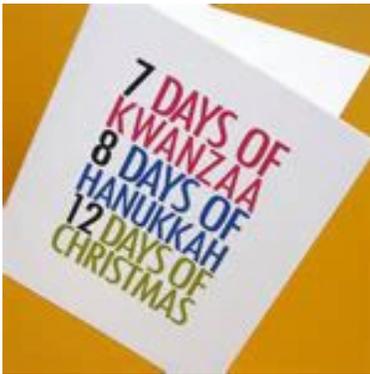




## American Association of University Women AAUW Austin (Texas) Branch

### HOLIDAY SOCIAL IS DECEMBER 14 AT WESTMINSTER MANOR



Take an afternoon off from your busy holiday preparations to share conversation, conviviality, and of course, tasty refreshments with AAUW Austin friends. Past branch presidents are hosting a holiday social at Westminster Manor's fifth floor solarium from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 14. A surprise guest author will visit around 4:00 p.m. Westminster Manor is located at 4100 Jackson Avenue. There is plenty of parking beside the newest building where a shuttle will drive visitors and residents to the main building. Ask inside for the shuttle if its not present when you are there. Contact Program VP **Judy Reinhart** (512.345.5936) for more information. No reservations are required but an RSVP (if you are attending) to Membership VP **Diane Brewer** at 512.328.0474 or [zdramamom@austin.rr.com](mailto:zdramamom@austin.rr.com) would be appreciated.

### JANUARY 10 BRANCH MEETING WILL BE AT THE GIRLSTART STEM CENTER LOCATED AT 1400 WEST ANDERSON LANE

The January 10 branch meeting features a breakfast buffet and a panel discussion of "Challenges, Strengths in Austin Public Schools Today" by three experts on the topic. Michael P. O'Malley, Ed.D. is Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education, and School Psychology at Texas State University in San Marcos. A former secondary school teacher, assistant principal for academic affairs, and principal, Dr. O'Malley earned his doctorate in education from Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, and holds degrees in philosophy and theology. Jennifer Griffis is program manager at *Communities in Schools* which is a dropout prevention program. Through campus-based programs and special projects, *Communities In Schools* creates a network of volunteers, social services, businesses, and community resources that work together to break down barriers and help students succeed. And the formula works: last year, 99% of the students intensively served by *Communities In Schools* stayed in school. The third panelist is Janie Ruiz who is principal of AISD's Gullett Elementary School and has been with the district since 1989. This program

has been planned and will be hosted by **Freda Bryson**, branch public policy chair. Program VP **Dr. Janet Widoff** may also be contacted for more information.

A breakfast buffet preceding the program will begin at 9:30 p.m. and will include scrambled eggs with choice of breakfast meat, croissants, muffins, rolls, and fruit selection, coffee, tea, water. Catered by Corner Bakery, the cost is \$15.00. A reservation is required and should be made to **Diane Brewer** at 512.328.0474 or [zdramamom@austin.rr.com](mailto:zdramamom@austin.rr.com). Watch for an email reminder to make your reservation right after the holidays.

Located at 1400 West Anderson Lane between North Lamar and Burnet Road, the Girlstart STEM Center is easy to find. There is adequate (and permission for) parking in the Lutheran church parking lot across Lazy Lane from Girlstart. Parking along the street by Girlstart is limited so let's leave it for those with handicap parking permits or who have limited mobility. There is a ramp by the entrance door at the corner of Anderson Lane and Lazy Lane.

**PRESIDENTIAL GREETINGS**

**December 2014 Calendar of Branch Activities**

**December 1, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Contemporary Literature:** Old Quarry BL. *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher* (Timothy Egan). Discussion leader: Beverly Locklin. Chair: Fern Chester, 512.345.1102.

**December 3, 10 a.m. Creative Stitchery.** Holiday luncheon arranged by Beverly Locklin. For more information: 512.343.0782 or ([blocklin@austin.rr.com](mailto:blocklin@austin.rr.com)).

**December 5. First Friday Book Review.** Holiday brunch to be held at a member's home. Chair: Gayle Smith (512.345.5585).

**December 6. PEARS.** Holiday party at the home of Mary Frances and David Rogerson. 512.394.5688.

**December 8, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. SW Book Group.** Home of hostess. *The Light between Oceans; a novel.* (M. L. Stedman). Hostess is Mary Kate Fredriksen & facilitator is Anita Knight. Chair: Inés Garcia, 512.444.5643.

**December 9; 4 p.m. Second Wednesday Bridge.** Contact: Lynn Cooksey, 512.477.2774.

**December 14 10 a.m. Holiday Social. 3-5 p.m.** Westminster Manor Solarium. Contact Judy Reinhart for more information: [512.345.5936](tel:512.345.5936)/[jareinhart@att.net](mailto:jareinhart@att.net).

**December 18, 6:30 p.m. Culture & Cuisine.** Hostess: Linda Bush. Co-hostess: Lynn Cooksey. Theme is France. Chair: Anneliese Ellerton (512.241.8425).

**Not Meeting in December**

Out to Lunch  
Hiking  
Art Tour



Holiday greetings from us to our dynamic new and old faithful members! We are looking forward to sharing advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research with y'all in 2015.

Have you visited the branch website [austin-tx.aauw.net](http://austin-tx.aauw.net) recently? Frequent updates and new features are being managed thanks to **Janani Janakiraman** and **Vandana Nayak**. Check it out and tell your friends.

Nominations for president and membership VP can be submitted to nominating committee members **Diane Brewer**, **Elizabeth Newell** and **Marina Rivers**. Co-officers can be considered. Don't hesitate to volunteer or consider suggesting candidates of your choice.

AAUW Austin has promoted sales with Collin Street Bakery for many years, and we receive at least a couple hundred dollars annually in commissions that goes toward our contributions to national AAUW Funds. Although they are famous for their fruitcakes, they have much more to offer than just holiday cakes. Pick up a flyer and order form at branch meetings, or check catalog on their website <https://www.collinstreet.com>. Use our club account of CO12 when you order for yourself or gifts. A classic pecan fruitcake cake and a chocolate cake were sent by Collin Street Bakery to help us promote our holiday cake sales, and these were raffle prizes at our October and November meetings.

Our friends at National Women's Political Caucus tell us that for the first time in history there will be one hundred women serving in Congress! Alma Adams, endorsed by NWPC, ran in a special election in North Carolina's 12th District and will soon be sworn in as the 100th woman in the U.S. Congress. With eighty women representatives and twenty women senators, we have certainly reached a milestone in our journey for women's political parity. However, the 100 women in Congress constitute only 18.6% of the 100 senators and 435 representatives, leaving us still a far cry from 50/50 political representation.

Speaking of public policy, don't forget to submit your comments and suggestions on the proposed AAUW Public Policy Program (PPP) revisions before the December 5 deadline! As you know, the AAUW Public Policy Program (PPP) establishes our organization's federal action priorities. The feedback of members like you is critical to a successful PPP revision. Your comments and suggestions will be used to shape AAUW's advocacy in the future.

Thanks to all who have volunteered to gift wrap at Barnes & Noble book stores. We have the following dates scheduled with the two stores in Austin. Feel free to stop by to shop and visit, and you are still welcome to sign up to help gift wrap for TIP\$—especially for the December 18th shift. Call or email me.

Sunday, Dec. 7th	2-6:00 PM	South Sunset Valley
Tuesday, Dec. 16th	2-6:00 PM	South Sunset Valley
Wed., Dec. 17th	12-3:00 PM and 3-6:00 PM	Arboretum
Thurs., Dec. 18th	2-6:00 PM	South Sunset Valley
Monday, Dec. 22nd	9 AM - 1:00 PM	Arboretum

Anita Knight, Co-President 2014-2015  
[dbasknight@aol.com](mailto:dbasknight@aol.com)  
512.329.8575

**January 2015 Calendar of Branch Activities**

**January 5, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Contemporary Literature:** Old Quarry BL. *Imperial Reckoning: the Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya* (Caroline Elkins). Discussion leader: Dorothea Berasley. Chair: Fern Chester, 512.345.1102.

**January 10, 9:30 a.m. (Change from time printed in year-book) Branch meeting.** Girlstart STEM Center (1400 West Anderson Lane). Buffet breakfast followed by panel discussion of challenges facing public education. (See p. 1 for complete details and making a reservation).

**January 12, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. SW Book Group.** Home of hostess. *Orphan Train* (Christina Baker Kline). Hostess is Lilac Bauer & facilitator is Dixie Schurle. Chair: Inés Garcia, 512.444.5643.

**January 14; 4 p.m. Second Wednesday Bridge.** Contact: Lynn Cooksey, 512.477.2774.

**January 15; 6:30 p.m. Culture & Cuisine.** Restaurant to be determined. Contact: Anneliese Ellerton at 512.241.8425 or [ellerton13@gmail.com](mailto:ellerton13@gmail.com).

**January 20, 11 a.m. Out to Lunch:** Black Walnut Cafe (10817 Ranch Road 2222, Austin, TX 78730). Hostess: Diane Brewer. RSVP to Chair: Ruth Falck (512.550.6449).

**January 21, 10 a.m. Creative Stitchery.** Home of hostess Lynn Cooksey (512.477.2774) and co-hostess Nancy Ellison. (512.264.8404).

(continued next page)

**STEM News**

STEM Opportunity Now!

Dec 8-16: Girlstart needs volunteers to do data entry of the girls' surveys. This is for end-of-semester, not the end-of-school year as I first thought! Call or email me if you want to do one or two hours on a day and at a time of your choice at the Girlstart STEM Center located at 1400 W. Anderson Lane.

STEM Activity Highlights

On October 25 **Larie Amsler, Lilac Bauer, Janani Janakiraman, Anita Knight, Soon Merz, and Vandana Nayak** assisted at the Latinitas' Code Chica Conference, handling the registration and handing out t-shirts and goodie backpacks at the ACC Eastview Campus. **Soon Merz** also worked her magic with ACC and donated bright yellow wristband USB ports which were a big hit!

A big 'thank you' goes to those branch members who made donations to Latinitas at the time they renewed their AAUW membership as it provided apples for breakfast and lunch, and snacks throughout the day for the 57 girls who participated in the conference.

October 30 was the date for the Girlstart Game Changers



Branch members (second from left) Larie Amsler, Vandana Nayak, Soon Merz, Lilac Bauer, Janani Janakiraman, and Anita Knight were joined by a Latinitas volunteer (far left) at the Code Chica Conference.

Luncheon held at the Austin Westin in the Domain. There were over five hundred attendees, including AAUW Austin's **Nancy Myers, Mary Ellen Scribner, Anita Knight, and Lilac Bauer. Anita Knight** also served on the committee to select the women in STEM who were honored at the luncheon for their support of girls and young women in STEM fields.

(continued next page)

**January Calendar of Branch Activities**

(continued from preceding page)

**January 23, 8 a.m. Hiking.**

Commons Ford Park/Waterfall Trail. Leader: Miller Stecker. Contacts: Ginny Tannebring (512.477.3579 / [ginnyz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ginnyz@sbcglobal.net)) or Beverly Locklin ([blocklin@austin.rr.com](mailto:blocklin@austin.rr.com) / 512.343.0782).

**January 28, 2015, 10 a.m. Art Tour.**

Planner: Maggie Kadlecek. Atelier 3-D (East Austin Sculptors' Studio), 701 Tillery Street. Contact: Heather and Steve Dubov at atelier3-d.com or 512.385.1115. Lunch: Hoover's and/or Eastside Café 2002 Manor Road/2113 Manor Road. Chairs: Diane Brewer ([zdramamom@austin.rr.com](mailto:zdramamom@austin.rr.com)) and Maggie Kadlecek.

**January 28, 4 p.m. Fourth Wednesday Bridge.**

Contact Sara Ezell (512.343.8494).

**Every Thursday, 9:30 a.m. Bridge at the Senior Center.**

Call Dorothy Ramsey (512.442.3841) for more information.

Note: The **PEARS** January program has not yet been announced. **First Friday Book Review** will not be meeting in January.

**OPPORTUNITY TO HELP GLOBAL AUSTIN HOST FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12**

Hosts for 10 more students are needed. If this is something you are interested in doing, please go to [www.fulbrighthosting.org](http://www.fulbrighthosting.org) and click on 'Host Application.' This request comes from Margie Kidd at Global Austin (512.215.0140) via Branch President **Anita Knight** (512.329.8575).

(STEM News continued from p. 3)

Thanks to **Larrie Amsler, Mary Braunagel-Brown, Diane Brewer, and Maggie Kadlecek** for donating to sponsor the girl attendees at the luncheon. A big 'thank you' to all members who donated to Girlstart and STEM education with their membership renewals this past July, as that was also used to support the twenty girls attending the program, who were sitting right next to our table!



Nancy Myers, Lilac Bauer, Mary Ellen Scribner, and Anita Knight have fun at the Girlstart Game Changers Luncheon.

"Girlstart After School is the largest program of its kind in the nation and Girlstart Summer Camp is one of the most exemplary and highly scalable STEM education programs." Girlstart is reaching more and more girls who will transform our world!

Coming up in Spring:

Activities are in the planning stage for both the Girlstart Girls in STEM Conference (date requested is April 11(?), and the Latinitas Spring Break Camp (March 16-20 9-12 and 1-4 shifts).



*"Without the Latinitas program, I wouldn't be where I am today. Before joining in middle school, I had no idea what I wanted to do in life. Latinitas opened up the career of journalism to me. The program empowered me to embrace my identity and be proud of who I am. I am a Latina. I am multiracial. I am a strong woman. And I thank Latinitas for that."*

— Brianna, age 19

Lilac Bauer, STEM Chair  
[la\\_azucena@hotmail.com](mailto:la_azucena@hotmail.com)  
512.743.6338

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS with VP Diane Brewer

This has been a very fast month with the election and preparations for the feast of Thanksgiving not long after! In addition, most of our interest groups are planning holiday fun for the month of December, and yet we must be thinking ahead to (brrrrr) January 2015, as we prepare this newsletter!

Speaking of the election, dear member **Monica Guzman** did not make the cut for the new Austin City Council runoff this past month. But in better news, charismatic **Gigi Edwards Bryant**, running for Place 2 on the ACC Board did, earning the most votes in a field of six for Place 2! She told me at this writing that early voting begins December 1 and runs through December 12, with the actual election taking place on December 16th! Let's continue to support her in her bid to make important decisions for Austin Community College. Gigi is our member who knows the value of good public education as she came up in the foster system and yet managed to triumph where others sadly never realized a good life. Gigi knows what it takes to help others succeed. Her branch meeting presentation of a couple of years ago is still one of my lasting favorites. Make a point to vote for Gigi! The runoff will most likely have a very low turnout, so AAUW can swing the vote big time!

A new member of national AAUW importance is member number 173, **Suong M. Vong**. Recently awarded the 2014-2015 National AAUW Career Development Fellowship, she has now become a member of our branch. Suong attended UCLA to earn her bachelor's in East Asian Studies and Asian American Studies, graduating in 2000. She then moved to the LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT Austin and earned a master of public affairs, in 2014. She continues her studies there to achieve her Ph.D.

Suong works at the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Southwest Region, and also serves as regional civil rights director. She is single and enjoys running, quilting, and event planning--a skill that would be very helpful to this branch were she to have some free time! Suong would like to find herself more involved with AAUW Austin, and I am sure, she will, in time. She lives at 10050 Great Hills Trail, Apt. 1408, Austin, TX 78759. Her cell number is 415.513.8675, and at work she can be reached at 214.406.8672. Her email address is [suongvong@yahoo.com](mailto:suongvong@yahoo.com). I hope she can come to some of our gatherings from time to time so that we may get to know her. Welcome, Suong!

Our latest branch meeting on November 8, was held at Austin Playhouse, where 49 members

enjoyed hearing founder and Artistic Director Don Toner speak. In the audience that day were quite a few guests, notably new member **Martha Nieves Ovando, Ph.D.**, who came as a guest of Co-Program VP **Ruth Rubio** that day. Martha took advantage of our Shape the Future membership offer, and is now member #174.

Martha is a professor and graduate advisor at UT-Austin, where she mentors diverse doctoral students. In fact, she was honored as Mentor of the Year in 2010, by the University Council of Education Administration. As a further accolade, UT has honored her by naming The Martha N. Ovando Award to recognize outstanding students in school leadership. She has one daughter, Mayte Antelo-Ovando, and enjoys reading and knitting--take note stitchery group! She volunteers with the non-profit Side by Side Kids and serves as a board member; and those busy hands also work hard in the Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. Catherine of Siena parish in South Austin. We look forward to seeing more of Martha at our branch and interest group gatherings.

Martha began school in Bolivia, but earned her B.A. in bilingual education at New Mexico Highlands University in 1975. She continued there to earn a master's in education administration in 1976. She advanced to a Ph.D. in 1981, at the University of Utah, still in education administration. Martha lives in South Austin at 8806 Coastal Drive, Austin, Texas, 78749-4919. Her home phone is 512.280.2130, and her email address is [mnovando@utexas.edu](mailto:mnovando@utexas.edu). Welcome, Martha, and thank you, Ruth, for introducing AAUW to her! When she has the opportunity, she will bring much to the organization.



Branch members Marina Rivers, Ruth Rubio, and Kay Keys enjoyed a recent tour of the art interest group.

(membership news continues on next page)

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS with VP Diane Brewer

We were delighted by the turnout on November 8, and Toner's audience proved to be most appreciative. We lunched on tasty box lunches arranged by Co-Program VP **Judy Reinhart**. As I looked around the room, I saw that several of you brought other members with you! Great job! Other guests of the day included Charles Brewer, Wendell Harwell (of **Marina Rivers** fame), Tim DeFries, who came along with wife **Larayne Dallas**, **Kathy Mitchell**, **Karen Wood's** daughter, and Krin Perry, a friend of **Inés Garcia** (and mine!) who could be a great member of AAUW were she not so busy with other commitments and writing insightful letters to the editor of the *Statesman*! Another nice surprise was that Stephen Rodi brought former president **Sue Rodi** to the meeting to visit and see old friends. We were so glad to see them both! Along with our two intrepid honorary members **Jerry Cassidy** and **Nancy Myers**, we also had first year members **Monica Benoit-Beatty**, **Judy Cook**, **Resa Dunn**, **Betty Schmidt**, and **Suzy Lindeman Snyder** in attendance. Love to see new people getting involved!

I was grateful to see former **President Elizabeth Newell** return to the branch meeting following successful surgery for breast cancer. Elizabeth has been told that she will not need further treatment! What a blessing!



Lois Shaevel, Maggie Kadlecek, & Betty Owen in Dripping Springs with the art tour interest group

In other member news, **Sylvia Gregory** has moved! She is now at 2301 Dartford Bend, Cedar Park 78613-4331. Her phone and email have not changed. So many of our members are moving to the north and northwest of Austin! Please make note of the change.

The festive holiday social is coming up on December 14, again hosted by our beautiful former presidents, who would really appreciate a head count. Please let me know as usual, if you would like to attend, and it is a PARTY, no cost to you! Contact me at 512.328.0474 or [zdramamom@austin.rr.com](mailto:zdramamom@austin.rr.com).

On Saturday, January 10, 2015, we plan to share yummy breakfasts from the Corner Bakery at the Girlstart STEM Center at 1400 West Anderson Lane, and learn about the challenges and strengths in Austin Public Schools today, from a team of local experts, Dr. Michael O'Malley, Jennifer Griffis, and Janie Ruiz, with Public Policy Chair **Freda Bryson** making the arrangements. Hope to see you then, too. You will be getting a reminder email a short time out, so please RSVP to me as above.

Until then, have a wonderful holiday season and spend it in whichever ways make you happiest! Leadership opportunities are right around the corner! Consider how your contributions could make the branch shine!!

See you next year!

Diane Brewer  
Membership Vice President  
[zdramamom@austin.rr.com](mailto:zdramamom@austin.rr.com)

## NEEDY FAMILY NEEDS HELP

Branch member **Monica Benoit-Beatty** asks branch members to please help the family of a young, abused mother who is trying to make a fresh start in Austin. This courageous woman chose to leave an abusive situation in another state and move herself and two sons across the country despite having no money, adequate clothing, or a vehicle at hand. She has taken advantage of every social service available to her, and she is on the waiting list for every shelter in Austin that serves families.

Your generous donation of any amount to <http://www.gofundme.com/bountifulblessings> will support the following critical needs:

- 1) Temporary housing (either motel or sublet lease) until permanent housing is secured
- 2) Gift cards for food since she's not on food stamps and needs help to support her growing kids
- 3) Winter clothing
- 4) A permanent place to live (small home, duplex, garage apartment) is ideal. Apartment living is not ideal due to kids' sensory overload issues, but will do if it's all she can get.
- 5) Rent & utilities subsidy to bridge the gap in her low income.

For more information and how you can best help this family, contact Monica at 512.689.3464 or [monicabeatty@earthlink.net](mailto:monicabeatty@earthlink.net).

**AAUW and AAUW Austin Support Title IX Advocacy**

On November 24 Nickelodeon’s NICK NEWS producer and crew filmed an episode in Austin about Title IX, featuring our AAUW Title IX champions—Kavya, Priya, Smrithi, and Maanasa. The producers had contacted AAUW in Washington, D.C., and were referred by Lisa Goodnight, senior media relations and marketing outreach associate, to AAUW Austin and these girls. Just like when we had short notice that we were hosting House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s visit to Austin, it was necessary to make arrangements to host the film crew very quickly.



Once again we were able to turn to ACC and our members who work there; **Soon Merz** arranged for the use of a classroom in the ACCelerator (the nation’s largest learning lab) at ACC Highland Campus.\* The girls’ parents quickly invited family, friends, and members of the girl scout troop in which Kavya Ramamoorthy and Priya Ramamoorthy did their Girl Scout Gold Award Projects, also about Title IX.\*\* Branch members **Lilac Bauer, Anita Knight, and Mary Ellen Scribner** plus some ACC students and staff completed a very respectable audience for the NICK NEWS filming.

Austin AAUW is proud to be associated with the message of empowerment these young women are sending to the world. AAUW as a whole continues in its public policy program to advocate:

*Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, including strong promotion of STEM education and comprehensive sex education and vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education rights.*



No broadcast date has been set but we will publicize it widely when one is!



\* If you have not yet seen ACC’s newest campus, the first stage of transformation for Highland Mall, you have missed a minor miracle! Stop by for a look—and don’t leave without a walk-through of the ACCelerator!

\*\* For more information about Title IX history, check out the videos by Kavya Ramamoorthy and Priya Ramamoorthy for their Girl Scout Gold Award Project on our website at bottom of page <http://austin-tx.aauw.net/spotlight/>.