thumb card will enable our Branch to receive more donations from this successful program.

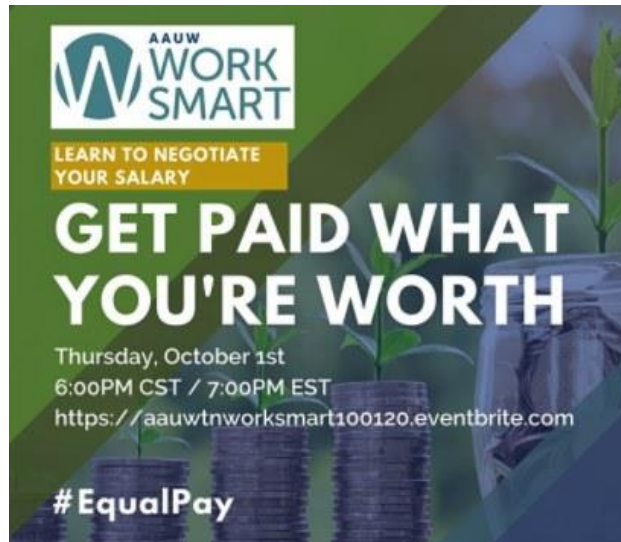
Do you shop on Amazon? Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Have your Amazon password ready before you start this quick one-time setup:

1. Start from this [Amazon Smile link](#), which takes you directly to their webpage with our charity filled in.

2. Once there, enter your Amazon email and password. "AAUW Tarrant County Branch" should **already** be filled in as the charity. You can then proceed to shopping.

3. **Each time thereafter when you shop on Amazon**, you must always start at [Amazon Smile](https://smile.amazon.com). (smile.amazon.com)

AAUW Work Smart - For Members and Friends



All Branch Members are invited and encouraged to take the online [Work Smart](#) program from AAUW National! This program is specifically designed to teach salary negotiation for a new job, raise, or promotion. In this workshop you'll gain confidence in your negotiation style through facilitated discussion and role-play. It is part of the [AAUW Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative](#), promoting "Equal Pay for Equal Work."

Please invite your friends to take this free [Work Smart](#) program. It teaches a methodology useful at all stages of life: learning to successfully advocate for yourself in any situation.

Be Informed and Advocate on AAUW Issues



- Sign up as a [Two Minute Activist](#) with AAUW and receive AAUW Action Alerts
- Join the [AAUW Equity Network](#)
- Subscribe to [AAUW Webinars](#)
- Watch the Dec. 14 Webinar: [Working Together to Build a Diverse and Inclusive AAUW](#) , which educates and encourages us to have the Difficult Conversations with people of differing opinions.
- Watch the Jan. 28 Webinar: [Understanding the Digital Divide in Pre-K Education](#)
- Watch [Political vs. Partisan: A Guide to Your AAUW Advocacy Actions: AAUW](#)

AAUW Tarrant County Winter Calendar



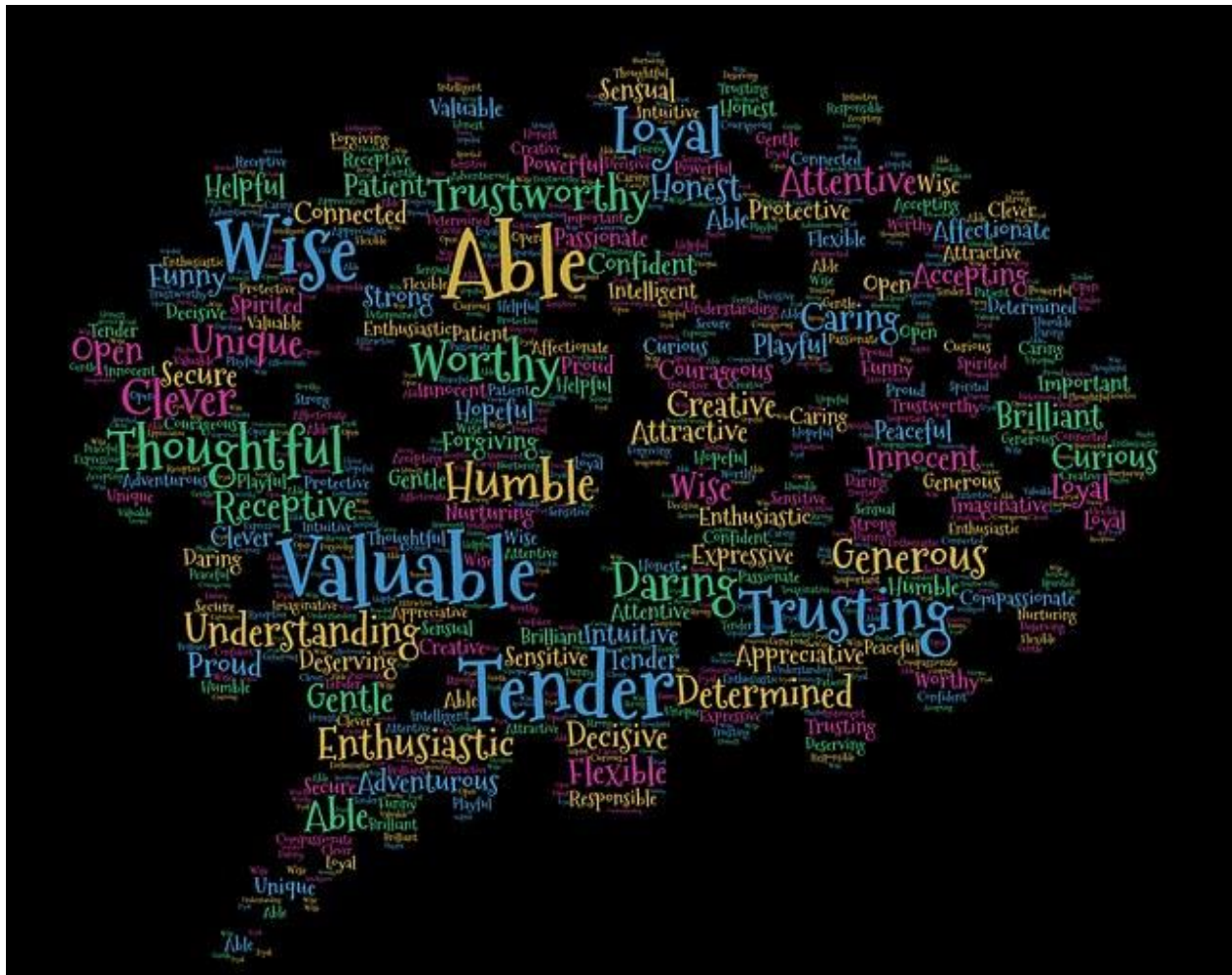
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

NOTES

View our [Branch Calendar](#) on our website. Upcoming events:

- January 26 Women Writing, 4 pm, via Zoom
- January 27 Women and Wine, 4:30 pm, via Zoom
- February 3 Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, via Zoom
- February 10 Out to Lunch, 11:30 am, via Zoom
- February 13 Great Discussions, 11 am to 12 noon, via Zoom
- February 15 Adelante, 10 am, via Zoom, [Sing, Unburied, Sing](#)
- February 17 Branch Meeting and Program, 6:30 pm, via Zoom
- February 23 Women Writing, 4 pm, via Zoom
- February 24 Women and Wine, 4:30 pm, via Zoom

AAUW Tarrant County Leadership Team



ELECTED OFFICERS

Branch President: Orlew Lauger, 817-715-1192, o.lauger@sbcglobal.net

Program VP: Merrissa Kuyken, 817-773-5825, mkuylen@sbcglobal.net

Membership Co-VPs: Elizabeth Barron, 817-312-0630, ebarrontuowl@gmail.com

Ellen Myers, 817-988-9949, sellenmyers@gmail.com

AAUW Funds VP: Cindy Ford, 817-528-8191, cindyrford@gmail.com

Finance VP, PayPal Admin: Deborah Roszek, 817-737-7520, droszek@gmail.com

Secretary: Susan Davis, 808-724-4434, susanlucilledavis@gmail.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Communications, Newsletter Editor: Tina Caliga, 719-761-6228, tcaliga@gmail.com

Communications, Facebook Editor: Tricia Farris, 205-903-5198, plfarris@bellsouth.net

Communications, Webmaster: Janet Mattern, 817-597-0116, jmatt7875@gmail.com

Community Service: Marsha Abeson, 817-731-2720, alandmarsha@yahoo.com

Historian: Open

North Texas Giving Day: Barbara Cager, 817-994-7432, bcager@sbcglobal.net

Parliamentarian: Lisa Wan, 817-542-1316, lisarbw@gmail.com

Photographer: Barbara Cager, 817-994-7432, bcager@sbcglobal.net

Public Policy: Dawn Ellison, 703-517-6471, dellison321@gmail.com

Sister-to-Sister Summit: (suspended 2020 due to Covid-19) Marsha Abeson, 817-731-2720, alandmarsha@yahoo.com

Sunshine: Mary Bailey, 817-301-3003, m Baileyfw@sbcglobal.net

TCC Scholarships: Pat Auping, 817-480-2348, patriciaauping@aol.com

B J Hoskins, 817-832-5117, b_j_hoskins@att.net

Technology Chair: Susan Davis, 808-724-4434, susanlucilledavis@gmail.com

Yearbook Editor: Peggy Harwood, 817-821-4988, peggyjwh@gmail.com

INTEREST GROUP CHAIRS

Adelante Book Club: Tina Caliga, 719-761-6228, tcaliga@gmail.com

Great Discussions: Open

Out to Lunch: Marla Parvey, 817-886-2677, marvey318@aol.com

Women and Wine: Margaret Duryee, 214-587-0082, margaretduryee@gmail.com

Women Writing: Eileen Frey, 443-504-8788, epfrey@gmail.com

Due to Covid-19, all other interest groups will be suspended until we can meet in person.

Welcome New Communications Team Members:

Janet Mattern and Tricia Farris!!

Please send Website updates to [Janet Mattern](#), Webmaster.

Please send Branch Facebook posts to [Tricia Farris](#), Facebook Editor.

Please send your AAUW Calendar information, Interest Group Announcements and Newsletter articles to [Tina Caliga](#).

Sent with love to our AAUW TCB Members, Happy Valentine's Day!

