



April 2009
Volume LXXVI1 Number 4

American Association
of University Women



Questions? Contact treasurer Evelyn
Boyer, 836-1492 or
evelyn.boyer@dshs.state.tx.us

Wed., April 8. Call
Dorothea at 343-0370 or e-
mail her at

AUSTIN BRANCH

CAPITAL NEWS

Branch Meeting April 11 at Wyndham Garden Hotel

By Inés Garcia. Program VP

Come at 10:00 a.m. to
the Wyndham Garden Hotel.
The meeting is at 10:30
with lunch following.

Speaker for

International Relations is
Nastaran Kherad, born in
Abadan, Iran, and now a
doctoral student in
Contemporary Persian
Studies at UT Austin.
She is author of *In The
House of My Bibi*. Her
topic is "Women in the
International Setting."

Menu: Chef Salad with

Julienne Ham and Turkey
served on Mixed Field
Greens with Shredded
Cheddar Cheese, Diced Hard
Boiled Egg, Bacon Crumbles,
Tomato Wedges and Croutons.
Served with Ranch Dressing,
Rolls & Butter, Iced Tea,
Regular and Decaffeinated
Coffee or Hot Tea and for
dessert, Lemon Layer Cake.

Members may purchase
coffee from the Coffee Bar
during the fellowship and
networking time.

When making luncheon
reservations, please
indicate any special
dietary needs. Let
Dorothea Berasley know if
you want a vegetarian meal.

The Luncheon is
\$20.00. A check is
preferred or bring exact
change.

Reservations or
cancellations must be
received by 6:00 p.m. on

Directions

The Wyndham Garden
Hotel, 3401 IH 35, is on
the northeast corner of IH
35 and Woodward St.
north of Ben White Blvd.
It is across IH 35 from St.
Edward's
University. There is
adequate parking in front
of hotel on IH 35.

Speaker At Branch Meeting is Nastaran Kherad

By Margie Kidd

Nastaran Kherad was
born in Abadan, Iran. At
age two, following the
sudden death of her father,
she moved to Shiraz, a
beautiful garden city, to
live with her maternal
grandmother, Bibi. Bibi
told Nastaran countless
stories, traditional
prayers, and simple wisdom.

When she was six, her
mother and brothers came to
live with them, turning
Bibi's house into a
microcosm of the clash of
cultures that was Iran in
the 1970's. Nastaran
established a special bond
with her brother Mohammed
who introduced her to the
world of ideas, literature
and art.

Her memoir, *In the
House of My Bibi*, which

Mark Your Calendar

April 11: **Branch Meeting** at
10:00 a.m. at Wyndham
Garden Hotel, 3401 S IH 35.
International speaker is
Nastaran Kherad, born in
Iran, and a doctoral
student in Contemporary
Persian Studies at UT
Austin. Nastaran will
talk about her life and her
memoir *In the House of My
'Bibi*; copies will be
available for purchase.

April 23: **Take Our
Daughters and Sons to Work
Day**

April 24: **Statue of
Barbara Jordan** to be
unveiled April 24 on
UT campus from noon to 1:00
p.m. followed by a
reception. The statue is
north of the Student Union.

April 28: **Equal Pay Day**

AAUW Dues 2009-2010

Membership renewal and dues
notices will be sent out in the near
future. The Austin Branch proposes to
continue the current Branch dues of
\$16.00; Texas state dues will remain
\$10; and National dues will remain at
\$49, for a total of \$75.

Life members will continue to pay
\$26 for Branch and State dues; and
there is no charge for Honorary Life
members.

offers a deeper understanding of a country and its people as well as a powerful account of her imprisonment at age 18 on trumped-up charges.

In 1986, Nastaran left Iran spending four years in Germany and then six years in the Los Angeles area earning bachelor's and master's degrees at California State

University-Long Beach. She is now a doctoral student in Contemporary Persian Studies and Exile Literature at UT Austin.

From the Austin Branch President

By Rosemary Morrow, Ph.D.

Best wishes go to Janie Patterson as she recovers from a fall sustained while line dancing. The AAUW-Austin Branch wishes Janie a speedy recovery. Special thanks to Janie's daughter, Nancy, for helping to get the newsletter published.

March was a busy month with the Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund Committees hosting fundraisers. In addition, several members helped with Expanding Your Horizons. Thanks to Marsha Endahl Kramer, Melinda Townsel, and Raemar Shown and the members of their committees for their leadership in making these special events successful. Thanks to all members who participated.

The April 11 AAUW-Austin Branch meeting will focus on international women's issues. The branch business meeting will start at 10:30 a.m. at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, 3401 South IH 35. Elections of new officers will be on the agenda. Following the business meeting, Nastaran Kherad, a doctoral student in Contemporary Persian Studies and Exile Literature, at The University of Texas at Austin, will be the guest speaker. Special guests will be international women who are studying in the Austin area.

Thanks to all of the officers and committee members for the successful March activities, and thanks to the ladies who have agreed to have their names placed on the ballot for officers for next year. The branch needs the help of all of the members to keep it a thriving organization that promotes the AAUW mission of "advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research, and speaks to women's needs, aspirations, and concerns across the life span."

RECYCLED READS

AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY'S USED BOOKSTORE

The Austin Public Library has opened a new bookstore for its old books. Located at 5335 Burnet Road (just north of North Loop), its hours are: Tuesdays 10 AM - 4 PM, Thursdays 3 PM - 9 PM, and Saturdays and Sundays 12 noon - 5 pm. Telephone: 512-323-5123. Donations accepted during open hours or call for an appointment. To volunteer for the bookstore, call 512-974-7400.

In Memoriam

Condolences from the Austin Branch for **Patricia Kaplan** who passed away on Tuesday, February 17. Her daughter Ruth Kaplan had a wake for her on March 24th at Metz Elementary after school. Pat had been doing volunteer work for the school. Pat was active in the Classics Book Study Group.

Outstanding Austin Woman: Nancy Myers

Nancy Myers was recognized as an "Outstanding Austin Woman" at the Ten Thousand Villages' International Women's Week celebration on March 13th with a reception at their store at 1317 South Congress.

Nancy was recognized for her generosity and sharing her knowledge and wisdom in her volunteer activities. She is always willing to share her knowledge with the organizations she supports.

She has been active in AAUW for over 50 years, serving in many board positions. She currently works on a number of committees. She uses her career experience in finance in AAUW and was the treasurer for T.W.I.S, T., a group of technical women that supported Expanding Your Horizons, a program for junior high girls to learn about math and science. She continues to work with Expanding Your Horizons.

Nancy and her husband Gene volunteer at Ten Thousand Villages. Her generosity covers both in giving significant money to LAF and EF, AAUW programs and her time beyond the call. She has supported women's issues forever and graduated with a math degree in 1949 when that was not a women's role.

Mainspring Luncheon

By Mary Ellen Sims, Chair

The staff at Mainspring Schools was quite busy on March 16 with a teachers training program and the lunch provided by our branch was most welcome. Many thanks to Larie Amsler, Anita Knight, Natalie Balden, Dale Willimack, Raemar Shown, Martha Endahl Kramer, Dorothea Berasley, Betty Owen, Janie Patterson,

Nancy Myers and Judy Reinhart for providing food and fellowship for this annual event.

Austin Branch Officers 2008-2009

Executive Committee

Dr. Rosemary Morrow, President	251-7212
Inés Garcia, President-Elect	444-5843
Inés Garcia, Program VP	444-5643
Dr. Carol Fritz, Membership VP	837-6835
Elizabeth Newell, Association VP	345-1686
Marsha Endahl Kramer, EF VP	906-2033
Melinda Townsel, Legal Advocacy VP	223-6003
Juanita Painter, Secretary	345-2713
Evelyn Boyer, Treasurer	836-1492
Dr. Sue Rodi, Past President	926-9750
Janie Patterson, Newsletter Ed.	453-4058

"Keep the Change until Women Have Real Change"

On January 29, President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into Law. Now AAUW is urging the Senate to act swiftly on the Paycheck Fairness Act.

According to new data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2007 the ratio of women's and men's median annual earnings reached almost 78 cents on the dollar for full-time year-round workers, up from just under 77 cents in 2006.

AAUW's campaign to "Keep the Change until Women Have Real Change" focuses on the fact that the increase of only one penny is not real change. While women have been hard at work to earn that extra penny, Congress has failed to pass legislation that would give women effective equal pay. **Equal Pay Day in 2009 is April 28.**

We can help through the AAUW Action Network and by sending "Keep the Change" e-cards to friends. Go to aauw.org if you are not already on the Action Network and/or to send e-cards.

A report of the Gender Equity Task Force at The University of Texas at Austin in Nov. 2008 notes that for all UT Austin faculty the average female salary is 72.3 percent of male faculty. The percentage for female full professors is higher at 89.6 percent. However only 16.6 percent of full professors are female.

Statue of Barbara Jordan to be Unveiled April 24 on UT Campus

A statue of civil rights champion Barbara Jordan will be unveiled at The University of Texas at Austin on April 24 from noon to 1:00 p.m. followed by a reception.

The ceremony celebrates the life of Jordan, the first African American woman from the South to serve in the U.S. Congress and commemorates the unveiling of the first statue of a prominent female public figure honored in the 125-year history of the University.

The bronze statue, crafted by California artist Bruce Wolfe, will be placed in the Battle Oaks area north of the university's student union. The statue unveiling is the culmination of a seven-year project, initiated by a group of women students and supported by the administration of the university and The University of Texas System Board of Regents, the Texas legislature and the Governor of Texas.

Slate of Officers for 2009-2010

By Judy Reinhart, Chair, Nominating Committee

President: Inés Garcia -- Inés, currently the Branch Program VP and Acting President Elect, retired from the Texas Education Agency as the Director of Languages Other than English in 1997. At TEA, she developed a teacher exchange program with the Ministry of Education and Culture in Spain, which is still in place and active.

President Elect: Kay Watson -- Kay retired with 31 years of experience as a Rehabilitation Counselor with the Texas Rehabilitation Commission plus some years in the same field in Michigan. She joined the Austin Branch soon after retirement in 2003.

Branch Program VP: Dr. Linda Leff -- Linda, who is a retired English teacher from Oklahoma State University, has been chair of International Relations and Public Policy during her six years membership in the Austin Branch.

Membership VP: Dr. Carol Fritz -- Carol, active in city, state and national elections and an usher for several theaters, moved here from New York and Pennsylvania and is currently serving as Membership VP.

Association Program VP: Elizabeth Newell --Elizabeth, a retired chemistry teacher with AISD who has served in many positions including President (2000-2001), is currently serving as the Association Program VP.

Educational Foundation: VP: To be announced.

Legal Advocacy Fund VP: Gail Simpler -- Gail, who recently retired from The University of Texas at Austin as the Assistant to the Chairman of Aerospace Engineering, has served in every position during her 41 years of membership in AAUW.

Secretary: Juanita Painter -- Juanita, who retired from AISD as Director of the Home Bound Teacher, and a fairly new member of the Austin Branch, is currently serving as Secretary.

Treasurer: Evelyn Boyer -- Evelyn, who is Team Leader for the Drinking Water Group at the Department of State Health Services, is chair of the Evening Book Review and Classics study groups, active member of the Book Review and Mystery study groups, and is currently serving as Treasurer.

Address Change

Inés Garcia, 6310 Abilene Trail, Austin 78749

Study Group News

AAUW offers many ways to help you keep active. Scan the activities listed by the study groups. If you would like to consider participating in one, contact that group chair and let her explain in greater detail.

AAUW Art Tour: Meets 4th Wed. at 10:00 a.m. On April 22 **Planning Meeting** at Marsha Endahl Kramer's home. Call Marsha 906-2033. Chairs: Natalie Balden (288-7748), Diana Brewer (328-0474), Dorothy Horsley (331-7700) and Fern Chester (345-1102).

Book Review: Meets first Fri. at 10:00 a.m. at Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43rd and Ave. B. **On April 3, Kay Watson will review *The Real Story of Hansel and Gretel* by Louise Mu. On May 1 Natalie Balden will review *Saving Fish from Drowning* by Amy Tan.** Chairs: Kay Watson (447-2883) and Natalie Balden (288-7748).

Second Wednesday Evening Bridge: At 7:00 p.m. with rotating hostesses and various locations. Chair is Judy Reinhart (345-5936).

Weekly Bridge: Meets Thurs. from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Senior Activity Center (for over 55), W. 29th at Lamar. Chair is Dorothy Ramsey (442-3841).

Fourth Wednesday Evening Bridge at 7:00 p.m. with rotating hostesses and various locations. Chair is Sara Ezell (343-8494)

Classics Reading Group: Meets 2nd Tues. at the Ralph Yarbrough Branch Library, 2208 Hancock Dr. at 7:00 p.m. **April 8** Annette Haslund will lead the discussion on *The Mill on the Floss* by George Eliot. Chair is Evelyn Boyer (836-1492).

Contemporary Literature: Meets first Mon. at 7:15 p.m. at the Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center Drive, off Far West. On April 6, Wreatha Leonard will lead the discussion on *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. Chairs: Fern Chester (345-1102), Dorothea Berasley (343-0370).

Creative Stitchery: Meets 3rd Wed. at 10:00 a.m. On April 15, Hostess: Jan Roberts, 5942 Highland Hills (371-0762). Co-Hostess: Dorothea Berasley (343-0370). Project is Hawaii Quilting. Chairs are Pat Dooley (280-0446) and Dorothea Berasley (343-0370).

Culture and Cuisine: Meets third Thur. at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in cuisine of other cultures, we welcome you to our study group. Each member serves as hostess or co-hostess once a year. Guests are welcome as space allows. RSVP to the hostess or Jan Roberts so sufficient food will be available. Costs are shared. Due to dancing mishap there will be no April French Dinner. Chair is Jan Roberts (371-0762).

Evening Book Review: Meets 1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Ralph Yarbrough Library, 2200 Hancock Dr. On April 7, Evelyn Boyer will review *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. Chair is Evelyn Boyer (836-1492)

Light Cuisine: Meets 3rd Tues. at 11:00 a.m. The hostess will be responsible for getting her home ready and furnishing beverages, bread and napkins. The co-hostess is responsible for food preparation. On April 21 the hostess is Natalie Balden, 8917 Hachita Drive (288-5748). Co-hostesses are Ramona Nance (331-7699) and Phyllis Partnoy (280-7730. Chair is Betty Owen (444-6015).

Mah-Jongg: Play an ancient Chinese game, according to rules of National Mah-Jongg League. Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday (April 14 and 28). Co-chairs are Ann Berasley (837-2250), Janie Patterson (453-4058).

Mystery Group: Meets 2nd Thursday. Networking and food at 6:30, Meeting at 7:00 at Luby's at MoPac and Steck Ave. On April 9, Setting -- Someplace you have lived. May: Join Sisters in Crime, for mystery writer events throughout the month. E-mail will be sent to everyone signed up to attend the Mystery Group. Anyone interested in reading mystery books is welcome. Chair: Pat Bennett (342-1744).

Pears: Meets as scheduling allows. Details of each activity will be in monthly newsletter. To attend events, reservations must be made with hosts. Theater and restaurant evenings are Dutch treat. **Will meet on May 9th.** Natalie and Harry Balden are planning a Spring Fling at their home, 8917 Hachita Drive (345-0144). Chair is Veronica Johnson (38-1254).

Meeting Notification

By Dorothea Berasley

Members will be notified of Branch Meetings and Luncheons by the Newsletter or send e-mail to **aauw-austin@sbcglobal.net** or call 512/343-0370.

Let me know **if we do not have your e-mail address or if it has changed.**

ONE WRONG STEP LEADS TO A GREEN STEP

By Nancy Patterson

Since Newsletter Editor Janie Patterson is currently "mobility-challenged", this newsletter is being sent to you by "green mail". We are sorry for the inconvenience but we see it as a great opportunity to go green! No wasted paper, no wasted ink, no driving to the post office, no printing costs, no postage costs. You can read it on your screen at Zoom 200% without your reading glasses!

