



Breaking through Barriers

for Women and Girls

American Association of University Women – Austin Branch

May 2011

Volume LXXVIV Number 5

MAY ACTIVITIES

May 2– Contemporary Literature at Old Quarry BL. 7:15 p.m. *The Whistling Season*. Discussion leader: Beverly Locklin. Also book selections for next year. Fern Chester (345-1102) or Dorothea Berasley (343-0370).

May 3 – Classic Book Study Group at Ralph Yarborough BL. 7 p.m. *Cakes and Ale* by Somerset Maugham. Discussion leader: Mary Zeitler. Chair: Evelyn Boyer, 836-1492.

May 6 – First Friday Book Review at Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43rd & Ave. B. 10 a.m. *Mao's Last Dancer* by Cunxin Li. Reviewed by Janie Patterson. Chair: Natalie Balden, 288-7748.

May 9 – Books & Brunch Southwest with hostess & facilitator Ruth Falck. 10:30 a.m. *Saving Cee Cee Honeycutt* by Beth Hoffman. RSVP: Marsha Endahl Kramer (906-2033 [h], 906-6566 [c]) or hughmarsha@aol.com.

May 10 – Mah-Jongg. 7:00 p.m. 7920 Mesa Trails Cove. Ann Berasley (837-2250) or Janie Patterson (343-3058).

May 11 – Second Wednesday Bridge. 4 p.m. Call Judy Reinhart (345-5936) for more information.

May 14 – Branch meeting & lunch at Wyndham Hotel, 3401 IH35 & Woodward St. Dr. Sylvia Garcia will present Branch fellowships to the four women who are the 2011 winners. Registration: 9:45 a.m. Program: 10:15 a.m.

May 14 – PEARS – Party, party, and plan for next year with Mary Frances & David Rogerson, 2022 Goodrich Avenue, 78704 next year. (394-5688). 6:30 p.m.

MAY PROGRAM HONORS FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS



The UT Fellowship Committee, chaired by **Dr. Sylvia Garcia**, has announced that the Austin Branch will award four fellowships of \$2,000 each for the 2011-2012 academic year. **Dorothy Vance** and **“Larie” Amsler** assisted Dr. Garcia in the difficult selection of four recipients from a field of outstanding applicants.

They are **Sharon Adams** in the field of geography and the environment; **Laura R. Crothers** in the Integrative Biology, Ecology Evolution and Behavior Program; **Charlotte Nunes** in English; and **Melody Zoch** in Language & Literacy Studies, Curriculum & Instruction, the College of Education.

In her dissertation “Encountering El Tigre: Jaguars and People in the United States,” **Sharon Adams** explores the relationship between jaguars and humans in the Southwestern United States. Her study covers the fields of geography, environmental, animal and borderlands studies as she examines the symbolic and physical meaning of borderlands. Ms. Adams is a Scholar in Residence at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C.

Laura R. Crothers examines how variation in male coloration evolved in the strawberry poison-dart frog of Panama in her dissertation, “Determining how Selection on Male Brightness Shapes Warning Color Evolution in a Polymorphic Poison Frog.” She hopes to make a contribution to the field of aposematic signal evolution, the use of colors by animals to advertise their toxicity to predators and their attractiveness to mates. She volunteers at the Texas Natural Science Center and teaches biology to disadvantaged students through the Longhorn Scholars and TIP programs.

“‘This Novel Social Fabric’: Transnational Anti-Imperialism and British Literary Modernity, 1913-1936,” is the title chosen by **Charlotte Nunes** for her study of the relationship between the work of six literary figures who wrote between the two World Wars and the development of human rights discourse in an era of decolonization. Ms. Nunes has mentored undergraduates as a Fellow of the Rapoport Center for Human Rights.

Melody Zoch is conducting a yearlong ethnographic study of an Austin elementary campus that primarily serves bilingual students for her dissertation, “Literacy Teaching Practices and Teachers’ Response to Reform: An Ethnographic Study of an Urban Elementary School in Times of Change.” She will focus on the literacy teaching practices of teachers within the context of state and national reforms. Ms. Zoch works with the National Writing Project at the local and national levels.

At the May 14 meeting, Dr. Garcia will formally present the fellowship awards, and each recipient will talk briefly about her dissertation research.

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MAY ACTIVITIES (continued)

May 16 – AAUW (Action, Armchair, Unparalleled, & Wannabe) Travelers. 2-3:30 p.m., Ralph Yarborough Library, 2200 Hancock Drive. *Indonesia* with Carol Fritz plus planning for next year. Co-chairs: Mary Ellen Scribner (255-8428) ; Adrian McCulloch (820-1917).

May 17 – Light Cuisine - Out to Lunch – Planning meeting, La Madeleine Bakery Café & Bistro, 9828 Great Hills Trail at the Arboretum. 11 a.m. Hostess: Sara Ezell (343-8494).

May 18 – Creative Stitchery. Hostess: Angie Clark (258-5668). Chair: Dorothea Berasley, (343-0370).

May 19 – Culture & Cuisine with Anneliese Ellerton; 8016 Chervil Drive, 78759 (241-8425). Potluck dinner with planning for the coming year. 6:30 p.m.

May 24 – Mah-Jongg. 7: 00 p.m. 7920 Mesa Trails Cove, Ann Berasley (837-2250) or Janie Patterson (343-3058).

May 25 – Art Tour Group. 10 a.m. Planning meeting for 2011-2012 with brunch at the home of hostess Mary Frances Rogerson; 2022 Goodrich Avenue, Austin, 78704; (394-5688). Do plan to attend this important annual meeting for our group! Parking available on street and behind the Rogerson's SoLa home. Chair: Diane Brewer (328-0474).



May 25 – Fourth Wednesday Bridge. 4 p.m. Call Sarah Ezell (343-8394) for more information; hostess & location change monthly.

Every Thursday – Bridge at the Senior Activity Center. 9:30 a.m.-12 noon. Call Dorothy Ramsey (442-3841) for more information.

MAY PROGRAM (continued)...

This last Branch meeting of the year will be at the **Wyndham Hotel, 3401 IH35 & Woodward St.**, and registration will begin at 9:45 a.m. with the introduction of the fellowship recipients beginning at 10:15 a.m. The luncheon menu is grilled tilapia filet topped with mango chutney with couscous and seasonal fresh vegetable sides served with a house salad, rolls & butter, chef's choice dessert, iced tea, regular and decaffeinated coffee or hot tea. 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.

Sylvia Gregory <aauw.satgreg@yahoo.com> needs your reservation by 6 p.m. on Wednesday before the Saturday meeting. She also needs to know if your luncheon reservation has any special dietary requirements such as a vegetarian meal, if you are attending the program but not staying for lunch, and the name of any visitors you are bringing even if they are not making a lunch reservation.



LETTER RECEIVED FROM MAINSPRING SCHOOLS

Mainspring Schools
1100 West Live Oak
Austin, TX 78704
2/25/2011

AAUW
c/o Betty Owen
2506 Rae Dell
Austin, TX 78704



Dear Betty,

I want to send our thanks to the AAUW for the wonderful meeting here, the generous gifts to the School, and the very kind emotional support that was expressed to me by so many members. It really makes a difference to know that good people are wishing you well in your hard work.

And, of course, my deepest thanks for the Scholarship money. Kelly Cavanaugh, the recipient, is taking two classes and planning to take two every semester until she completes...all while working full-time in a very demanding job! She could not have done it without your support.

What an amazing group of women you are! I'm honored by your friendship.

Sincerely,
Rudy Andrus
Executive Director

Membership Renewals

Membership renewal time is here again for the 2010-2012 program year. During the first two weeks of May, you will receive a renewal letter, a revised member information form, and when possible, a copy of the information we have in our database about you. We will have a few incentives for early renewals and hope that you will respond as soon as you receive your material. Some material will be sent by e-mail and some by "snail mail." We know this has been an outstanding year for programs, special events, fundraisers,



and much improved communication ranging from our wonderful yearbook to the resources coming from our national organization. Our dedicated board has

worked hard this year to insure that each member feels connected to AAUW, its mission and its legacy, and I hope that as we celebrate 130 years since our official "founding,"



you will once again choose to continue your affiliation. If you have any membership questions or concerns please contact Membership VP Marsha Endahl Kramer 512.906.2033 (cell); 512.906.6566 (home); or HughMarsha@aol.com.

One Member, One Vote

"One Member, One Vote" will allow for the very first time 100,000 AAUW members to vote on amendments and the next board of directors for our national AAUW organization. (Previously only delegates to the national convention could vote.) As of this newsletter, the paper ballots are in the mail. ONLY those paper ballots can be used--no photocopies and no duplicates will be issued so please keep your ballot safe until you have voted. You may, however, choose to vote on-line starting May 1, 2011, but must use your member number and the code provided in that letter. If you need any help, please contact Marsha Endahl Kramer. She or any one from the membership committee (Natalie Balden, Peggy Holland, Veronica Johnson, Janie Maldnado, Gail Simpler, Ginny Tannebring, and Dorothy Vance) will be more than happy to assist you!

You will see that you can only vote for three "members at large" from a long list of nominees. We know you are aware that there has been a movement in the recent past to eliminate the need for any type of degree for membership

which would allow anyone who supports the AAUW mission to join. Your board of directors voted before the last convention, and several times have confirmed that the majority of our Branch continues to believe that members should have earned at least a two-year associate degree. You can see in our yearbook that most have at least a bachelors and many have masters and doctorates. We



continue to welcome members with two-year degrees. We strongly believe, however, the degree requirement sets us apart from other community groups which are involved with education. We hope you will take

time to research the beliefs of candidates—you can e-mail or call them about their stand on this issue if you so chose. Several branch board members have offered to check out the stands of the candidates and make that information available to our members if they ask! We certainly respect your right to differ in belief about this issue, but we are hoping many of our 165 members will help to elect



members at large who will work to retain the degree requirement. No matter which candidates you choose, please do exercise your democratic right to vote! Mailed ballots must be post-marked by May 31, and on-line voting must be completed by June 17, 2011.

To access the One Member, One Vote online system, log in using your member ID and then select One Member, One Vote from the left navigation. To login to the Member Services Database (MSD), you must first enter your Member ID below. Then, re-click the MSD link in the left navigation to access the MSD login page.

Submitted by Marsha Endahl Kramer, Membership Vice President

BRANCH BULLETIN BOARD

Girls In STEM Conference Is Big Success!

Tamara Hudgins, Girlstart executive director and recent new AAUW member, reported that the Girls In STEM Conference held March 26 at the University of Texas Teaching Center was the best attended ever. Almost five hundred girls, 495 to be exact, participated in the daylong event. AAUW Austin Girlstart liaison **Adrian McCulloch** (pictured with her granddaughter, a conference participant)



reported that Branch members contributed 101.5 volunteer hours the day of the conference checking the girls in before the conference and some then serving as floor monitors throughout the day. AAUW volunteers were **Natalie Balden, Lilac Bauer, Evelyn Boyer, Fern Chester, Anneliese Ellerton, Marina Grant, Veronica Johnson, Anita Knight, Marsha Endahl Kramer, Adrian McCulloch, Nancy Myers, Betty Owen, Mary Owens, Donna Preibisch, Judy Reinhart, Susan Richardson, Mary Ellen Scribner, Sharon Duboise, Raemar Shown, Gayle Smith, Ginny Tannebring, Martha Van Sickle, Dorothy Vance, and Dale Willimack.**

Member Spotlight



Linda Young, Special Assistant to the President for External Affairs at Austin Community College District in Austin, Texas, has more than twenty-five years experience in higher education, including instruction, curriculum development, and administration,

fourteen of which has been with the ACC District. Young graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor's degree of Science, from San Houston State University with a Master of Arts, and has completed all coursework for the Ph.D. at Texas Women's University.

Her work with Austin Community College began when she implemented the first grant development department of Austin Community College District, where she established operational guidelines and department policies, and was successful in securing millions in grant funding for ACC. She has served as special assistant to three presidents of ACC. Her responsibility for External Affairs includes Governmental and Community Relations, developing and staffing the legislative

program for the college; oversight of two nonprofit organizations (the Center for Community Based and Nonprofit Organizations and the Center for Public Policy and Political Studies); and administration of the ACC Alumni Program, the Stimulus Response Office, and College Elections and Annexations.

Prior to coming to ACC, Young worked in the Research and Policy division of the Texas Attorney General's Office, and served as Executive Director of a startup state agency for five years, gaining recognition through that small agency for the state both nationally and internationally. In that capacity, Young was one of only two Americans, and the only woman presenter, with the European Alliance's 1996 Conference, where she presented before the conference as a guest of British Parliament.

Linda has worked as a registered lobbyist for a variety of organizations and institutions in the past, and has owned her own company, providing consulting services for a range of public and private organizations. Recent experience includes working with development of sustainable communities, and with promoting green jobs. She serves on the Branch board as higher education liaison.

Submitted by Marsha Endahl Kramer

On the Way to a Billion Acts of Green

For over forty years, Earth Day—April 22—has inspired and mobilized individuals and organizations worldwide to demonstrate their commitment to environmental protection and sustainability. The world's largest environmental advocacy and service project is the Earth Day 2011 theme—A Billion Acts of Green! You can pledge an act of green at <http://act.earthday.org/>.

When I asked Branch members to share some of their 'acts of green' for the newsletter, **Mary Owens** replied, "I had two drippy faucets repaired this week. Does that count?" You bet it does! Did you know that an American home can waste, on average, more than 10,000 gallons of water every year due to running toilets, dripping faucets, and other household leaks? Nationwide, more than 1 trillion gallons of water leak from U.S. homes each year. That's why there is a national Fix a Leak Week to remind Americans to check their plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems each year. It was March 14-20 this year, but don't wait until next year to do something about a leaky faucet!



Water (continued on page 5)

Water (continued from page 4)

Anita Knight e-mailed more advice for saving water, “Water conservation is one of the most important things to do! As an environmentalist and National Wildlife Federation Habitat Steward, I also collect rain water in two rain barrels for use on plants around the house, as well as plant native plants which are more adaptable to our dry hot climate. I also save some residual cooking water from veggies like spinach and broccoli for putting on potted plants outside--if that does not go into people soup, it is full of vitamins and minerals that plants can use. City of Austin has a website, plus lots of educational materials (for scouts, etc.) on water conservation; their 3 C's are Commit, Calculate and Conserve.” You can subscribe to the City of Austin’s “Water Wise” e-newsletter at <http://www.enebuilder.net/watercon/>.



Veronica Johnson says, “We recycle everything we can. I always bring home the extra papers, bottles and cans from events I attend...my honey, Don purchased a Prius in January!”

If you used the carbon footprint calculator (<http://www.earthday.org/>), you probably realized what I did—that it would make a significant difference if I consumed more locally produced food. Thanks to **Adrian McCulloch**, I knew just where to start making changes! The Angel Valley Farm sells its lovingly grown and very fresh produce on Wednesdays 10:00-2:00 in NW Austin at the Asian American Center, 11713 Jollyville Road (1-1/2 blocks north of the intersection of Jollyville and Duval). Go to <http://angelvalleyfarm.wordpress.com/> and subscribe to their blog so that you will know what will be available each week. Is there a south Austin dweller among us who can recommend a farmer’s market more convenient to other parts of town?

Austin to Mark World Refugee Day on Saturday, June 18, 2011

Time: Saturday, June 18, 2011, Noon – 3:00 PM ◊
Location: The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum
◊ Cost: FREE, open to the public, and offers variety of activities for the whole family.

Austin’s festivities are in observance of the United Nations World Refugee Day commemorated annually on June 20. Don’t miss the music, the food provided by Catering by Rosemary, and an assortment of different activities to enjoy—an international fashion show, crafts, face painting and more! Experience different cultures as representatives from the different refugee communities will share special music and dancing from their countries. The events commence with a naturalization ceremony which will swear

in new citizens who had come to Central Texas as refugees. Join Interfaith Action of Central Texas, The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, Catering By Rosemary, Heart of Texas Peace Corps Association, Multicultural Refugee Coalition, The Refugee Health Screening Clinic, Refugee Services of Texas, Center for Survivors of Torture and the United Nations Association, USA, Austin Chapter, as we honor the unique journeys of refugees living in Austin, welcome them to our community and celebrate the richness and diversity that they bring.

Currently, there are 43 million uprooted people in the world under the protection of UNHCR. Less than 1% will be fortunate enough to be resettled in another country that has a formal refugee resettlement program. For this year alone, the U.S. is planning to accept and resettle a total of 80,000 refugees.

Lu Zeidan, director of refugee services for Interfaith Action of Central Texas, was a panelist and guest of the Branch for the April program. She explained the resettlement process to us, presented statistics regarding Austin’s refugee community, and described the services that IACT works very hard to provide to refugees once they arrive in Austin. Between October 2010 and February 2011, 2,423 refugees were resettled in our community. Of that total, the largest number came from Myanmar (937), Iraq (511), and Bhutan (403). IACT’s financial and facilities resources are limited, so any and all volunteer efforts are greatly appreciated. Refugee families are typically three generational, and each generation has its own particular needs. Listening to Lu talk about those different needs, it is apparent that with our Branch membership’s own age range and variety of experience, we have a tremendous volunteer capacity! We can tutor, teach English and other essential skills, prepare and serve meals in the Square One Lunch Program, help with citizenship preparation, etc. Lu hopes that many of us will e-mail her to volunteer in existing programs and to suggest other ways in which we might be useful: lzeidan@interfaithtexas.org.



Lu Zeidan answers questions about IACT’s refugee services at the April Branch meeting.

AAUW Austin Branch Membership Survey

The survey sent to Austin AAUW Branch members in March 2011 was not intended to be a statistically verifiable instrument but was instead, designed to provide a snapshot of the organization that could be used to inform short-term planning of programming, projects, membership campaigns, etc. A disappointingly low number of twenty-seven members of 163 (at the time) responded. However, the low response rate (represented 16.5 percent of membership) is significant in itself, and a great deal of useful data was gathered.

Although the anecdotal data is still being analyzed using the model that I used when evaluating schools for accreditation, the numerical data has been tallied and presents a capsule view of Branch membership. Ten responders have been members of AAUW for more than twenty years, and seven of those have been a member of the Austin Branch for more than twenty years. Eight have been a member of AAUW for between eleven and twenty years, and seven have been a member of the Austin Branch for the same period of time. Six have been an AAUW member for four to ten years, and eight have been Branch members for the same period of time. Three responders have been AAUW members for three or less years, and five have been in the Branch the same period of time.

Twenty responders said that they regularly attend the monthly program/meeting/luncheon while two said they do not attend the Saturday events. One attends the program/meeting but does not stay for lunch, and one wrote that she doesn't attend "as much as I used to." Nineteen responders said that they belong to one or more study groups with four belonging to one, six belonging to two, seven belonging to three, and three belonging to four. One wrote "not currently" implying that she had participated in a study group at some point in the past.

When I have completed analyzing the patterns of the narrative comments, I will write a summary and make it available first to the board and then to all Branch members.

Mary Ellen Scribner

AUSTIN BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2010-2011

- *Kay Watson – President – 447.2883 – kwatson03@austin.rr.com
- *Dr. Linda Leff – Program Vice President – 302.4373 – lindaleff@gmail.com
- *Marsha Endahl Kramer – Membership Vice President – at 906.2033 (H); 906.6566 (C) - HughMarsha@aol.com
- *Dorothy Vance – Secretary – 373.3612 (H); 673.9696 (C) – arnoff321@cs.com
- *Inés Garcia – Treasurer & Yearbook Chair – 444.5643 – mig43@sbcglobal.net
- Elizabeth Newell – Parliamentarian – 345.1686 – enewell4@austin.rr.com
- Dr. Rosemary Morrow – Bylaws and Standing Rules – 251.7212 – rosemary.morrow@tea.state.tx.us
- Anita Knight – AAUW Funds Co-Chair – 329.8575 (H); 922.4469 (C) – dbasknight@aol.com
- Gail Simpler – AAUW Funds Co-Chair – 834.9481 – gsimpler@mail.utexas.edu
- Sylvia Gregory – Telecommunications Co-Chair - 345.2420 – aauw.satgreg@yahoo.com
- Dorothea Berasley – Telecommunications Co-Chair - 343.0370 - aauw-austin@sbcglobal.net
- Mary Ellen Scribner – Newsletter Editor & International Affairs Chair – 255.8428 – mescribner@alumni.utexas.net
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- Janie Maldonado – Historian – 339.7742 or 414.4223 – jamaldonado@austinisd.org
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- Judy Reinhart – Study Groups Chair– 345.5936 – jareinhart@att.net
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- Dale Willimack – Diversity – 288.0913 – dwillimack@austin.rr.com
- Dr. Sylvia Garcia – UT Fellowship Chair – 288.6745 – gar04317@yahoo.com
- Linda Young – Higher Education Liaison – 233.7889 – lyoung@austincc.edu
- Betty Owen – Mainspring Schools Advocacy Chair – 444.6015 – wrigleyac@gmail.com
- Adrian McCulloch – Girlstart Liaison – 820.1917 – adrian.mcculloch@gmail.com
- Dr. Carol Fritz – Public Policy – 837.6835 – carolfritz@ymail.com

*Indicates elected officers; all others are appointed.