2024-2025
Issue 1
August
2024

AAUW Tyler (TX) Branch

GRADUATE GAZETTE

Scherel Carver, Editor
www.aauw.org
www.aauwtexas.org

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Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

Diversity:
In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

Vision Statement:

AAUW Tyler (TX) Branch
Equity for all

President's Message Jeanne Blythe

Welcome to the 2024-2025 AAUW Tyler new year! We hope to see you at our annual Kickoff on August 25th on 2 pm, at First Christian Church to discover upcoming programs, interest groups and ways to get involved. Invite your friends or co-workers to attend with you so they can learn about AAUW and make new friends in the process.

On the next page learn about AAUW-Tyler's roots and how they support what we do today. These great legacy programs and projects make me proud to be a member!

Our programs this year will touch on rediscovering civility and bipartisanship, women in science, the state of higher education and mental health. They all promote our local mission of fostering a commitment to education and equity for women and girls. I hope you'll be excited about them as I am.

Our special interest groups will be promoted at the Kickoff and include book groups, a dining out group, a mah jongg group, a board games group and a cultural events group. Perfect for seeing old friends and making new friends in a casual environment.

Our largest local project is providing scholarships to local graduates of Smith County. Were you aware we actually have different types of scholarships and gave out $8,000 total last year! We have scholarships for high school graduates, TJC graduates and proven scholars (students who have completed at least 30 hours of college work). We even have a scholarship for a branch member to continue her education in various manners.

We raise these scholarship funds through our annual Games Day event, a Book sale and even a Phantom event. Games Day is scheduled for Oct 22, 2024 at Hollytree from 10 am to 3 pm and provides a venue to play games of your choice but primarily featuring Mah Jongg. A full buffet is provide and there's a wonderful silent auction. Many of you will have received a save the date card for this year's Games day with an English Tea theme. Downton Abbey here we come!

As you can see there are plenty of opportunities for camaraderie, personal growth and community service, also part of our local mission.

We need YOU, our members, to take a more active role in attending our programs and events and assisting with fundraisers so that we can continue providing educational scholarships for the young women of Smith County. Marie Curie said: *We must believe we are gifted for something and that this thing may be attained.* Please attend the Kickoff on August 25th and help us show our young women that their educational goals can be attained!

Jeanne

Page 2
Get ready for 2024 Games Day

Page 3:
Read about the eight young women awarded AAUW-Tyler scholarships at our April Annual Business

Page 4
Save the Dates for fall upcoming programs of interest to women of all ages.

AAUW-Tyler President Gives View of the Group's Beginnings

AAUW's story began in 1881, when a small group of female college graduates banded together to open the doors for women's career advancement and to encourage more women to pursue higher education. AAUW contributed to Marie Curie so she could purchase a gran of radium for her research, and during WII AAUW supported the establishment of women's units of the armed services and advocated for equal pay and rank.

Our local branch was started in 1931 and contributed to the War Relief Fund and undertook bandage rolling during the war years to support the troops. Child development through fine art and reading programs also were some of its early programs.

The legacy of these early efforts led to AAUW-Tyler accomplishments today.

English Tea the Theme for 2024 Game Day—Jeanne Henderson, Chair

Games Day 2024 is not that far away, set for Tuesday, October 22nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Hollytree Country Club. This year's theme for lunch will be an "English Tea", which will be fun as well as yummy! Also, as always, we will have a fabulous silent auction with quite the variety of items, including a Mah Jongg set, cookies and pies, pampering services, and food and drink gift cards, just to name a few.

Not to mention the mystery boxes, which contain fun items (every one's a winner!), with one box containing a lovely grand prize!

Along with Mah Jongg, we would love to welcome players of bridge or any other game—come join the fun! Save the Date cards have been mailed out, and invitations with registration forms will be sent in September.

Please contact **Jeanne Henderson at** [redacted] if you have any friends who would like to join us that may not already be on the mailing list. Also, if you are unable to play, please consider coming to the wonderful lunch we are having this year and shopping the silent auction!

Registration will be $45
lunch only is $30.

Tuesday
October 22
10 am—3 pm
Hollytree Country Club
6700 Hollytree Drive
Registration: $45
Lunch only: $30
Deadline October 18

Games Day is AAUW's major fundraiser—we would love everyone to come and help support our local scholarships and educational projects. Also, please start contacting friends and business associates for items to donate to the silent auction Remember, anything you would bid on would probably be a great item!

Sponsorships are a great way to support this

Finally, sponsorships are available, and a great way to support this event, either from members or businesses.

AAUW Facebook Page & Website

Like us on facebook

We encourage our members who are on Facebook to like our page. You learn about upcoming events and are able to RSVP directly on Facebook. Groups and organizations are turning to social media to reach out to members and potential members.

The best way to do this is for our members to share our posts and invite friends to our events.

Find us on Instagram too!

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/aauwtylerbranch/

To find our page, put **AAUW Tyler Branch** in the Facebook search bar.

Scholarships Awarded at Annual Business Meeting—Diane Kavanaugh, Chair

★Congratulations to the following seven women students awarded AAUW scholarships at Annual Meeting★

Jennifer Green – Whitehouse High School

Jennifer is attending Texas A&M University in College Station this Fall. She is planning on majoring in Business Marketing on a pre-law track. Jennifer spent this summer working as a gymnastics coach to save up for college. When not working, Jennifer enjoys working out and playing pickleball. She likes hanging out with her family and friends. She is super excited to start her college journey at Texas A&M.

Lydia Payne – Lindale High School

Lydia will attend the University of Texas at Austin. Her major will be Human Dimensions of Organizations. Lydia told me *"This summer, I have been spending a lot of my time lifeguarding and teaching swim lessons. I am also active in my church, and I will leave soon with my youth group for a mission trip to El Salvador, where we will be building a house and volunteering in the community. I've been making the most of my time by hanging out with my friends whenever I get the chance, and of course I've been doing a whole lot of shopping for my dorm room. I am so excited to start at UT in the fall, but it has been nice to take some time off and be with my friends before I leave."*

Jennifer Penaloza – Tyler High School

Jennifer will attend the University of Texas at Tyler and pursuing a major in Nursing. She is a proud graduate from Tyler High School! This summer, she enjoyed the many family trips and visits we were able to make happen after this stressful and rewarding school year. She says *"I'm currently beginning to polish up my resume to start applying for a part time job as a Patient Care Technician. Hopefully by the start of the school year I have a job that can boost by knowledge and experience in the healthcare field! "*

Rachel Petty – Bullard High School

Rachel plans to major in Nursing at UT Tyler with the lofty goal of a doctorate as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. She spent this summer working as much as possible at Brookshire's, volunteering at Green Acres Band Camp, playing in the church orchestra and planning her wedding.

A'Niya Hartsfield – Tyler High School

A'niya is attending Texas Christian University in the fall as a biology major on the dental track. She spent this summer working, traveling and studying for the chemistry boot camp she joined.

Tiffany Gurrusquieta – Tyler Legacy High School

Tiffany plans to attend Brigham Young University in Provo, UT with plans to major in Exercise Science. Tiffany is currently taking 2 classes at BYU during the Summer term. She'll take a week break, then return in the Fall to continue her studies.

Addie Sartor – Tyler Legacy High School

Addie is a recent graduate of Tyler Legacy High School and this fall will be attending the University of Texas at Austin. She will major in biology on the pre-med track and plan to attend medical school. This summer she worked at Willowbrook Country Club and at Kona Ice. She says *"I have also been enjoying my last few months in Tyler with friends and family as I prepare to move to Austin this fall. I am so grateful for the support and generosity from the AAUW members!"*

Proven Scholarship Recipient

Andrea Valdez—UT Tyler

Andrea is a student at UT Tyler. She is majoring in Political Science with a minor in Spanish and Pre-Law. During the summer Andrea tutored to save money for school. She was accepted into the United We Dream's 2024 Summer of Dreams program. She recently started her own nonprofit "East Texas Monarchs" and hosted her first event at a local church. She was featured in the Tyler Paper, local magazines and several podcasts with local radio stations.

Fall Membeership Programs Planned – Mary Lynn Smith, Program VP

The AAAUW-Tyler Board of Directors has approved a tentative schedule of informative and stimulating programs, open to both members and the public. Below is a sampling of what to expect.

Rediscovering Civility

Watching the daily news may give us the idea that civility and bipartisanship in public life are a thing of the past. True or false?

Panelists will share their experiences in politics and the community and changes they have observed in the level of civility.

The panelists for our September 25th program are:

Proven Scholar recipient and UT Tyler student Andrea Valdez

Journalist Lorri Allen

Dr. Laura Jackson of CWJ Strategies

Hear them share the benefits of and strategies for toning down the rhetoric and advancing positive change.

Rediscovering Civility
September 25
6:30 pm
UT Tyler
(Specific Location TBA)

Women in White – White Lab Coats That Is

Our own Carol Cushman and other female scientists will share their challenges and successes in various fields.

Expect thoughtful discussion of the drug development process, the role of mentoring, and what the future looks like for women in science.

Women in White
November 6
6:30 pm
Location TBA

Questions?
Mary Lynn Smith, Program Vice President
[redacted]

Mark Your Calendar November 9

Calling All Book Lovers—Book Sale Set for November 9

Calling all book lovers...and those who need to whittle down your collection! Money raised from the book sale goes to offset administrative costs for the Branch.

The annual AAUW Book Sale will be during the First Christian Church Bazaar, November 9 from 9–4. In addition to books you are willing to donate, help is needed for the following shifts:

Friday, November 8 2-5
unpack and sort books
Saturday, November 11
9-4 sell books (2 hour shifts)
4-6 pack unsold books to take to Half-Price Bookstore

If you can help at any of these times please contact **Susan Garrison, Chair**
[redacted]

Book Sale
Saturday
November 9
9 am-4 pm
First Christian Church

AAUW-Tyler Scholarship Committee — Diane Kavanaugh, Chair

The AAUW Tyler Scholarship Committee is looking for 2 new members. Scholarship Committee members review qualified applicants and determine which deserving women will be awarded a scholarship. If you have interest in serving on the committee, please contact Diane Kavanaugh.

AAUW offers three different scholarship opportunities. Our primary scholarship is for women graduating from a Smith County Public High School. We also offer the **Proven Scholar and the TJC Scholarship** for women interested in continuing their college education. There is a fourth, little known, scholarship called the **"Dorothy Scott" Scholarship,** which is offered to an AAUW member continuing her education, branching out into a new field, or engaging in another form of education to enrich her life. All of the criteria can be found on our website at https://tyler-tx.aauw.net/scholarships/.

We are in the process of revamping the scholarship applications and will begin accepting applications in January 2025. Deadline for scholarship applications will be February 28, 2025.

Members of the Scholarship Committee are: **Diane Kavanaugh, Chair; Brenda Gilliam, Jeanelle Maland, and Mary Lynn Smith.**

We are in the process of revamping the scholarship applications and will begin accepting applications in January 2025.

Deadline for scholarship applications is February 28, 2025.

Mah Jongg Interest Group Begins Year September 22-Jeanelle Maland, Chair

The Mah Jongg interest group generally meets on the fourth Sunday of every month from 1:00-4:00 (sometimes has to be rescheduled due to other AAUW events, like Open House Kickoff). Please join us in playing this fun game - newbies are welcome to sit in and learn!

First Meeting is September 22

[redacted]

Supporting Women Locally and Nationally — Jeanelle Maland, Funds Chair

We all know the importance of fundraising for AAUW Tyler's local scholarship program, which awards scholarships to graduating high school and college young women of Smith County. But we may not be as familiar with the AAUW Fund, which includes several fellowships, grants and awards given on a national level.

Since 1888, AAUW has been one of the largest funders of women's graduate education, investing in women who go on to change the world. From astronauts to zoologists, the recipients of AAUW's fellowships, grants and awards represent nearly every imaginable field of endeavor.

Overall, AAUW National has given more than $135 million to over 13,000 women and nonprofit organizations around the world, and our donations from AAUW Tyler have been part of this action. Currently, our local budget includes $2,000 that we give to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. This funding has a tremendous impact, including help to ease the burden of student debt, which disproportionately affects women. Specifically, the Greatest Needs Fund allows AAUW to respond rapidly to critical issues affecting women as they emerge.

Giving to the Greatest Needs Fund is a direct way to ensure AAUW's continued visibility, relevance and sustainability.

Giving to the Greatest Needs Fund is a direct way to ensure AAUW's continued visibility, relevance and sustainability. Any contribution amount is worthwhile in the advancement of women in our nation!

Contact Jeanelle Maland at [redacted] if you are interested in making a donation to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund, or go online and donate directly under your personal membership.

2023-2024 AAUW Interest Groups

Interest groups form the heart of AAUW, where lasting friendships are built and nurtured. Choose groups that suit your schedule and match your favorite pasttimes. Non-members are invited to participate in branch interest groups. Those who are eligible for membership may attend twice before joining the branch. Those who are not eligible for membership may attend indefinitely by paying branch dues

Interest Group	Chair	Meeting Time	Contact Info
Game Players	Mary Lynn Smith	4th Tues 6:30 dinner 7pm games	[redacted]
Culture Club	Sheila Austin	Varies	
Daytime Book Group	Suzanne Thomas	4th Wednesday, 1:30 pm	
Evening Book Group	Sue Lander	3rd Thursday, 7:00pm	
LOTE "Ladies of the Evening"	Jeanelle Maland	2nd Tuesday, 6:00 pm	
Mah Jongg	Jeanelle Maland	Times and Dates Vary	

Join a Book Interest Group—Day or Evening

Listed here are titles of the interesting books the two AAUW Book Interest Groups have selected to read during 2024-2025. To receive a list of meeting places, **contact Suzanne Thomas** or **Sue Lander** at email listed above.

DAYTIME BOOK GROUP—4th Wed 1:30 pm at La Madeleine

	Title	Author
September 25	Remember Ben Casey	Steven Harrigan
October 23	Heaven & Earth Grocery Store	James McBride
November 20	One Dead in ATTIC	Chris Rose
December 18	Member Lunch	Ill Palms 11:30 am
January 22	Covenant of Water	Abraham Vergese
February 26	Girl with Seven Names	Lee Hyeon-Seo
March 26	American Beauty	Shana Abe
April 24	Book Selection FY 2025 &	Luncheon
May 28	Master, Slave, Husband, Wife	Llyon Woo

La Madeleine Restaurant is located at 419 WSW Loop 323 in Tyler

EVENING BOOK GROUP 3rd Thurs 7 pm

Date	Title	Author
September 19	Mr. Texas	Lawrence Wright
October 17	Why We Sleep	Matthew Walker
November 21	There There	Tommy Orange
December 21	Oona Out of Order	Margarita Montimore
January 16	The Violin Conspiracy	Brendan Slocumb
February 20	The Bondswoman's Narrative	Hannah Crafts
March 20	The Women	Kristin Hannah
April 17	Hundred-Year House	Rebecca Makkai
May 15	Lady Tan's Circle of Women	Lisa See
June 19	Heaven and Earth Grocery Store	James McBride
July 17	West with Giraffes	Lynn Rutledge
August 21	James	Percival Everett

Game Players Interest Group—Mary Lynn Smith

Game Players Interest Group meets every 4th Tuesday of the month at Boards and Bites in Green Acres Shopping Center. Join us at 7:00 for a little friendly competition. Cost depends on the number of players. It's usually $3.75. There is an option to come early and have a sandwich together.

Contact Mary Lynn Smith for more information. [redacted]

Game Players
4th Tuesday
every month
7 pm
Boards & Bites

LOTE
2nd
WEDNESDAY
6:00 pm
See you there!

Join LOTE for FUN Dining with Friends

LOTE, "Ladies of the Evening," Interest Group is a group of members having a casual evening meal once each month at a different local restaurant. Meetings are the second Wednesday at 6 pm. All AAUW members are welcome to join the fun. If you would like to attend and receive monthly reminders, please contact **Jeanelle Maland at** [redacted] or call at [redacted]

September 11 LOTE is at Abuelo's Mexican Restaurant, 8926 S. Broadway, Suite 129

Restaurants for the year will be announced at the August 25 Open House & Kick-Off

Membership News—Marilyn Covey, Membership VP

Dues Reminder

AAUW Tyler appreciates your membership and participation in this organization. If you have not already done so, please pay your annual membership dues as soon as possible. Dues are $100, broken down as follows: $72.00 to AAUW National, $13.00 to State, and $15.00 to the Local Branch.

Payments may be made online at https://my.aauw.org. If you already have an account, you can log in and follow the prompts to renew your membership. If you do not have an account, click "Log In" at the top right corner of the website and create an account. Paying online ensures the national, state, and local branch dues get credited accurately in one step.

If you prefer to pay by check, make it payable to AAUW-Tyler and send it to AAUW, P.O. Box 7171, Tyler, TX 75711. Dues also may be paid to Treasurer Julie Davis at the Open House and Kick Off scheduled for 2 p.m. Aug. 25 at First Christian Church in Tyler.

If you have questions or great ideas, contact: Marilyn Covey [redacted]

2024-2025 Member Directories in Production

Once again Jeanne Henderson is putting our membership directory together. If you have any changes that need to be made, please send them to Jeanne at [redacted]

Happy new AAUW year!
Jeanne Henderson, Year Book Chair

If you find any corrections in the new directory once it is published, please advise Jeanne@jimhenderson.com

MEMBER SURVEY

Any members who are interested are asked to submit a one-sentence answer to any or all of the following questions:

1. Why did you join AAUW, and how long have you been a member?
2. How has AAUW helped you in your career?
3. What is a benefit to AAUW membership?
4. What is the best thing about AAUW?

Please be brief and send your answers to [redacted]

I hope to use them to promote the organization.
Thank you.

AAUW Membeers & Friends: AAUW Open House and KickOff Event

★ **Join us at the AAUW Open House and Kickoff – please see the Blurb on the front page**

OTHER INFO:

★ The Board is hard at work planning for the upcoming year and has some wonderful programs on the way. More info at the Open House and read this August newsletter for details about upcoming events.
★ Games Day with an English Tea theme will be October 22nd at Hollytree Country Club from 10 am to 3 pm. Come have games and tea with us!
★ We are looking for sponsors, silent auction items, and attendees. Contact Jeanne Henderson to see how you can help.
★ Did you know we have a website with lots of great information on it??
★ Go to https://tyler-tx.aauw.net
★ and look through it.
★ Check out the Calendar under **Activities** for upcoming events
★ Find our history and officers under **About**

There's a wealth of info at your fingertips
I look forward to meeting you at the Open House!

August 25th from 2-4 pm
First Christian Church
Bring a Guest

Jeanne Blythe
AAUW President 2024-2025

2024-2025 Board of Directors

AAUW Board Meetings are convened as needed, and all members are welcome.

Your 2024-2025 Board of Directors already are busy making plans and representing you in the community. Contact information and responsibilities are included in the chart below. Do not hesitate to contact your board if you have a question or want to become involved in a specific project or committee.

	Elected Officers	***Executive Committee**
President*	Jeanne Blythe	[redacted]
President-Elect*	Open	
Program VP*	Mary Lynn Smith	
Membership VP*	Marilyn Covey	
Finance Officer*	Julie Davis	
Secretary/Parliamentarian*	Jackie Littleton	
Past President	Verle Ellis	
	Standing	**Committee Chairs**
Tyler Fund Chair	Sheila Austin	[redacted]
Scholarships	Diane Kavanaugh	
AAUW Funds Chair	Jeanelle Maland	
Public Policy	Kristi C. Roberts	
Long Range Plan	Julie Davis	
	Appointed	**Chairs**
Historian	Mary Lynn Smith	[redacted]
Newsletter	Scherel Carver	
Directory	Jeanne Henderson	
Publicity	Committee/Event chairs	
Webmaster/Social Media	Diane Kavanaugh	
	Project Chairs	**& Fundraising Chairs**
Academic Rodeo	TBD	
Great Decisions	TBD	
Book Sale	Susan Garrison	[redacted]
Games Day	Jeanne Henderson	
STEM Like a Girl	Merilynn Wick	
March Madness	Mary Lynn Smith	

Coming Attractions—Calendar of Events & Projects

August
25 AAUW Open House & Kick-Off
1st Christian Church Disciples Hall—2-4 pm

September
11 LOTE—6pm Abuelo's
25 Return to Civility, UT Tyler 6: 30 pm
19 Evening Book Group, 7pm
22 Mah Jongg Interest Group
24 Game Players Group, 6:30 pm
25 Daytime Book Group, 1:30

October
9 LOTE—6:00 pm Tiba Grill
17 Evening Books, 7pm
22 Games Day—Hollytree, 10—3
22 Game Players Group, 6:30 pm
23 Daytime Books, 1:30 pm
27 Mah Jongg Interest Group

November
6 Women in White (Lab Coats)
8 Equal Pay Day
9 AAUW Book Sale
13 LOTE—6:00 pm Villagio del Vino
20 Daytime Books, 1:30 pm
21 Evening Books, 7 pm
26 Game Players Group, , 6:30 pm

December
TBD Holiday Gathering
11 LOTE—6 pm Kiepersol Restaurant
18 Daytime Books—11:30 @ III Palms
21 Evening Books, 7pm

January
8 LOTE 6pm Bella Italian
TBD AAUW Branch program
TBD Great Decisions Lecture & Discussion Series Wednesdays at Tyler Public Library
TBA Academic Rodeo Spelling Bee—East Texas Fair Grounds
16 Evening Books, 7pm
28 Game Players Group, 6:30 pm
22 Daytime Books, 1:30pm
26 Mah Jongg Interest Group

February
12 LOTE, 6:00 pm Javi's
15? STEM Like a Girl—Discovery Science Place
20 Evening Books, 7 pm
TBA AAUW Branch Meeting TBA
23 Mah Jongg Interest Group
25 Game Players Group, 630 pm
26 Daytime Books, 1:30pm

March—Women's History Month
Great Decisions Continues
12 LOTE—6 pm Bernard's
TBD AAUW Branch Meeting TBA
21 Evening Books—7pm
23 Mah Jongg Interest Group
25 Game Players Group, 630 pm
26 Daytime Books—1:30 pm

April
9 LOTE—6 pm Stanley's BBQ
17 Evening Books—7pm
19 Annual Business Meeting & Scholarship Awards, TBA
24 Daytime Books—1:30 pm
27 Mah Jongg Interest Group

May
14 LOTE—6 pm Villa Montez
22? Potluck Dinner & Officer Installation

Watch email for updates and details.