

## Tulsa Branch Officers

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*Executive Committee*

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## Alternative Schools: What is their role?

### Tour and General Membership Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024

**Time:** 12:00 Noon

**Place:** Phoenix Rising Alternative School  
3441 E. Archer St.

**Program:** Tour of Phoenix Rising

**Lunch:** Freeway Café-2, 465 S. Sheridan  
Following the school tour

**Bring:** Snacks suitable for high school youth, not homemade

**RSVP:** President Pam McDonald,  
[pammcdonald9857@gmail.com](mailto:pammcdonald9857@gmail.com); cell: 918-636-5131



Phoenix Rising Alternative School serves students in grades 9-12, who are involved with, or are at high risk for, involvement with the juvenile justice system. Typically, PRAS students have not experienced success in traditional public school settings.

PRAS is a partnership between the Tulsa County Family Juvenile Justice Center and Tulsa Public Schools.

The focus of PRAS is on both social/emotional growth, and academic needs, offered through each student's individualized learning plan.

Students come to the school at ages 13-20. Some are homeless, need Special Education, may be pregnant or already a parent, currently or in the past involved with DHS, may be in the custody of other than a biological parent.

82% of the students have had incarcerated parents in the past; 44% currently have incarcerated parents.

These students have been given, or have chosen, an opportunity to have a successful life with the alternative school.





## President's Corner

I hope the bitter cold has left us and we just have a mild winter the rest of the way. Keep our fingers crossed!

I am looking forward to our February program, touring Phoenix Rising Alternative School. A shout out to **Maggie Brooks** for connecting us to this wonderful alternative school in Tulsa.

**Maggie is the daughter** of Linda Brooks, longtime AAUW member. She has grown up with our Tulsa Branch and we are so proud of the young woman she has become!

I urge everyone to keep up with our local and state political platforms to better inform us on what affects us personally and our passion for women and children.

—*Pam McDonald*,  
President, AAUW Tulsa  
[adamsfamily9857@aol.com](mailto:adamsfamily9857@aol.com)  
or 918-636-5131

## NATIONAL AAUW NEWS 'N NOTES

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### AAUW's Art Contest Time!

On **February 5** AAUW members began casting votes on their favorite works in AAUW's annual Art Contest. The winners will be featured on a collection of notecards sent to all members this spring. Go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

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### School Boards: The Battleground for the Education Culture Wars

**February 7 AAUW National** Public Policy Committee will hold a webinar to discuss controversial policies, book bans, and unethical censorship happening on school boards across the country.

**Wednesday, Feb. 7, 6:00 p.m. Central time.**

\* \* \* \*

### Webinar: The Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act at 15, and the Future of Pay Equity

**Lilly Ledbetter and friends** from EEOC, National Partnership for Women & Families, and National Women's Law Center discuss what it will take to shape the future of economic justice.

\* \* \* \*



Tulsa Branch's Mystery Book Group welcomed author **Susan Badaracco** (pen name **Susan Flowers**) to their January 18th meeting. Susan is pictured standing at the head of the table signing her work, The Book of Arcane Secrets, an Iris Dittmeyer novel, which the group read for January. **L. to Rt.:** Group Leader Linda Brooks, Beth Webb, Tulsa Branch AAUW President Pam McDonald, Vicki Escoe, Gwen Hampton, Susan Badaracco, Joni Trammel, Lisa Malone, Joyce Varner and Fran Haxby. The ladies are shown with their copies of Susan's book which she gifted to them. The group is looking forward to Susan's next two books, Volumes 2 & 3 in her trilogy on "Executed Queens."

## Interest Groups

### AAUW TULSA ZOOM BOOK GROUP



**The AAUW Book Group** will meet via Zoom on **Friday, February 23**, 6:30 p.m. to discuss [The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store](#) by James McBride. This is an adult historical fiction/mystery novel. In 1972, a skeleton

found in an old well unravels the hidden secrets of Chicken Hill, a Pennsylvania neighborhood where Jewish and Black communities coexist amidst racial tensions.

Hope to see you there!

Please contact Rose at (918) 688-7128 if you would like to participate.

### MYSTERY BOOK GROUP

**Mystery book club** will meet [Thursday, February 15](#) at 11:30 A.M., at Barnes and Noble, 5231 E. 41st St. In observance of President's Day, we are reading any mystery about or by a President or his family.



We will head out to lunch afterwards.

Questions?

Call Linda Brooks, 918-260-3263, or [lshbrooks@yahoo.com](mailto:lshbrooks@yahoo.com)

### GOURMET GROUP



If you are interested in joining our dinners, please call Kay Witt, at 918-633-5217.

### TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS Board of Education Meetings

February 5, 6:30 pm  
February 26, 6:30 pm  
March 4, 6:30 pm

All these regular meetings will be in the Cheryl Selmon Room,  
Charles C. Mason Education Service Ctr.,  
3027 S. New Haven Ave.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Just a note to say Happy Valentine's Day, and thank you for all you do to support and advocate for women and girls. By joining AAUW you became part of a large network of advocates for women and girls. Thank you!

We look forward to another successful year with your help.

Once again, AAUW National is holding a vote on the bylaw change regarding Open Membership. Voting begins in April. Our State AAUW President Faye Henson will be visiting each Oklahoma branch to discuss the vote.

Faye will be our guest at our March 16th meeting. Mark your calendars now: Saturday, March 16, 12 Noon, at Fajitas Grill 2, 6219 E. 612st St. More information will be in the March newsletter.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Olgy Gary** 757-287-6227  
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Tulsa, OK 74133-4167

**Kari Reed** [karilinreed@gmail.com](mailto:karilinreed@gmail.com)  
7118 S. 228th East Ave.  
Broken Arrow, OK 74014

— Rose Unterschuetz  
Vice-President of Membership  
[tulsarose@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tulsarose@sbcglobal.net)

## Branch Briefs

### Program Schedule

Feb. 10	Black History Month
March 9	Book Review, Read a book about Women in WW II
April 13	Prevention of Child Abuse
May 11	Celebrate the Year

### TULSA VOICE

Monthly newsletter of American Association of University Women,  
Tulsa Branch, 5219 S Joplin Ave, Tulsa, OK 74135

Web Site: <http://tulsa-ok.aauw.net/>

President: Pam McDonald, 918-636-5131

Editor: Gwen Hampton, 918-724-1505;

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

AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold the associate's, baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

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

### Our Value Promise:

*"As a member of AAUW,  
you belong to a community  
that breaks through  
educational and  
economic barriers  
so that all women  
have a fair chance."*

**Websites:** Tulsa Branch—<http://Tulsa-ok.aauw.net/>  
Oklahoma AAUW—[aauw-ok.aauw.net](http://aauw-ok.aauw.net) National AAUW—[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)  
State Facebook—[www.facebook.com/AAUWOklahoma](http://www.facebook.com/AAUWOklahoma)

## AAUW's Native American Alumnae Spotlight

**We are continuing our spotlight** on Native Americans and their invaluable contributions, while also raising awareness about the inequities many still face. National AAUW and Tulsa Branch are featuring a few of the AAUW awardees (fellowships and grants) who are working to bring awareness and promote gender equity for women and girls within the Native American community.



**Kristina Halona**  
**Selected Professions Fellowship**  
**2008-09**

**This month we highlight** Kristina Halona, originally from Sawmill, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation. She is of the Black Streak Wood People Clan born for the Folded Arms People Clan. The Bitter Water Clan is her maternal grandfather's clan and the Salt Clan is her paternal grandfather's clan.

**Kristina is an Aerospace Engineer** and program manager at Antares Systems Engineering at Northrop Grumman. She received a B.S.E. degree in Aerospace Engineering from Arizona State University and an M.S.E. degree in Engineering Management from George Washington University.

**She has been a member** of the organization, Advancing Indigenous People in STEM (AISES) since she was a child and now serves as the AISES National Student Representative.

## February, 2024 Calendar



**February 5** Voting began on the Art Contest entries

**February 7** Webinar: School Boards—The battleground for the Education Culture Wars See P. 2.

**February 11** International Day of Women and Girls in Science

**February 15** Mystery Book Group See Page 3.

**February 20** Deadline for March TULSA VOICE.

**February 22** General Membership Meeting See Page 1.

**February 23** Tulsa Branch Book Group See Page 3.

### Looking Ahead...

**March 12** Equal Pay Day

**April 3** Online voting begins on Bylaws Change on Open Membership

**May 15** Online voting ends at 12:00 p.m. ET

**June 16-22** STEAM Camp for Girls in Weatherford