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AAUW - Women in Leadership General Membership Meeting

Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025

Time: 11:30 a.m.

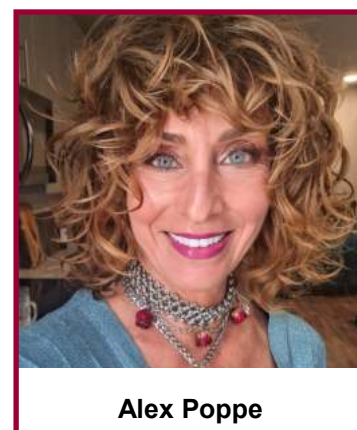
Place: Hardesty Regional Library, Pecan Room
8316 E. 93rd St., Tulsa

Program: **USAID: WHAT HAVE WE LOST?**

Speaker: **ALEX POPPE**
Furloughed USAID Worker, Author

Lunch: 1:00 P.M.
Cheesecake Factory
8711 E. 71st St., in Woodlands Hill Mall

RSVP: President Pam McDonald,
adamsfamily9857@aol.com; cell: 918-636-5131



Alex Poppe

Having worked in conflict zones such as Iraq, the West Bank, and Ukraine, Alex Poppe writes about fierce and funny women rebuilding their lives in the wake of violence. She is the award-winning author of four works of literary fiction. *Breakfast Wine*, her memoir-in-essay of her near decade teaching and volunteering in northern Iraq, celebrates women and youth resilience, post-conflict.

Most recently, she served as the strategic communications advisor for a democracy and governance initiative as the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Alex continues to be awed by place, people, and their stories.

Some of the goals previously met by USAID: providing a variety of business partners, human rights reforms, voter education, food, water, sanitation, and a multitude of other services to 10 countries during the 2024 calendar year.

We are looking forward to hearing Alex tell of her experiences teaching women and girls in Iraq, and other stories. Bonus: She will have copies of her book to purchase.

**Remember to bring snacks for the students at
Phoenix Rising Alternative School to this meeting.**



President's Corner

Hello, Members and Friends —

We are excited to start another AAUW season of meetings to provide our community with information about programs, speakers, etc. to educate ourselves. We love to spend time together and share good eats at the same time furthering AAUW's causes!

Our long time treasurer and member, **Gabrilie Jones**, is gradually handing over her duties; she has certainly earned a rest! We will discuss the treasurer duties at our September meeting; also we will plan a way to honor Gabby for all her contributions and loyalty to AAUW National and our Tulsa Branch.

AAUW's 2025-2026 Strategic plan outlines how we'll advance equity for women and girls by expanding access to higher education, advocating for inclusive policies, and strengthening our nationwide member network.

Thank you for your continuing support of our branch. Your participation in our meetings and activities will promote our mission statement to help women and girls!

—Pam McDonald,
President, AAUW Tulsa
adamsfamily9857@aol.com
or 918-636-5131

"Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers."
—Alfred Lord Tennyson

Branch Briefs

Branch Officers

Our Tulsa Branch officers will all continue in their current offices, with one exception: Treasurer **Gabrilie Jones** has decided to step aside from her treasurer duties. We appreciate her many years of service to the branch!

Meeting Schedule 2025-2026

September 13	Alex Poppe, Former USAID Worker
October 30*	Volunteers of America
November 7	Chili-Bingo Fundraiser
December 7	Holiday Brunch
January 10, 2026	Life Senior Services
February 14	Black History Month
March 14	Rosie Lynch Women's History Month
April 11	Education, Title IX
May 13	Year in Review

*Please note: this is a Thursday.



Equal Pay Dates—2025

These Equal Pay Dates note how far past a year a woman must work to be paid the same as a man earns in a year. Started by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996, the goal of Equal Pay Days is to raise awareness about the ongoing gender pay gap and how it varies significantly among different communities, particularly for women of color.

March 25	All Women
April 7	Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Women
May 6	Moms
June 17	LGBTQIA+
July 10	Black Women
August 28	Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
October 8	Latina Women
October 23	Disabled Women
November 18	Native Women

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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Interest Groups

AAUW TULSA ZOOM BOOK GROUP



The AAUW Tulsa Book Group will meet in person on September 26 at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be hosted by Carole Pistole, in the Club House at Augusta Greens, 10754 Masters Circle, Jenks.

The book discussion selection is One Hundred Years of Solitude by Marquez.

For more info or to be added to the group email list please contact Rose at (918) 688-7128.

—Rose Unterschuetz

MYSTERY BOOK GROUP

Mystery book club will meet **Thursday, September 18** at 11:00 A.M., at Barnes and Noble, 5231 E. 41st St. This month is again free read—read any mystery, and come prepared to share your thoughts and opinions.



We will head out to lunch afterwards.

Questions?

Call Linda Brooks, 918-260-3263, or lsbbooks@yahoo.com

GOURMET GROUP



This group is planning a trip to the Tulsa Botanic Garden when the weather cools down—which could be any day now!

If you are interested in joining our group, please call:

Gisele McDaniel, 918-693-0839

GET WELL WISHES to Memory Stunz, member of the AAUW Mystery Book Group, who is having open heart surgery September 3.

CONTINUING GET WELL WISHES to Fran Haxby.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

FALL IS JUST around the corner and AAUW Tulsa is gearing up for another successful program year.

PLEASE ATTEND our September 13th meeting and bring a friend who is interested in advocating for women's rights. Now more than ever women must support other women in guarding and maintaining equal rights.

IF YOU HAVE NOT renewed your membership for the coming year please bring your checkbook and do so at the meeting.

Because Equity is Still an Issue!

— Rose Unterschuetz
Vice-President of Membership
tulsarose@sbcglobal.net
(918) 688-7128

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY ALLIANCE (NWA) Champions Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The NWA recognizes women throughout the country who understand that, for a positive future, we need to eliminate bias and discrimination entirely from our lives and institutions.

Women from every background have long realized that an uneven playing field will never bring equality or justice. Many feel the need to speak up and work harder for fairness in our institutions and social interactions.

In our common quest for freedom and opportunity, women know that people change with the help of families, teachers and friends, and that young people in particular need to learn the value of hearing from different voices with different points of view as they grow up.



As members of AAUW, we understand the goal of NWA and hope that our efforts will also achieve the same goal.

Tulsa Branch Summer Activities



Our May meeting at Villa Ravenna, with AAUW-OK President Lisa Appeddu as guest speaker. L. to rt.: Gisele McDaniel, Kay Witt, Gwen Hampton, Linda Brooks, Joyce Varner, Lisa Appeddu, Amy Stephens, Pam McDonald, Sue Ball (retired educator, Lisa's friend), Ann Dunbar, Rose Unterschuetz.



Tulsa Branch collects snacks for the Phoenix Rising Alternative School in Tulsa. Shown with a trunk full of snacks are l. to rt.: Pam McDonald, Linda Brooks, and Gisele McDaniel.



The June 19th meeting of the AAUW Mystery Book Group at lunch following book discussion. L. to rt.: Gwen Hampton, Memory Stunz, Nadine Varner (Joyce's daughter), Joyce Varner, Charles Brooks (Linda Brooks' spouse), Linda Brooks, and Pam McDonald.



Gisele McDaniel hosted a lunch with Tania, right, as part of Tulsa Global Alliance and Tulsa's Intercultural Association. Five teachers spent a month in Tulsa, and Gisele hosted Tania, from Tulsa's sister city San Luis Potosi, Mexico, in her home. L. to rt.: Gisele, Pam McDonald, Linda Brooks, and Tania.

AAUW News 'n Notes

Upcoming Webinars in September

AAUW Fall Member Gathering

Thursday, September 18, 2025
4:00—5:00 p.m. ET

AAUW Fellowships & Grants Info Sessions

For individuals & organizations,
Applications opened August 1,
Due by **September 30**

AAUW Work Smart: Know Your Value and Get Paid

Tuesday, September 16, 2025
2:00—3:00 p.m. ET

AAUW Money Smart: Smart Foundations

Tuesday, September 30, 2025
4:00—5:00 p.m. ET

To register for these events, go to
aauw.org

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Civil Rights in Education Under Threat

From K-12 to college campuses, students are being denied the protections they deserve.

AAUW is rising to meet the challenge — guided by our 2025 strategic priorities:

1. Funding Higher Education

- ◆ Providing fellowships and grants to women from underserved communities and underrepresented fields like STEM.
- ◆ Supporting women scholars and researchers, especially in higher education.

2. Removing Barriers to Success

- ◆ Defending Title IX and civil rights laws that guarantee inclusive, safe, and accessible educational environments for all students — from K-12 to higher education.

3. Strengthening AAUW's Reach

- ◆ Evaluating and improving our engagement strategies to grow organizational sustainability and member-driven action.

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Higher Education—Key to Equity

The key to economic empowerment and gender equity for women is **higher education**. It opens doors to better jobs, higher earnings, and leadership opportunities. But systemic barriers — from discrimination to inadequate support — still block many women, especially from marginalized groups, from accessing these opportunities.



For over 140 years, AAUW has fought to make education a pathway to equity. But today, that path is under threat — from soaring costs to policies that undermine civil rights. **Educational equity isn't just about access — it's about justice.** And AAUW is acting now to defend it. We need to help with our financial donations to AAUW's Annual Fund.

Millions awarded by AAUW

In August, AAUW awarded **\$5.3 million in Fellowships and grants to 228 women and community-based projects**. These investments — made possible by your giving — help break down barriers and open new doors in education, STEM, public service and beyond. From graduate education to community-based projects, AAUW awards empower change-makers at every level.

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"So I hope you all will keep working as hard as you can to educate every child on this planet. I hope you will keep innovating to achieve the impact and sustainable growth that we all seek."

—MICHELLE OBAMA

Tulsa Branch Summer Activities Rallying for Democracy!



"Die-In" sponsored by Indivisible Tulsa County. L. to rt: Unknown, Linda Brooks, Gwen Hampton Susan Badaracco (co-chair of Indivisible Tulsa County), Marcy Rao (Gwen's daughter).

Pictured at the "Die-In" held at Woodward Park in May. L. to Rt.: Linda Brooks, Gwen Hampton, Marcy Rao (Gwen's daughter).



The "No Kings" Rally, sponsored by Indivisible Tulsa County, a non-partisan group. Linda Brooks, left, and Gwen Hampton, right. Note Linda's AAUW shirt.



Some of the crowd at the 'No Kings' Rally at 41st & Yale, June 13, 2025.



Gwen Hampton and daughter Marcy Rao at the "No Kings" Rally on June 13th.

AAUW News 'n Notes, con't.

AAUW Election Results

The National AAUW Election in May brought the following results:

Elected to the Board of Directors:



Monique Taylor

Monique Taylor, Ph.D., is the Provost & Chief Academic Officer at Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont. She has served 18 years in International Education in Mexico, China, Israel, Palestine and the United Arab Emirates.



Mayida Zaal

Mayida Zaal is Associate Professor of Teaching & Learning at Montclair State University in Montclair, New Jersey. A recipient of an AAUW Fellowship, she has served since 2018 on AAUW's International Fellowship Selection panel.



Aaliyah El-Amin

Aaliyah El-Amin has over 25 years of experience in management consulting, financial services, education and healthcare. She is a Change Management Lead for Data & Digital Business Transformation of the US vaccines for a large pharmaceutical company.



Hope Bennett

Hope Tryon Bennett is President of the Honolulu Branch of AAUW. She earned her law degree from Stanford. Hope is a Mediator helping clients find resolution in legal and workplace conflicts. She lives in Honolulu with her husband and three sons.

The membership also approved changes to AAUW's bylaws, and to AAUW's Public Policy Priorities.

Speak Up on New Federal Rules

AAUW is engaging in regulatory advocacy — responding to proposed rules from the Administration, not Congress. These decisions shape how laws are implemented, and once finalized, can be harder to undo than legislation.

From eliminating federal loans for graduate students, removing abortion care from veterans' medicals benefits, to leaving federal contract workers vulnerable to discrimination, these rules will shape access to education, health care, and civil rights for years to come. Stand with AAUW — submit your public comment today so policymakers hear from us loud and clear.

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A Big Broken Promise to America's Students and Women

Congress and the Administration have passed a bill that will go down in history not as a beautiful promise fulfilled — but as a **big broken promise** to America's students, working families, and especially to women.

From early learning through graduate school, this bill deals a devastating blow to educational opportunities in America. It **slashes financial aid, eliminates vital student loan programs, and channels public dollars into private voucher schemes** — all while doing nothing to ensure that participating schools uphold civil rights protections.

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What Is the SAVE Act?

The SAVE Act stands for **Safeguard American Voter Eligibility**. It has passed in the House, and has not yet passed in the Senate. It sounds like a safeguard, but it's a smokescreen. It doesn't stop fraud; it stops eligible Americans from voting.

Certain communities could be disproportionately affected, including:

Military members, natural disaster survivors, women, trans voters, anyone with a changed name, rural voters, working class voters, voters of color, older Americans, and Tribal Citizens.

—from the League of Women Voters

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"Historic cuts to SNAP deepen the war on women."

—MS MAGAZINE

Websites: Tulsa Branch—<http://Tulsa-ok.aauw.net/>
Oklahoma AAUW—aauw-ok.aauw.net National AAUW—www.aauw.org
State Facebook—www.facebook.com/AAUWOKlahoma



AAUW Tulsa Branch observed Women's Equality Day, August 26 at Taziki's Mediterranean Café. Hosted by Rose Unterschuetz are l. to rt.: Gwen Hampton, Rose, Linda Brooks, Pam McDonald, Carole Pistole, Kathryn Fisher, and Donna Mathews.



Donna Mathews' T-shirt says it all!

September, 2025 Calendar



September 13 General Membership Meeting . See P.1.

September 13 31st Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

September 14-20 National Postdoc Appreciation Wk.

September 15 Hispanic Heritage Month Begins

September 16 Webinar— AAUW Work Smart: Know Your Value and Get Paid See P. 6.

September 18 Mystery Book Group See Page 3.

September 18 AAUW Fall Member Gathering See Page 6.

September 20 Deadline for October TULSA VOICE.

September 26 Tulsa Branch Book Group See P. 3.

September 30 Webinar: AAUW Money Smart See Page 6.