



Breaking through Barriers

for Women and Girls

American Association of University Women – Austin Branch

April 2010

Volume LXXVIII Number 4

April Activities

April 2 – First Friday Book Review at Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43rd & Ave. B. 10 a.m. *The Sun Also Rises*. Reviewed by Kay Watson. Hostesses: Natalie Balden & Janie Patterson. Kay Watson (447-2883) or Natalie Balden (288-7748).

April 5 – Contemporary Literature at Old Quarry BL. 7:15 p.m. *Fugitive Pieces*. Discussion leader: Sharon Duboise. Fern Chester (345-1102) or Dorothea Berasley (343-0370).

April 9 – Mystery Study Group at Luby's (MOPAC & Steck). 6:30 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. discussion: True Crime (Diane Fanning, Ann Rule, Harold Schhechter).

April 10 – Branch meeting & lunch at Wyndham Hotel, 3401 IH35 & Woodward St. 10 a.m. Speaker: Thomas Jesús Garza, Director of the University of Texas Language Center.

April 11 - PEARS: Attend Mary Moody Northern Theatre matinee performance of "City of Angels" and out to eat afterward. RSVP to hosts Kay and Tom Watson, 447-2883. (Veronica Johnson, 338-1254).

April 12 – Southwest Austin Book Group with hostess & facilitator Mary Braunagel-Brown, 7321 Roaring Springs. 10:30 a.m. *Amigoland* by Oscar Casares (Mayor of Austin's Book Choice for 2010). RSVP: Marsha Endahl Kramer (906-2033 [h] and/or 906-6566).

April 13 – Classic Book Study Group at Ralph Yarborough BL. 7 p.m. *Adam Bede*. Discussion leader: Mary Zeitler. (Evelyn Boyer, 836-1492).

April 13 – Mah-Jongg. 7 p.m. 7920 Mesa Trails Cove. Ann Berasley (837-2250) or Janie Patterson (343-3058).

April 14 – Second Wednesday Bridge. 7 p.m. Call Judy Reinhart (345-5936) for more information.

April 15 – Culture & Cuisine with Janie Patterson, 3516 Lakeland (453-4058). Co-hostess: Nancy Marsden. (Mary Owens, (454-0339).

“FROM DESPOTS TO DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES: THE CHANGING PLACE OF WOMEN IN RUSSIA”



In keeping with our theme “Living in a Global Society” and continuing to build on our recent Women’s History Month activities, our April program speaker will focus our attention toward the women of Russia. Thomas Jesús Garza is University Distinguished Teaching Associate Professor in the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies, and the

Director of the Texas Language Center at the University of Texas. He teaches Russian language and literature, foreign language pedagogy, and contemporary Russian culture.

He lists interests in Russian language teaching methodology, applied linguistics, contemporary Russian culture, the Chechen wars and the media, post-Soviet youth culture, Russian popular culture, modern Russian language, and the contemporary Russian media. He has been traveling to and researching in Russia since 1979 and has lived in Moscow for over six years. He will draw on his experiences and interests to introduce us to some of the cultural changes faced by Russian women--ranging from the despots to the desperate housewives!

A native Texan, Dr. Garza received his doctorate from Harvard University in 1987. During his twenty-year tenure at the University, he has received numerous prizes for undergraduate and graduate teaching, including the Texas Excellence Award, the President's Associates Award, the Harry Ransom Award, was inducted into the University Academy of Distinguished Teachers in 2003, and selected for a Regents Outstanding Teaching Award in 2009. His current research is on the attitudes of Russian youth toward the Chechen wars and conscription, and filmic portraits of *machismo* in contemporary Russian and Mexican culture.

Dr. Garza will be introduced by former UT colleague and past AAUW Branch President Sue Rodi who arranged for him to speak to us on the 13th. As if his credentials weren't impressive enough, I am further intrigued by the titles of some of his published articles! Along with the scholarship, there is a great sense of humor in such titles as “From Aga Khan to Dim Sum: New Russia’s Asian appetite,” “Getting from Gorbachev to Grunge: Constructing Ethnographic Portraits to Introduce Contemporary Russian Culture,” or “‘Ne trosh’ molodez!': Youthspeak and the Russian Language in the 21st Century.”

You definitely don't want to miss this program!

April Activities (continued)

April 17 – Expanding Your Horizons. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Contact Raemar Shown, AAUW/EYH Liaison, to sign up to assist. (258-1069).

April 20 – Light Cuisine. 11 a.m. with Eileen Payton, 10631 Floral Park Drive. Co-hostess: Ramona Nance. RSVP to Eileen, (338-1058). Chair: Veronica Johnson (338-1254).

April 21 – Creative Stitchery. Hostess: Jan Roberts (3710-0762) & co-hostess Gail Simpler (834-9481). (Dorothea Berasley, 343-0370).

April 22 - 40th Anniversary of Earth Day
<http://www.earthday.net/earthday2010>

April 23-25 - AAUW Texas State Convention. Houston (Marriott Westchase, 1900 Briarpark Dr.). The Winter 2010 issue of *University Woman Texas!* contains complete information and registration forms for attending the convention. If you have not received your copy, you can download the complete issue in PDF format from the AAUW Texas homepage:
<http://www.aauwtexas.org/>

April 27 – Mah-Jongg. 7 p.m. 7920 Mesa Trails Cove, Ann Berasley (837-2250) or Janie Patterson (343-3058).

April 28 – Art Tour Group. 10 a.m. Host Kay Watson. Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum, 605 Robert E. Lee Road, alongside Zilker Park. Admission is \$2.50 for seniors and \$3.50 for all others. Free parking is available on site and across the street. (Chair: Diane Brewer, 328-0474 & phone liaison: Fern Chester, 345-1102).

April 28 – Fourth Wednesday Bridge. 7 p.m. Call Sarah Ezell (343-8394) for more information.

Every Thursday – Bridge at the Senior Center. 9:30 a.m. Call Dorothy Ramsey (442-3841) for more information.

From Membership Committee

Spring is almost here and that means it's once again time to renew your membership in the Austin Branch for 2010-2011. There are no increases in dues again this year, so the membership renewal will be the same as last year: \$75 for Branch Member, \$26 for Life Member and nothing for Honorary Member. As always, your check should be made out to "AAUW" with "2010-2011 membership" in the "For" blank.

Judy Reinhart (345-5936)

RESERVATIONS, DIRECTIONS, LUNCHEON MENU

Reservation reminders are sent electronically by **Dorothea Berasley** one week before the meeting; you can simply reply to her e-mail or you can telephone her at 343-0370 to make your reservation. Whichever method you choose, she must receive reservations or cancellations by 7 p.m. on the Wednesday before the Saturday meeting.

The menu for the April luncheon includes blackened chicken Alfredo, seasonal fresh vegetables, a salad, bread, dessert, and tea and/or coffee. The cost is \$20 for a timely reservation with payment to be made the day of the luncheon; a check is preferred or you need to have the correct change. The Branch must pay for all reservations made, so a member who does not keep a reservation or make a timely cancellation will be billed for the full cost of the luncheon. If a member arrives without a reservation and expects to eat lunch, the cost of the meal is \$30. In this situation, please check in with Dorothea (reservations) and **Evelyn Boyer** (treasurer) at the registration table to determine availability and to make payment; do not approach hotel staff directly as this is a business transaction to be handled by the treasurer.

By the 6 p.m. Wednesday deadline, Dorothea also needs to know if you are attending the program but not staying for lunch or if your luncheon reservation has any special dietary requirements such as a vegetarian meal. Seating for members and guests attending only the meeting/program is in chairs set up separately for those at the luncheon tables, so it is important to let Dorothea know that you will be attending the program even if you are not staying for the luncheon. The April 10 meeting will be at the Wyndham Hotel as all our meetings have been this year, and the last program of the year will be there on May 8.



From l to r: Faye Freeburg, Melissa Simpler, Gail Simpler, Mary Ellen Scribner

At the March Branch meeting, we were fortunate to have Melissa Simpler, CEO of Affinegy, Inc., speak about the importance of having a dream, doing what fuels your passion, and being persistent—and sometimes just being patient—in reaching your goals. Gail Simpler is Melissa's mother-in-law, and her guests for this special occasion included Melissa's mother, Faye Freeburg, as well as Melissa's friend Denise Gentsch.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE CULTURE & CUISINE GROUP

Culture and Cuisine is another Branch study group; its origins go back to the 1980s when it met at the home of Hildegard Everett. Hildegard had a large kitchen so we met there to cook the meal; she bought the supplies and the cost was divided among the participants. There were usually eight or nine cooks, and we would then eat dinner together. We chose a country such as Germany, France, or China and sometimes a group of countries or region such as the Middle East.

We did a lot of Oriental cooking, and probably at the first dinner someone demonstrated rice cooking. Once we were cooking a Chinese dinner, and some of the spices were so strong that all the cooks but Hildegard had to run to the front door and out of the house. We just left Hildegard stirring, and the odors must have cooked down because we had no trouble eating the dinner later!

Culture and Cuisine stopped meeting for several years, but the group resumed in September 1996 with an emphasis on cultures and ethnic groups in the U.S. and abroad. We had two people as cooks, and they prepared the dinner as we still do today. Dr. Vi Marie Taylor was the first chairman for the restarted study group. The hostess decided the theme--a country she had visited or found interesting. Sometimes we did different regions of the U.S., and one year we focused on England and Scotland. We also provided information on the food and customs of the country.

The group now meets on the third Thursday of each month, September through May, at a different person's



home each month. The hostess is assisted by a co-hostess, and together they decide on the country whose cuisine will be featured. In February we met at the home of Marsha Endahl Kramer, and her co-hostess was Gail

Simpler. The featured cuisine was that of France, primarily that of Province. We enjoyed several different wines from France, Perrier water, and several French cheeses including Brie, Boursin and Bleu served with crackers. Other items on the menu included mussels in white wine, dips, and crudités. The main dish was boeuf bourguignon from Julia Child's *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* (1961), and accompaniments included clay-baked baby red potatoes, French green beans with hollandaise sauce, salad, croissants, and French fig preserves. For dessert we had lemon raspberry flan and French vanilla pirouettes, mini-pâtisseries, along with French vanilla coffee. Throughout the evening guests browsed displays of French cookbooks, travel books of France, and aromatherapy oils with guidelines. Members shared their experiences of travels in France and enjoyed each other's stories.

During the year we have also enjoyed the cuisines of Greece, Germany, Egypt, and Mexico.

(Compiled by Mary Owens & Janie Patterson)

44th BIENNIAL AAUW TEXAS CONVENTION HOUSTON, APRIL 23-25

The Winter 2010 issue of *University Woman Texas!* contains everything you need or want to know about what promises to be an outstanding convention in Houston on April 23, 24, 25. If your copy got "lost in the mail," log on to the AAUW Texas website www.aauwtexas.org to register, choose workshops, read speaker and candidate biographies, study proposed bylaws changes, and even sign up for a tour of Bayou Bend, the former home of Miss Ima Hogg (1882-1975) and now a museum housing an amazing collection of Americana. If you are interested in room sharing and car-pooling to Houston, or serving as a Branch delegate, call Inés Garcia (251-7212). The Austin Branch is eligible for seventeen delegates, and those names need to be submitted as soon as possible.

Even if you are unable to attend the convention, you will want to purchase raffle tickets for the hand-made (by Jan Roberts & Dorothea Berasley) quilt from Anita Knight at the April Branch meeting. The tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. The proceeds benefit the Ann Richards American Fellowship Fund.



GENTLY USED PURSES WANTED

Kay Watson wants your purse(s)—the one(s) you no longer use for whatever reason! There is still time to bring them to the April meeting before the deadline.



The First Friday Book Review Group is supporting the Handbags for Hope project of the Texas Advocacy Project and the Travis County Sheriff's Office. New or gently used purses will be used to put information on domestic violence into more women's hands. The handbags, which will be given to the women by their children as gifts, will have the Texas Advocacy Project's domestic violence hot line number stitched inside.

"Many victims of domestic violence leave their partner in the middle of the night," said Heather Bellino, the nonprofit's spokeswoman. "Usually they bring nothing with them except their children and purse." Bellino said pamphlets with phone numbers and resources often end up in the trash or taken away by an abuser. Discreet information stitched into a purse could make a difference in finding legal help, she said, adding that the Texas Advocacy Project offers its services for free.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND REPORT

AAUW works to break down educational and economic barriers so ALL women have a fair chance.

This Value Promise guides case support decisions for LAF's expansion from a focus only on cases arising in the academic context to considering those that arise in any workplace. Along with this expansion, LAF is concentrating on identifying strategic cases that may provide significant protection for women in the future.

Consistent with these transitions, LAF has instituted new procedures for establishing case support eligibility. Now, to be eligible for LAF support, cases must:

- Address a workplace issue within AAUW's mission such as discrimination related to economic security, education, civil rights, or Title IX. The workplace can include college and university campuses.
- Have the potential for significance with respect to future cases and the likelihood to set or reinforce precedent that will discourage gender discrimination and benefit women.
- Be filed in state or federal court, preferably at the appellate level.
- Request support to advance the legal case. Financial support will not be provided to reimburse personal expenditures.
- Have litigants who are willing to engage in branch visits and make appropriate public appearances with AAUW.
- Allow AAUW to publicize support for the case internally and externally, including in the media, on the website, and in electronic and print communications.

AAUW offers both financial and nonfinancial support to selected applicants, including: funding for court filing fees, preparation of briefs, filings, and other case-based costs, plaintiff court travel, and specified immediate essential plaintiff needs. AAUW can also offer nonfinancial support, including: signatory of an amicus brief, an official statement of support, AAUW members at the court, and AAUW members at a rally.

Case recommendations are welcome from many sources, including collaborating organizations, lawyers familiar with appropriate cases, AAUW members, and AAUW affiliates who have knowledge of important cases.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to LAF to help balance the scales of justice for women. Make your check out to AAUW Funds and note for LAF. Send it to me—Gail Simpler, 9451 Singing Quail Dr., Austin, TX 78758-6134. I will forward all contributions from branch members to the Association Office with the appropriate paperwork for branch recognition. Please contact me if you have any questions—834-9481.

Gail Simpler, LAF VP

EF COMMITTEE REPORT

The Branch Educational Foundation Committee raised \$3,000 last year from our members and their families and friends for scholarships, fellowships, and community grants, and the new year has begun with a commission check from Collin Street Bakery for 2009 purchases. Many thanks to the following for their purchases: Nancy Arrigona, Mrs. M. W. Bell, George Berasley, James Black, Mrs. David Evans, Claire Ducker, Janie Patterson, Pat Pukett, Judith Bergum, Larayne Dallas, Betty Owen, Judith Bergum, Marsha Endahl Kramer, Louise Gardiner, Inés Garcia, and Raemar Shown.

I am fairly sure there were more of you who supported EF with purchases. If this list (sent from the bakery's records) doesn't include your name, please call me so that I can report it to the club supervisor, Xina Mathews, who will "code" your name so that the next time you order, AAUW will get credit! When you order, go online or check your catalogue to see the items, but please do phone Xina Mathews directly to order (1-800-504-1896). If you call after hours, she will return your call promptly. Our "club" number is C012. Many thanks!

Marsha Endahl Kramer, Acting EF VP

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FOCUS

Forty years after the first Earth Day, the world is in greater peril than ever. While climate change is the greatest challenge of our time, it also presents the greatest opportunity--an unprecedented opportunity to build a healthy, prosperous, clean energy economy now and for the future.

Earth Day 2010 can be a turning point to advance climate policy, energy efficiency, renewable energy and green jobs. Earth Day Network is galvanizing millions who make personal commitments to sustainability. Earth Day 2010 is a pivotal opportunity for individuals, corporations and governments to join together and create a global green economy. Join the more than one billion people in 190 countries that are taking action for Earth Day.

Global Days of Service – April 17-18 - Join millions around the globe to make your community and the world cleaner and more sustainable.

Learn more at

<http://www.earthday.net/earthday2010>.

Mary Ellen Scribner, International Relations

2010 MAYOR'S BOOK CLUB CHOICE

The ninth annual selection of the "Mayor's Book Club" is *Amigoland* by local author Oscar Casares. *Amigoland* tells the story of two estranged, elderly brothers living on the Texas-Mexico border. Don Fidencio, a cranky 91-year-old, is living unhappily in the nursing home Amigoland, while his younger brother Celestino, a retired barber and recent widower, has taken up with a much younger woman, Socorro. Don Fidencio holds onto selected memories, the strongest being the old family story he heard from his grandfather, telling how the grandfather was kidnapped as a child from his village in Mexico by the Indians who murdered his family, taken across the Rio Grande, and there abandoned. Told with warmth and a spot-on humor--at times both hilarious and poignant, *Amigoland* takes the reader from the Texas border and into Mexico as these three characters unite to make an unlikely search for the origins of Fidencio's story.

Austin Public Library, in conjunction with the Mayor's Office, Austin Public Library Friends Foundation and the University of Texas Humanities Institute, launched the current annual citywide reading campaign in December to develop a community experience through reading and discussion of a shared book. All of Austin is invited to read the book and then join together in special events and programs February through April 2010.

The Southwest Austin Book Study Group is ahead of most of the rest of us and will discuss *Amigoland* at its April meeting, but we are invited to join them! (See calendar for more details.) For more information about citywide events, you can call 512-974-7400 or visit www.cityofaustin.org/library.

BRANCH COMMUNICATIONS CONTACTS

Telecommunications Coordinator: **Dorothea Berasley** – auw-austin@abcglobal.net - (343-0370)

Newsletter Editor: **Mary Ellen Scribner** – (255-8428) – mscribner@austin.rr.com - The newsletter deadline is 9 a.m. on the 20th of the month.

New Branch Member Marina Grant has a BA from UT and a JD from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, California. She is a member of the Austin Bar Association and several other professional organizations as well as a life member of Texas Exes!

Marina Grant – 1108 Lavaca St., Apt.110;
Austin, TX 78701 – 512.366.5336 (H) –
mpgrant@austin.rr.com

Change of E-Mail Address:

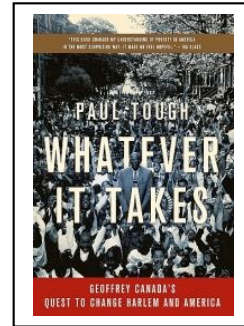
Cherie Wilson = cheriewilson@g-mail.com

Possible New Study Group?

Anyone else remember those vicarious trips a Travelogue Study Group used to enjoy every month at the Howson BL? Unless my long-term memory is not as good as I think it is, Janie Patterson was the chair—right Janie? The travel experience changes one’s perspective on the world and one’s relationship to Earth’s lands and people. It feeds our intellects, nourishes our souls, and opens us to an understanding and acceptance of others who are different from ourselves—essential in this global society. Adrian McCulloch and I are thinking of restarting or starting a new version of a travel study group—perhaps something along the lines of Not Your Ordinary Tourist in which we would share our experiences, possibilities, new ideas, discoveries, etc., in a variety of ways. Book reviews, illustrated talks, panel discussions, slide shows (mostly digital these days!), or guest speakers are just some of the possibilities. If you are interested in a study group like this or have suggestions, please shoot me an e-mail in the next few weeks or call me in the evening. I’m working until the end of the semester and Adrian is visiting longtime friends in Japan for three weeks, so an e-mail works best right now!

Mary Ellen Scribner

Acclaimed Author Speaking at Mainspring Schools’ Annual Luncheon



Mainspring Schools is proud to present

Paul Tough

speaking not only about poverty, but also about what can be done to make a difference right here in our community.

April 29, 2010 • 11:30 until 1:00 • Mansion at Judges’ Hill • 1900 Rio Grande • \$100 per Ticket Limited Seating Available • Order tickets at 442-2301 or www.mainspringschools.org

"This book changed my understanding of poverty in America in the most surprising way: it made me feel hopeful."

~ Ira Glass, host of "This American Life"

AUSTIN BRANCH OFFICERS 2009-2010 (Executive Committee)

- Inés Garcia – President – 251.7212 – garines@sbcglobal.net
 - Kay Watson – President-Elect – 447.2883 – kwatson@austin.rr.com
 - Linda Leff – Program Vice President – 302.4373 – lkleff@earthlink.net
 - Judy Reinhart – Membership Vice President – 345.5936 – jareinhart@att.net
 - Juanita Painter – Secretary – 345.2713 – jgpainter@sbcglobal.net
 - Evelyn Boyer – Treasurer – 836.1492 – evelyn.boyer@dshs.state.tx.us
 - Elizabeth Newell – Association Vice President – 345.1686 – enewell4@austin.com
 - Gail Simpler – Legal Advocacy Vice President – 834.9481 – gsimpler@mail.utexas.edu
 - Rosemary Morrow – Past President – 251.7212 – rmorr5@sbcglobal.net
 - Mary Ellen Scribner – Newsletter Editor – 255.8428 – mscribner@austin.rr.com
- Note: Educational Foundation Vice President - Vacant