



# Breaking through Barriers

for Women and Girls

American Association of University Women – Austin Branch

December 2009

Volume LXXVII Number 10

## December Activities

**Dec. 1** – Evening Book Review at Yarborough BL 7 p.m. *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson reviewed by Sharon Duboise. Evelyn Boyer (836-1492).

**Dec. 2** - Creative Stitchery. Luncheon at Women's Club arranged by Kay Goodwin. Projects for spring: quilted bags and accessories. (Dorothea Berasley, 343-0370).

**Dec. 4** – First Friday Book Review at Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43<sup>rd</sup> & Ave. B. 10 a.m. – Ramona Nance will review a Christmas story. Hostesses: Angie Clark and Judy Reinhart. Kay Watson (447-2883) or Natalie Balden (288-7748).

**December 7** – Contemporary Literature at Old Quarry BL 7 p.m. – *The Woman behind the New Deal; the Life of Frances Perkins, FDR's Secretary of Labor and His Moral Conscience*. Discussion leader: Kathie King. Fern Chester (345-1102) or Dorothea Berasley (343-0370).

**Dec. 8** – Classic Book Study Group at Ralph Yarborough BL 7 p.m. *Dragon Seed* by Pearl S. Buck. Discussion leader: Evelyn Boyer. (Evelyn Boyer, 836-1492).

*The Past Presidents of the Austin AAUW Branch invite all members to a holiday open house on Sunday, December 13, 2 to 4 p.m. Harris Bell Hall, Westminster Manor, 4100 Jackson Avenue.*



*Please park on the north side of the building and enter through the Health Center entrance. Sign in at the nurses' station and then proceed to the elevator located behind the nurses' station. Exit the elevator on the third floor where Harris Bell Hall is located. Anyone who wishes to bring a plate of holiday treats to share is welcome to do so.*



Past Branch Presidents present for the November anniversary of the founding of the Austin Branch (1923-2009).

## November Activities (continued)

**Dec. 8** - Mah-Jongg. 7 p.m.  
7920 Mesa Trails Cove. Ann  
Berasley (837-2250) or Janie  
Patterson (343-3058).

**Dec. 10** - Mystery Study  
Group at Luby's (MOPAC &  
Steck). 6:30 p.m. dinner; 7  
p.m. discussion: A cozy  
(Peter Abresch, Maureen Ash,  
Carola Dunn). Pat Bennett  
(342-1744).

**Dec. 13 – Past Presidents’  
Holiday Open House for all  
members. Westminster  
Manor, 4100 Jackson  
Avenue. 2-4 p.m.**

**Dec. 14** - Southwest Austin  
Book Group. Lunch at Green  
Pastures. RSVP or for more  
information: Marsha Endahl  
Kramer (906-2033 or  
[HughMarsha@aol.com](mailto:HughMarsha@aol.com)).

**Dec. 17** – Culture & Cuisine  
with Veronica Johnson, 7600  
Cat Tail Cove. 6:30 p.m.  
RSVP 338-1254. (Mary  
Owens, 454-9339).

**Dec. 18** – PEARS. Holiday  
party at home of Veronica &  
Don, 7600 Cat Tail Cove,  
6:30 p.m. RSVP to Veronica  
(338-1254).

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

## Newest Branch Member

**Ethelwyn “Etta” Endahl** is  
the mother of Marsha Endahl  
Kramer and at the November  
meeting, she became a dual  
member of the Austin and  
Boca Raton, FL, Branches. –  
[ehendahl@bellsouth.net](mailto:ehendahl@bellsouth.net)

## IMPORTANT LUNCHEON RESERVATION PROCEDURES

In response to requests from the Wyndham Hotel and a decision by the Branch Board, the luncheon reservation procedures have been fine-tuned just in time for the beginning of a new decade! The cost of the luncheon will remain \$20 for a timely reservation with payment made the day of the meeting; a check is preferred or you need to bring the correct change.

Dorothea will send a reminder e-mail one week before the meeting; you can simply reply to her email to make your reservation or you may call her at 343-0370. Reservations or cancellations MUST be received by 6 p.m. on the Wednesday before the Saturday meeting because Dorothea e-mails the Wyndham at that time—a compromise with the hotel as they wanted to receive the reservations one week in advance.

Because the Branch must pay for all reservations made, a member who does not keep her reservation will be billed for the full cost of the luncheon. If a member arrives without a reservation and expects to stay for lunch, the cost of the meal is \$30. In this situation, please check in with Dorothea (reservations) and Evelyn (treasurer) at the registration table to determine availability and to make payment; do NOT approach hotel staff directly (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 attending only the meeting/program will be in chairs set up separate from those at the tables for luncheon attendees. Thus, it is important to let

Dorothea know that you will be attending the meeting/program but not staying for lunch so that the hotel will know how many additional chairs to set up.

Making our reservations on time seems like a New Year's resolution we can all keep!

## CONTACTS & COMMUNICATIONS

**Telecommunications Coordinator (Reservations):** Dorothea Berasley - (343-0370) - [auw-austin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:auw-austin@sbcglobal.net)

**Newsletter Editor:** Mary Ellen Scribner - [mcribner@austin.rr.com](mailto:mcribner@austin.rr.com) (255-8428); {Newsletter deadline is 9 a.m. on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.}

**2010 Program Dates:** January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8.

## Looking Ahead

**April 15, 2010.** Income tax day. Elizabeth Newall reminds us that \$46 of our Association dues are tax deductible.

**April 17, 2010.** Expanding Your Horizons. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Contact Raemar Shown, AAUW/EYH Liaison, to sign up to assist. (258-1069)

**April 23-25, 2010.** AAUW-Texas State Convention. Houston, Texas, (Marriott Westchase, 1900 Briarpark Dr.).

## Location of Westminster Manor, 4100 Jackson Avenue



## IN MEMORIUM

### Dr. Isabel Wheeler June 9, 1929 - October 22, 2009



Dr. Isabel Crichlow Wheeler was born June 9, 1929, in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and passed away October 22, 2009, in Paris, Tennessee. She was married June 23, 1956 to Raymond Turner Wheeler, who died October 1, 1987. She was a retired English teacher at Bethel College where she taught for over twenty years and oversaw the school newspaper and yearbook. She was a member and former program/membership services administrator of Delta Kappa Gamma Society Int. in Austin for ten years; a member of the America Association of University Women; Alpha Phi Sorority; University of Missouri Alumni Association; Ohio State University Alumni Association; St. Louis University Alumni Association, where she received a PhD in English Literature; past president Atkins-Porter Elementary School PTA. Dr. Wheeler is survived by her daughters, Sophia (John) Capelli of Lake Forest, IL; Daisie Boettner of West Point, NY; Lucy (Jeff) Presson of Puryear, TN; and Laurie (Tomas) Hult of Okemos, MI; grandchildren, Paul, Katherine, and Emily Capelli, Sarah and Elizabeth Boettner, Eric and Troy Ofnowicz, and Daniel and Isabelle Hunt.

The family requests that memorials be sent to the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Golden Gift Fund, P.O. Box 1589, Austin, TX 78767. Be sure to state that your gift is in honor of Dr. Isabel Wheeler.

### AUSTIN BRANCH OFFICERS 2009-2010 (Executive Committee)

Inés Garcia – President – 251-7212 – [garines@sbcglobal.net](mailto:garines@sbcglobal.net)

Kay Watson – President-Elect – 447-2883 – [kwatson@austin.rr.com](mailto:kwatson@austin.rr.com)

Linda Leff – Program Vice President – 302- 473 –

[kleff@earthlink.net](mailto:kleff@earthlink.net)

Judy Reinhart – Membership Vice President – 345-5936 –

[jar@att.net](mailto:jar@att.net)

Juanita Painter – Secretary – 345-2713 - [jgpainter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jgpainter@sbcglobal.net)

Evelyn Boyer – Treasurer – 836-1492 – [Evelyn.boyer@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:Evelyn.boyer@dshs.state.tx.us)

Elizabeth Newell – Association Vice President – 345-1686 –

[Enewell4@austin.rr.com](mailto:Enewell4@austin.rr.com)

Gail Simpler – Legal Advocacy Vice President – 834-9481 –

[gsimpler@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:gsimpler@mail.utexas.edu)

Rosemary Morrow – Past President – 251-7212 - [rmorr5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rmorr5@sbcglobal.net)

Mary Ellen Scribner – Newsletter Editor – 255-8428 –

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Note: Educational Foundation Vice President - Vacant

**Austin Branch LAF Fundraiser Update**

A good time was had by everyone who attended the LAF benefit November 18 at Ten Thousand Villages. Eleven branch members staffed the fair trade shop, greeting and assisting all the shoppers. Special thanks go to Veronica Johnson for spearheading the event. Veronica and Nancy Myers are regular volunteers throughout the year for the store. And an extra-special thanks goes to Ten Thousand Villages which donated ten percent of the store sales between 5 and 9 p.m. (\$255) to LAF. It wouldn't have been possible without the many AAUW members and others who found treasures large and small to purchase. If you weren't able to come to Ten Thousand Villages for the special shopping night, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to LAF to help balance the scales of justice for women. Make your check 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 Austin Branch recognition. Please contact me at 834-6134 if you have any questions. Thank you for your generosity, and happy holidays to all!



**November 2009 Case Update:** Oral arguments for the LAF-supported case *Mansourian et al. v Regents of the University of California, et al.* were heard by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in October. Kristen Galles, the plaintiffs' lawyer, said the following about the oral argument, "It went great! Based on the questions and comments by the judges, I feel very optimistic that we will get a strong decision out of it. It was helpful for us to have so many civil rights groups submit amicus briefs on our behalf. It raised the profile for the court. Thanks again to AAUW for signing on to the amicus brief written by

the National Women's Law Center. We hope to have a written decision within six months." If there is a positive outcome, the case will be remanded for trial in the district court. This case illustrates how signing amicus briefs allows AAUW to influence the outcomes of strategic cases.

For the latest LAF news, visit the [AAUW website \(http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/laf/\)](http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/laf/).

Contributed by Gail Simpler, Legal Advocacy Vice President

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE ART TOUR STUDY GROUP



Admiring the Laguna Gloria gargoyles!

What great fun we had in 1991 when Dorothy Sullivan's husband drove a group of us to Brenham to visit the Antique Rose Emporium and the antique carousel in the city park. It was enchanting to listen to the calliope and watch the horses go round and round and up and down. Who knew art encompassed such a broad spectrum! Over the years that I have participated in the Art Tour Study Group, I have had many interesting experiences and had my horizons expanded.

Because the Austin area is blessed with many local artists, local galleries, and some fine museums, the opportunities to experience and enjoy art are mind-

boggling. At the University of Texas we have enjoyed exhibits at the Blanton Museum of Art (formerly the Huntington Art Gallery), the Tarleton Law Library, and the Ransom Center. At the Huntington we were given the opportunity to visit the Conservation Department, and the behind-the-scenes look at the care and expertise necessary to validate, evaluate, and preserve works of art was most informative. In addition to local museums such as the Austin Museum of Art, the Umlauf Sculpture Garden, the Elisabet Ney Museum, the Mexic-Arte Museum, the Carver Museum, and the City Hall, we have traveled to art galleries in Wimberley, the Hummel Museum in New Braunfels, and the Benini Foundation in Johnson City.

Daryl Howard, David Demmings, Damion Pryor, Michael Atkinson, Maxine Price, Linda Dumont, and Eileen Pestorius are some of the local artists whose studio we have visited. Several of the artists have given us demonstrations of how they work which always amazes a non-artist like me! Other interesting tours have included finding the outdoor murals in Austin, visiting glass-blowing studios, watching pottery creation, trekking through the Texas State Cemetery, having a pre-opening tour of the Long Center, and watching a slide show world tour of museums provided for us by member Roxanne Williamson.



Our success and access to these events are possible only through the efforts and cooperation of our members who are always on the lookout for interesting and different venues. A big thank you goes to Tom Watson who arranged our most recent tour to Laguna Gloria.

Our chair this year is Dianne Brewer, and she is doing an outstanding job. We meet the fourth Wednesday of the month except for November (third Wednesday due to conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday) and December (no meeting) at 10 a.m. and usually finish by 11 or 11:30 a.m. If any of these artists and activities intrigue you, please join us and open your eyes to the wonderful world of art right here in Austin!

Contributed by Nancy Myers

# United Nations Human Rights

## Human Rights Day 2009 – December 10

*“Discrimination lies at the root of many of the world’s most pressing human rights problems. No country is immune from this scourge. Eliminating discrimination is a duty of the highest order.”*

Navi Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Human Rights Day 2009 on 10 December will focus on non-discrimination. **“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”**. These first few famous words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights established 60 years ago the basic premise of international human rights law. Yet today, the fight against discrimination remains a daily struggle for millions around the globe.

“Our main objective is to help promote discrimination-free societies and a world of equal treatment for all,” says the High Commissioner who this year will mark Human Rights Day in South Africa.

She encourages people everywhere - including the UN family, governments, civil society, national human rights institutions, the media, educators, and individuals - to seize the opportunity of Human Rights Day 2009 to join hands to embrace diversity and end discrimination.

The realization of all human rights - social, economic and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights – is hampered by discrimination. All too often, when faced with prejudice and discrimination, political leaders, governments and ordinary citizens are silent or complacent.

Yet every one of us can make a difference. You are encouraged to celebrate Human Rights Day by advocating non-discrimination, organizing activities, raising awareness and reaching out to your local communities on 10 December and throughout 2010.

Learn more at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/HumanRightsDay2009.aspx>

Contributed by Mary Ellen Scribner, International Relations

### Inés says...

As 2009 draws to a close, we are immersed in a multitude of local, state, national, and international issues and debates. We are fortunate to belong to an organization that constantly attempts to help us understand the essence of each issue and the pros and cons of the debates. Being the proactive women that we are, our goal is to be as informed as we can be and prepared to support and fight for our positions. The AAUW Washington Update identifies the Stupak Amendment, health care, and unemployment insurance policies, as only some of the many hot topics that will keep us glued to the media for the latest developments this holiday season. Please try to rise above the debates and enjoy your families and friends while we give thanks for our many blessings. I hope that you will find time to volunteer a bit of your talent and some of your valuable time to a worthy cause this holiday. This recession has caused countless folks to lose jobs and seriously struggle to support their families, and the needs are many in our country at this time.

Thank you to all who supported the Legal Advocacy Fund by shopping at Ten Thousand Villages on November 18. We will once again be able to generously contribute to this important fund that provides women with the assistance they need as they try to redress wrongs in the workplace.

Make plans to join our Austin Branch family at the Holiday Open House on December 13, 2009. The site and time for the tea are Westminster Manor from 2 to 4 p.m. Best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season.

