2024-2025
Issue 3
Spring 2025

GRADUATE GAZETTE

AAUW Tyler/Texas
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AAUW Tyler (TX) Branch

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IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
Scholarship Awards	2
2025-2026 Slate of Officers	3
Proposed 2025-26 Branch Budget	4
Tyler Gifts to AAUW Assoc	5
March Madness	5
Culture Club	5
Great Decisions 2025	6
Scholarhip Committee	7
YearEnd Celebration May 21	7
Phantom Invitation Coming	7
Interest Group Contacts	8
Interest Group Schedules	8
Membership News	9
Dues Increase Reconsidered	9
In Memorium: Emily Coats	9
2024-2025 Board	10
Calendar of Events	10

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:
Equity for all

AAUW Tyler (TX) Branch

President's Message Jeanne Blythe

Happy Spring AAUW members!

The azaleas are blooming, the leaves are coming out on the trees, grass is turning green, and we're finally seeing sunshine!. Not only is Easter almost here, but so is our Scholarship Award Celebration. We work hard at our fundraisers all year so that we can help young ladies further their educations and achieve their dreams. Make time to attend the celebration and meet these scholars in person. They always are so impressive.

I hope to see you at our Scholarship Award Celebration and Annual Business Meeting April 27

The nominating committee has finalized a slate of officers for 2025-2026. Many current officers have agreed to serve another term, and we are grateful for that generosity. You should have received a separate email about the prospective candidates.

We've also developed proposed budgets for 2025-2026 and members will vote on approval of the Branch budget at the Annual Business Meeting April 27.

In addition, a committee is reviewing our bylaws and handbook to streamline and simplify the procedures for our local branch.

As you know, our branch's membership has been declining over the past years much like other civic organizations in our community. In order to keep from overburdening our members we also will also be rolling out some ideas for reducing the number of our programs and projects in the subsequent year.

More information will be coming on these ideas so that they can be voted on at the business meeting in late April.

I hope to see you at our Scholarship Award Celebration and Annual Business Meeting April 27 at McClendon House or at one of the special interest group meetings during this season.

Have a great Spring

Jeanne Blythe

Annual Business Meeting/Scholarship Awards Set for April 27

Once a year members are asked to vote on next year's officers, budgets, and sometimes bylaws changes. You can find information about these choices on pages 3-4 of this newsletter.

That day we also award scholarships to our 2025 high school recipients.

Mark your calendar for a Sunday afternoon visiting with old and new friends and meeting the wonderful young women who next year enter higher education and launch their lifetime careers to achieve wonderful goals.

Read about it on page 2 and pages 3-4 of this newsletter.

AAUW
Tyler (TX) Branch

SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, April 27th at 2:00 p.m.

MCCLENDON HOUSE
806 W HOUSTON ST

Join us for a special event as we celebrate the achievements of our scholarship recipients with a reception held in their honor. This gathering will be followed by the Annual Meeting for all AAUW members, where we will elect officers for 2025-2026 and approve the branch budget. Light refreshments provided. We look forward to an inspiring afternoon filled with recognition and fellowship. Your presence will make this occasion even more memorable.

MEMBERS SUBMIT YOUR RSVP TO

jeanne@jimhenderson.com

There is no fee to register. Donations gladly accepted.

2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- Fabiola Caraballo Quijada, Tyler Legacy High School
- Madilyn Kennedy, Whitehouse High School
- Katherine Moore, Tyler Legacy High School
- Kerra Moore-Eubanks, Chapel Hill High School
- April Rahimov, Whitehouse High School
- Hunter Ransome, Tyler Legacy High School
- Shaye Smith, Tyler Legacy High School
- Alba Tomas-Martinez, Tyler Legacy High School

Tyler Members to Elect Officers for 2025—2026

AAUW members will elect 2025-2026 officers at the April 27 Annual Business Meeting. Fortunately, many current officers agreed to serve another term. See the candidates below.

President—Jeanne Blythe

Program Vice President—Mary Lynn Smith

Membership Vice President—Marilyn Covey

Treasurer—Julie Davis

Secretary—Suzanne Thomas

Members to Adopt 2025—2026 Branch Budget

2025-26 Proposed BRANCH Budget	
Income	
Fundraising, e.g. Book Sale	**$600.00**
Donations	**$0.00**
Business Meeting & Scholarship Reception-Luncheon	**$600.00**
Misc - Income/Reimbursements	**$0.00**
Dues Local	**$810.00**
Dues State	**$702.00**
Dues National	**$3,619.00**
Fund Raising - Other e.g. March Madness	**$150.00**
Total Income	**$6,481.00**
Expense	
Administration	
Officer Supplies	**$50.00**
Conferences	**$0.00**
Dues - National	**$3,619.00**
Dues - State	**$702.00**
Dues - Square Fees	**$65.00**
Fundraising Expense, e.g.Book Sale Room	**$100.00**
Insurance - Officers and Directors	**$375.00**
Post Office Box	**$175.00**
Treasurer	**$30.00**
Total Administration	**$5,116.00**
Membership	
Reassembly/Kickoff	**$150.00**
Recruitment/Retention	**$100.00**
Total Membership	**$250.00**
Programs	
Salad Supper	**$200.00**
Business Meeting & Scholarship Reception/ Luncheon	**$580.00**
Total Programs	**$780.00**
Total Expense	**$6,246.00**
Net Ordinary Income	**$235.00**
Other Income/Expense	
Income Value of Donated Items	
Interest Income - MMA	**$100.00**
Total Other Income	**$100.00**
Other Expense	
Expense Value of Donated Items	
Total Other Expense	**$0.00**
Net Other Income	**$100.00**
Net Income	**$335.00**

The 2025-2026 Budget for the AAUW Fund is adopted by the Fund Board. Members may request a copy of that budget from Treasurer Julie Davis.

AAUW-Tyler Donates to AAUW National Fund—Jeanelle Maland, Funds Chair

Donations from our branch members to AAUW National's AAUW Funds totaled $7,123 for calendar year 2024. All but one donation went towards AAUW's **Greatest Needs Fund,** which allows AAUW to respond quickly to critical issues affecting women, such as easing the burden of student debt, which disproportionately impacts women.

Giving to AAUW National not only supports our overall mission in being members of this organization, but it also helps ensure AAUW's visibility, relevance, and sustainability.

March Madness—Mary Lynn Smith, Program VP

Are you ready for some women's basketball!?!

Join in a little friendly competition and raise funds for AAUW during March Madness 2025. The NCAA will announce which schools are in the bracket on March 16. You will then have until the first tip-off on March 21 to register via the ESPN app (details will be emailed as time draws closer) and start your trash talking.

Plan to watch the championship game together on
April 6 at 3:00 p.m.
at
Sheila Austin's home
2118 Wood Haven

RSVP to: [redacted]

Culture Club Interest Group Spring Event April 4—Fiddler on the Roof

Culture Club members will attend the Pollard United Methodist Church production of Fiddler on the Roof on Friday, April 4 at 7:30 pm.

Tickets are $18 for reserved seats and must be paid in advance. RSVP to sjaustin64@gmail.com by Friday March 28.

Fiddler on the Roof
Pollard UMC Theater
Friday, April 4,
7:30 pm $18
RSVP to Sheila Austin: [redacted]
By Friday March 28

Culture Club Interest Group Art Crawl—Sheila Austin, Chair

AAUW TYLER Spring Art Crawl Saturday May 3 or

Tyler recently was featured in an article "7 Cities With Amazing Public Art", so I thought we would do a little Public Art Crawl, caravan to several of the places mentioned on the Visit Tyler, TX list. Watch for info on the crawl to be the first weekend of May, either Saturday afternoon, May 3rd or Sunday, May 4th. Tentatively there also will be a stop to a local coffee shop.

Great Decision Foreign Policy Discussions March 27-April 17—Carol Cushman, Chair

March 27 5:30 pm

India: Between China, the West, and the Global South

India is an emerging major power in world affairs, occupying a pivotal position between China, the United States, and the Global South. Its population size, economy, and geopolitical location ensure that it will be an influential voice in debates and political struggles over global order. What are India's choices and opportunities for regional and global leadership? How will it maneuver between China and the United States, and what is its role as a voice of the Global South? What opportunities exist for Washington to work with India?

Discussion leader Professor Sharon Kyser has been a Professor of History at Tyler Junior College since 2014, where she has won awards for her teaching. She received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of California at Los Angeles, and her Master's Degree from the University of Texas at Tyler. From 2010 to 2017, she was the **Director of Hearts and Harmony,** a non-profit organization that focuses on helping at-risk youths. She was also an education consultant for the Singer Sewing Machine Company, and wrote her Master's Thesis on Isaac Singer, the company's founder.

April 4 5:30 pm

International Cooperation on Climate Change

The 2015 Paris Agreement established a UN-sponsored framework for negotiations on climate change and global warming. In subsequent COP meetings, experts and political leaders have come together seeking common cause for this growing global crisis. What is the future of these efforts, and what have they yielded? What is the U.S. role in fostering cooperation on climate change? In a divided country, what are the possible futures for American policy leadership?

April 11 5:P30 pm

Great Decisions Foreign Policy Discussions March 27-April 17 5:30 pm

AI and American National Security

The AI revolution is the leading edge of a larger high-tech revolution which promises to transform the world. Experts argue that international cooperation is needed to expand the opportunities these new technologies hold while protecting societies from their dangers. What are the key policy debates in this area, and what are the opportunities and limits on global AI rules of the road? How will the AI revolution impact American national security? What are its policy options to secure the benefits of AI and guard against its dangers?

April 17 530 pm

American Foreign Policy in the Middle East: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead

The war in Gaza has brought the region to a crossroads. What are the possible outcomes of the war, and how might the United States use its influence to shape a long-term settlement that leaves both Israel and the Palestinians in a better position? How might Arab states in the wider region be brought into a settlement? What are America's interests in the Middle East and how can it advance them?

Great Decisions Foreign Policy Discussions

are sponsored in Tyler by **AAUW Tyler, League of Women Voters of Tyler,** and the **Tyler Public Library,** in conjunction with the national Foreign Policy Association. Briefing books are available at fpa.org and click Book Store or 800-477-5836. Price is $35. E-book available on Amazon Prime.

Watch your email for the dates, speakers, and topics for this year's schedule.

Like us on facebook

AAUW Facebook page & Instagram

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.

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

Find us on Instagram too!

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

Instagram

Scholarships to Be Awarded April 27—Diane Kavanaugh, Chair

My thanks to the Scholarship Committee members of Mary Lynn Smith, Dana Harper, Brenda Gilliam, Jeanelle Maland, and Suzanne Thomas for their hard work and diligence in determining this year's scholarship recipients. Each member reviewed and scored **37** high school scholarship applications. .

We received applications from 9 different Smith County Schools (Arp, LIndale, Bullard, Tyler Legacy, Whitehouse, Troup, Early College, Tyler High, and Chapel Hill).

Our committee had the hard task of narrowing those 37 applicants down to 8 deserving recipients. Each one will receive a $2,000.00 scholarship for the 2025-2026 year. We did not have any applications for the Proven Scholar Scholarship or the Tyler Junior College Scholarship.

Join us to celebrate the achievements of our scholarship recipients. Sunday, April 27th at 2:00 p.m. at the McClendon House, 806 W Houston Street.

End of Year Celebration May 21—Mary Lynn Smith, Program Vice Pres.

Gather at the Plaza Tower Lobby in downtown Tyler to thank our out-going officers and celebrate another year of good work done well. We will meet and greet in the Lobby's seating area. You may purchase your choice of refreshment from True Vine Brewing or Andy's Frozen Custard. Enjoy Tyler Museum of Art's installation at Gallery Main Street as we visit with friends and wind down for summer.

Plaza Tower Lobby, 110 South College Tyler

Equal Pay Day Continues to Be Relevant in 2025—Kristi Roberts, Public Policy

#EqualPayDay

We observe Equal Pay Day to raise awareness about the harmful wage gaps between men and women, and demographic Equal Pay Days throughout the year to raise awareness about the harmful wage gaps faced by women of color as compared to their white non-Hispanic male counterparts.

The Wage Gap:
75 cents for all earners
83 cents for full time, year round earners
Based on 2023 earnings data.

For More Information About Equal Pay Day
Visit the AAUW Website

Watch your Mailbox for the AAUW Tyler Phantom Invitation fundraiser!

2024-2025 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 evening meeting places, **contact Sue Lander** at email listed above.

DAYTIME BOOK GROUP—4th Wed 1:30 pm at La Madeleine 419 WSW Loop 323 in Tyler

	Title	Author
March 26	**American Beauty**	**Shana Abe**
April 24	**Book Selection FY 2025 &**	**Luncheon TBA**
May 28	**Master, Slave, Husband, Wife**	**Llyon Woo**

EVENING BOOK GROUP 3rd Thurs 7 pm

Date	Title	Author
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

The game players meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at Boards and Bites at 7:00 p.m. Cost is usually $3.75, depending on the size of the group. Upcoming dates include **3/25, 4/22, 5/27, 6/24, 7/22, and 8/26.**

We hope to see you there!
Questions: Mary Lynn Smith, [redacted]
or [redacted]

Game Players
4th Tuesday
7 pm
Boards & Bites
1851 Troup Hwy.

Join LOTE for FUN Dining with Friends

LOTE
2nd
WEDNESDAY

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]

April 9 Stanley's BBQ
525 S. Beckham Ave.

May 14 Villa Montez
3324 Old Henderson Hwy

June and July Summer Break

August 13 Abuelo's
8926 S. Broadway

Mah Jongg Interest Group—-Jeanelle Maland, Chair

The Mah Jongg Interest Group is for anyone who enjoys playing the game and for anyone who would like to learn how to play! We usually meet at Boards and Bites on the fourth Sunday of the month from 1:00-4:00 pm. If you are interested in joining this fun interest group, please contact Jeanelle Maland at [redacted] **Next meeting May**

Membership News—Marilyn Covey, Membership VP

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

Covey_Marilyn@yahoo.com

Dues Reminder

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season, are staying well, and are looking forward to great things in 2025.

We would like to welcome two new members to our branch, and invite you to add their information to your directories. Please look for them at our meetings and interest groups to introduce yourselves and make them feel welcome.

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:

AAUW National	$72.00
State	$13.00
Local Branch	$15.00

New members **who join at a meeting** are eligible for **HALF PRICE** national dues, making the total only $64.

Payments may be made online at **https://aauw-tyler-branch.square.site/** There is a $3.00 convenience fee.

Checks may be made payable to AAUW-Tyler and sent to Treasurer Julie Davis, AAUW, P.O. Box 7171, Tyler, TX 75711. or you can pay at the **any of our activities**.

Add to your directory

Carolyn Morales

[redacted]

Mary Wilkins

[redacted]

Lower Increase in Dues Considered by AAUW National Association

Member feedback and comments were successful in convincing AAUW Association to reconsider the plan for a $5 per year raise in the national dues over the next four years. If you provided feedback to that board, thank you for taking the time and effort.

Instead next year's dues will increase by only $2 a year for the next two years.

Thank you for all you do as an engaged member of AAUW!

In Memorium: Emily Coats—Jeanne Blythe, President

It is with regret that we announce that Emily Coats, one of our past presidents, passed away on 2/26/25 in Irving, TX. She moved to Tyler in the early 1970's and dedicated her time and energy to many charitable organizations including AAUW, as she served as **President 1988-1989**. She served our branch with kindness and intelligence and always got the job done. The link to her obituary is at right.

https://tylerpaper.com/obituaries/emily-bell-coats/article_f6729e67-8c8f-5065-b8c2-0c528b0946f4.html

Please change the email addresses shown in your directory for the following members.

Lorri Allen

Sandy Shepherd

[redacted]

2024-2025 Board of Directors

Your 2024-2025 Board of Directors 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]
Program VP*	Mary Lynn Smith	
Membership VP*	Marilyn Covey	
Finance Officer*	Julie Davis	
Secretary/Parliamentarian*	Jackie Littleton	
Past President	Verle Ellis	
	Standing	
Tyler Fund Chair	Verle Ellis	
Scholarships	Diane Kavanaugh	
AAUW Funds Chair	Jeanelle Maland	
Public Policy	Kristi C. Roberts	
Long Range Plan	Julie Davis	
	Appointed	
Historian	Mary Lynn Smith	
Newsletter	Scherel Carver	
Directory	Jeanne Henderson	
Webmaster/Social Media	Diane Kavanaugh	
	Project Chairs	
Academic Rodeo	Jackie Littleton/ Marilyn Covey, Co-Chairs	
Great Decisions	Carol Cushman	
Book Sale	Susan Garrison	
Games Day	Jeanne Henderson	
STEM Like a Girl	Merilynn Wick	
March Madness	Mary Lynn Smith	
Phantom Fundraiser	Melissa DeCarlo	

Coming Attractions—Calendar of Events & Projects

March — Women's History Month
27 Great Decisions – 5:30pm
30 Mah Jongg – 1pm

April
3 Great Decisions – 5:30 pm
4 Culture Club Fiddler on the Roof – 7:30 pm
6 March Madness Final – Mary Lynn Smith's – 3pm
9 LOTE-Stanley's BBQ, 6 pm
10 Great Decisions, 5:30pm
17 Great Decisions, 5:30 pm
Evening Books, 7 pm
20 Easter Sunday
22 Game Players – 630 pm
23 Daytime Book Group-2025-2026 Title Selection, 1:30 pm
27 Scholarship Awards & Annual Business Meeting – 2pm

May
3 or 4 Culture Club Art Crawl
14 LOTE, 6 pm, Villa Montez
15 Evening Books – 7 pm
21 End of Year Celebration & Officer Installation, 7 pm – Plaza Tower
25 Mah Jongg, 1pm
26 Memorial Day
28 Daytime Book Group – 1:30 pm

June
19 Evening Books, 7 pm
29 Mah Jongg, 1pm

July
4 Independence Day
17 Evening Books – 7 pm
23 Daytime Books – 1:30 pm
27 Mah Jongg, 1pm

August
13 LOTE – 6 pm Abuelos
21 Evening Books – 7pm
26 Game Players – 6:30 pm

Watch email for updates and details.

AAUW Tyler (TX) Branch