



American Association of
University Women
AAUW Austin (Texas) Branch

**MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL & OPEN HOUSE TO KICK
OFF 2013-2014 YEAR FOR AAUW AUSTIN**

A decorative border surrounds the central text, featuring colorful streamers in shades of purple, blue, and orange, and scattered confetti in various colors like yellow, red, and blue.

The American Association of University Women
Invites YOU to our
Celebrate Austin AAUW
Membership Social

Sunday August 18, 2013, 3 – 5 pm

Place: Parish Hall

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

Exposition @ Windsor Blvd.*

Join a powerful voice for women!

*3201 Windsor Rd., Austin, TX 78703
(Map & parking information on p. 4)

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This annual event for members, potential members and guests is an exciting opportunity to:

- ◆ Hear about the programs and activities being planned for the year ahead;
- ◆ Sign up for a variety of interest groups (book groups, art tours, bridge, culture & cuisine, etc.) that meet throughout the year;
- ◆ Learn about new action & service groups (public policy topics, mentoring, STEM, social awareness, etc.) that are being developed;
- ◆ Catch up with AAUW friends after the summer break;
- ◆ Join in celebrating the Branch's ninetieth birthday and other accomplishments!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from Anita Knight

Both nationally and locally, your AAUW does not quit for the summer. Your branch program, membership and PR committees have been busy, meeting and planning for the coming program year. Come check out the upcoming monthly programs, along with the interest group activities and new action projects, on display at our August membership social. And welcome our new board members: **Marina Rivers** (treasurer), **Janie Maldonado** (parliamentarian/bylaws), **Elaine Diefenderfer** (funds chair), **Elaine Penn** (hospitality), **Joyce Pulich** (UT fellowships), **Mary Kate Fredriksen** (co-editor, yearbook), and **Katie Jackson & Kay Keys** (PR committee members).

In June five Branch members attended the national convention (*Breaking through Barriers: Leading across Generations*) in New Orleans: myself, **Leslie Cantor** (who had a TUGG booth and sponsored the Monday night film showing), **Veronica Johnson** (who shortly afterwards moved to MN), **Pam Wolfe** (who shortly afterwards took over the role of editor



Marsha Endahl Kramer & Anita Knight

of our AAUW-Texas newsletter *UWT*), and **Marsha Endahl Kramer** (who shortly afterwards spent her 30th wedding anniversary in beautiful CO). AAUW has launched several new and exciting initiatives, i.e., partnership with the Clinton Global Initiative and CGI U, which expands AAUW's campus leadership and provides opportunities for global outreach and collaboration; outreach and partnership with more college and universities to expand the competitive resources available to their students, administrators, faculty, and staff; and a connection to Cross Cultural Solutions, offering members the opportunity (first in

India) to volunteer abroad in a community placement, along with the opportunity to experience and learn a new culture.

After attending NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) in MD, branch member and UT grad student **Katie Jackson** launched our great new Branch Facebook page (which she is willing to use as a training tool for those who want to learn more about social media). She was our first Austin Branch representative to NCCWSL, and I want to thank the following members who contributed to send her: **Pat Connelly, Etta Endahl, Veronica Johnson, Marsha Endahl Kramer, Delia Quintanilla, and Linda Anderson-Welsh.**

On July 12, the Texas Senate passed the most restrictive abortion law in the nation, which will close almost every women's health center in the state. AAUW stood with Texas women (some of us Austin members were there in orange) fighting the Texas Senate for reproductive rights and for affordable health care around the state. July 12 was also United Nations Youth Takeover for Malala Day! AAUW stood with Malala Yousafzai on her 16th birthday and in her fight for the 57 million children and 69 million youth around the world who do not have access to an education to create a safer, more peaceful, and economically prosperous world for us all.

The Austin Branch is continuing its CELEBRATION theme this year because the Austin Branch will be celebrating the AAUW mission of empowering women and recognizing its legacy of contributing to the community for ninety years! The Austin Branch of the American Association of University Women was organized by fifteen women on November 15, 1923, at the Driskill Hotel! The Branch has been strengthened by the many contributions and accomplishments of Branch members throughout the past nine decades. Check out *HERstory* (as well as other interesting information) on our Branch website, Austin-tx.aauw.net—and SAVE THE DATE of Wednesday, November 13, 2013, for our special ninetieth anniversary luncheon!

See y'all around at AAUW programs and activities! As they say in New Orleans: *Laissez les bons temps rouler!*

Anita Knight

Branch President 2012-2014

BRANCH INTEREST GROUPS <> ACTION, SERVICE, & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

1. Interest Groups

Branch members have a number of interest groups available to them. At the open house on the 18th, you will be able to learn more about each of the groups and sign up for those that appeal to you. Currently existing groups include:

- ◆ Art tours
- ◆ Book groups (a variety)
- ◆ Bridge (several groups)
- ◆ Creative stitchery
- ◆ Culture & cuisine
- ◆ Dinner & a movie
- ◆ Hiking
- ◆ Out to Lunch
- ◆ PEARS

If you have an idea for an interest group in an area not presently available, you may contact **Beverly Locklin** (blocklin@austin.rr.com), interest groups coordinator. If enough other members are interested, a new group can be launched.

2. Learning/Study Groups

Did you notice last year when we began using "interest groups" as the name for what had previously been known as study groups? We thought it was more descriptive of the groups in which we pursue some of our more recreational interests. Now, we are considering some shorter term opportunities for advocacy, raising awareness, studying, etc. A member or a group of members could organize/coordinate an activity that could be just one session or perhaps extend to four or five. In most cases the meeting place could be one of Austin's many branch libraries.

An example is that of the "salon discussions" suggested by Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn for raising awareness through their "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide" movement. **Mary Ellen Scribner** envisions this as two to four gatherings probably in a meeting room of a branch library and scheduled for day or evening as attendees preferred. Viewing a video would be followed by discussion of the book and video which investigate the oppression of women globally. "Only when women in developing countries have equal access to education and economic opportunity will we be using all our human resources." Another and quite different example, is a suggestion from **Katie Jackson** for Branch members who are interested in learning self-defense skills. A member or group of members could arrange for a series of sessions to make that happen. A third type of option would be to use AAUW's *Program in a Box* resource to create projects of limited duration but enduring benefit. Each program in the online resource

outlines an activity that could be chosen for a Branch, with the "what, why, and how" to implement that program. The programs reflect a wide range of AAUW activities: education, advocacy, communications, membership, fundraising, LAF, etc., and an effort is made to prioritize posting of programming ideas that help us keep our Value Promise: *By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.* New programs are added on an ongoing basis. <<http://www.aauw.org/resources/by-type/programs-in-a-box/>> Sign up at the action/service/learning table.

3. Building Partnerships in the Community

A number of nonprofits in Austin have missions similar in whole or part to that of AAUW. We already have a relationship with some, i.e., Girlstart and Mainspring Schools. We would like to expand and extend our reach into the community by building partnerships with more of these organizations. Again, at the August 18th social, you will have an opportunity to indicate which organizations you may already belong to or those that you might want to work with in the coming year. Our list, which you may add to, includes:

- ◆ CARE
- ◆ Con Mi Madre
- ◆ Delta Kappa Gamma
- ◆ Girlstart
- ◆ iACT
- ◆ Latinitas
- ◆ League of Women Voters
- ◆ Lifeworks Austin
- ◆ Mainspring Schools
- ◆ Women.Design.Build
- ◆ Zonta International



4. A New Ongoing Service Project?

With our well-educated (and in such diverse fields) membership, the Branch can be considered a logical source of judges for local school science fairs, UIL competitions, scholarship selection committees, essay competitions, etc. Plus, the Branch already has its own committee which annually selects the recipients of several Branch fellowships. Are you the woman who can organize and administer a service project that would make Branch members sought after as judges and officials for academic competitions and fairs, determining recipients of scholarships/fellowships, and for the selection of award recipients for associations/organizations? You can sign up at the action/service/learning table.

MORE ACTION, SERVICE, & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

5. Public Policy

Since AAUW’s founding our members and supporters have spoken out about policies important to women and girls. Without their voices, invaluable legislation would have never been passed. In recent years, such legislation included the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. The Branch’s public policy chair is **Dr. Carol Fritz** (bearcat@austin.rr.com).

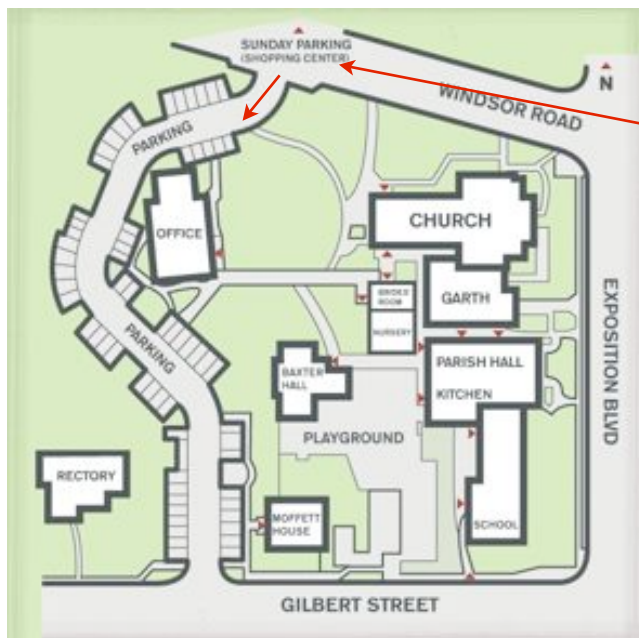
If you want to learn more about AAUW’s commitment to public policy issues, take a look at the national website: <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/>. At the August social you will have the opportunity to sign up to work in the public policy areas most interesting to you including:

- ◆ Education policy
- ◆ Human trafficking
- ◆ Pay issues
- ◆ Reproductive rights
- ◆ Sexual harrassment
- ◆ Voter rights & education

Don’t see your particular topic on the list? There will be space for you to add it!

Parking for Summer Social

Enter parking lot at the rear of the church from Windsor Road. Then follow AAUW signs to the Parish Hall.



From the Branch Public Policy Chair

At the AAUW national meeting in New Orleans in June, we learned about efforts by AAUW and others to revive the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). In light of recent local events affecting women's right to equal pay and health care issues, this effort provides an interesting, if difficult, alternative path. Texas is one of the states that already has ratified the ERA, which presumably is binding. The effort involves getting Congress to remove the deadline for ratification by state legislatures—a big task, and then getting three more states to ratify the ERA. Recent grants from AAUW have been made to three of the fifteen states that lack ratification (VA, IL and MO), and the necessary legislation, H. J. Res. 43 and S. J. Res. 15 (House and Senate Joint Resolutions) have already been introduced in Congress. Rep. Doggett's office has been called to request that he co-sponsor the legislation. A list of the states that lack ratification will be available at the August Open House. You may want to contact friends and relatives in these states, which is where the action will be. The ERA states, in its entirety, “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”

The Texas Tribune Festival is a weekend full of debate, discussion and dialogue featuring some of the biggest names in the world of politics and public policy. More than 150 speakers, 45 interactive events and countless networking opportunities — all on the campus of the University of Texas on Sept 27, 28, and 29, 2013. For more information: <http://www.texastribune.org/events/>

Dr. Carol Fritz
Branch Public Policy Chair

BRANCH COMMUNICATION TOOLS

- ◆ The Branch newsletter is published monthly August-May. The deadline for submitting items is the 20th of the preceding month. Mary Ellen Scribner is the editor, and items should be emailed to her at maryescribner@gmail.com.
- ◆ “Like” the Branch on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AauwAustinBranch>.
- ◆ Find the Branch on the Web: <http://austin-tx.aauw.net/>.

This is the last newsletter of the year for those 2012-2013 members who have not renewed. We don’t want to lose you! Please contact Membership VP Diane Brewer.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS with Diane Brewer

Summertime has brought some expected heat, some unexpected rain, and now we are planning for our end-of-summer rallying point, the Celebrate Austin-AAUW Membership Social!

As a teacher returning to school each fall, I was always surprised by the many changes that occurred during our down time. AAUW Austin has had some changes, too. We have been very blessed with two longtime members who have now reached honorary status: **Lillian Kwas** and former President (1983-85), **Mary Micka**. With the addition of Lillian and Mary, we now have sixteen of these special women who have shown their allegiance to this organization for over fifty years. Honorary member **Kay Goodwin** will reach 95 years young this August, and I think one of her secrets for a long life is that she stays very active in our Branch and in other areas. Other happy news concerns **Dr. Mary Braunagel-Brown**, who has generously endowed UT's INSPIRE Leadership with funds for matching donations. INSPIRE helps young women, sophomores to seniors, develop the skills necessary to reach their highest potential. INSPIRE is UT's signature leadership program!

And speaking of leaders, we are delighted for lively and fun MOB **Melinda Townsel**, who now adds Ph.D. to her name, as she earned her doctorate from Texas State University this summer! **Dr. Sue Worden**, an ex-pat member of Austin AAUW living in Warrenton, VA, has added DTM to her name, as she has earned the "Distinguished Toastmaster" title recently. Over the summer we had to say goodbye to two wonderful members who have retained their Austin membership, **Veronica Johnson** and **Dorothy Vance**. The former is already settled into her new townhome of Minneapolis, following her participation in the National NOLA AAUW Convention in June; Dorothy and her hubby are in Denver house-hunting. We also want to thank **Dr. Aggie Curry-Jones**, who made a great suggestion for our January Branch program. Aggie is a lifetime member and a much honored retired professor and "Living Legend."

Druscilla Young Beuerlein (Dru) came to us on the same day our last newsletter for the 2012-2013 was sent out! She and husband Mike have a condo here in Austin, but "officially" reside in Mary Esther, Florida. Her Ft. Walton branch of AAUW was formed in 1967-68 and enjoyed over 200 members at one time. She sadly reports that over time the membership declined and finally disbanded in 2008. Missing the

camaraderie of AAUW women, she hopes to schedule her days in Austin to coincide with activities and meetings here. Dru is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, earning her BA in home economics in 1957, and in that year began her AAUW affiliation. This should be her fiftieth year as a member of AAUW! She would like to join a book group, do OTL, and enjoy our art tours. Before retiring she was a high school home economics teacher. In Fort Walton Beach AAUW she served as membership VP, program VP, and also president. In addition to her interests in AAUW she loves travel and genealogy. Dru sounds like a natural for several of our groups; please welcome her into your interest group in the coming year.



Larie Amsler listens as President Anita Knight speaks at the summer board meeting.

During May we also welcomed student affiliate and outstanding UT Austin freshman **Divya Ramamoorthy** of the Cockrell School of Engineering. She is part of UT's SEEK, which introduces engineering to kids. AAUW member and mom **Janani Janakiraman** is passionate about STEM and is encouraging her three bright daughters to seek careers in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics. **Kavya Ramamoorthy** is a high school freshman who wants to do her Girl Scout Gold Award project at a STEM camp for girls. Sister **Priya Ramamoorthy**, also a high school freshman, is doing her Girl Scout Gold Award project on "Advocating for Title IX," and plans to work with the "No Place for Hate" organization working to teach girls about bullying and sexual harassment. Janani embodies STEM in action as she works with IBM in the Women in Technology Group. She and her girls are great examples of what women can accomplish in

(continued next page)

MORE MEMBERSHIP NEWS

STEM fields. They would like to volunteer as a family at some future event. I look forward to all three daughters joining our Austin Branch alongside their mother!



Kay Goodwin gives Veronica Johnson a fond farewell hug!

We also welcomed vivacious **Leslie Canter** to our membership at the May Branch meeting. She graduated from Austin's St. Stephen's School and then went on to study philosophy at Pitzer College in Louisiana, earning her B.A. She is back in Austin, lives in the Hyde Park area and is doing program outreach with TUGG Inc. She also attended the AAUW NOLA conference and has established a National AAUW connection for her company. We have a growing group of young women who will be the new face of AAUW in years to come. That is very exciting!

With the membership social on August 18 from 3 to 5 p.m., we expect to sign up many new members. Once again, we owe **Gail Simpler** our deep appreciation for arranging for us to use the generous space at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. We are currently corresponding with several people whom we hope will become the freshman class of AAUW this year! Thanks to **Prez Anita** for her constant networking which informs women what AAUW represents and can offer each and every woman. While we love bringing in new people, we are also going to miss **Dr. Barbara DeShong, Marina Pearl Grant, Donna Preibisch, Dr. Irma Berry, Mary Douthit, Dr. June Huckabee, Raemar Shown, Pat Vickers, Rana Squires,** and **Nita Hornbeck**. These women have found that their circumstances changed, or they have moved to a new area. We will miss them, and we wish them well.

See you at the social!

Diane Brewer
Membership Vice President

From Dorothy Vance in Colorado

Dear AAUW Ladies,

It was with much regret that I left Austin without having an opportunity to share in a proper farewell with many of you during my last weeks there. As you can imagine, the home sale process quickly turned into a mad whirlwind of activity for the month we were in escrow. I look back now to that time and still can't believe we made it to Denver!

Words cannot express the magnitude of appreciation I feel for the wonderful good fortune of meeting so many generous, gracious and delightfully bright Austin women in our AAUW Branch. I have brought so many good memories of Branch experiences with me and will carry them far into the future. These experiences include serving on the board, participating in many great art tours, sharing great reads in the book clubs I joined, accompanying some intrepid hikers as well as enjoying some fantastic films, discussions afterwards and eating out in very good company. Every one of you who took part in these activities with me has left your indelible mark in my heart. I look forward to staying in touch with you, and I remain happy to stay informed of Branch doings for the next program year as a dual Austin/Colorado member!

Anyone who would like to contact me can do so at arnoff321@cs.com and at 512-673-9696. When we find a permanent home here in Denver, I will forward my new address to the newsletter right away. This information will also be published in the upcoming Branch directory. As you come together for general monthly meetings in the coming program year, know that I will always be with you in spirit.

With my most fond regards, **Dorothy Vance**

From Jerry Cassidy at the Clairmont

Jerry is very excited because the manager at The Clairmont Austin, the senior community where she lives, has confirmed that any referral she might make to the Clairmont which results in someone deciding to become a resident would bring Jerry a \$500 bonus. Jerry says that any referral money she receives will be passed directly to AAUW for one of the education funds. Jerry loves living there and was excited about the idea of AAUW women perhaps checking it out and moving in--and for the Branch to make money for education!

In order to earn the bonus, a visitor would need to mention both Jerry Cassidy and AAUW when she make an appointment to visit the place.

The Clairmont Austin - Affordable luxury Senior Community - 12463 Los Indios Trail, Austin 78729
www.sunshinereirementliving.com/
\$99 Move in Special. Call Today - 512-879-1451

BRANCH NEWS

Branch Awards Five 2013 Fellowships

The Branch this spring awarded fellowships to five University of Texas Ph.D. candidates to aid them in their dissertation research. Although the AAUW endowment fund at The University of Texas was established in 1934, and AAUW Austin has been awarding fellowships yearly since 1985 to women doctoral candidates, this is the first time for five to be given.

At the May meeting Rana Squires announces the names of the five UT Ph.D. candidates who received the 2013 Branch fellowships.



This year's fellowships are in honor of the ninetieth anniversary of the organization of the Austin Branch by fifteen women meeting at the Driskill Hotel on November 15, 1923, which we will be celebrating all year. No doubt that group of hatted and gloved ladies would be astonished and proud beyond measure at what Austin AAUW and women in general have accomplished over the past ninety years! These twenty-first century scholars' dissertation topics are evidence of that! They are globally significant and cover a broad spectrum of human interest and need. Katherine H. Banner-Martin (Anthropology Department) is researching "Primate and Non-primate Mammal Community Composition and Diversity in Madagascar and Australia;" her research will identify which processes shape patterns of mammal diversity and consequently help predict community responses to continuing and future environmental change. Molly Polk (Geography Department) is exploring "Andean Glacier Recession and Implications for High Mountain Peatlands." Brittany Needham (The Institute of Cellular and Molecular Biology) is working with "Modulating the human immune response through the engineering of Endotowin." Viktoriya Rybalko (Exercise Physiology) is researching the "Characterization of age-related alterations in macrophage function within regenerating skeletal muscle following tourniquet-induced ischemia/reperfusion injury." Summer



Above L-R: Brittany Needham, Katherine H. Banner-Martin, Molly Polk. Below: Summer Harlow, Viktoriya Rybalko.



Harlow's (Journalism Department) research focuses on how marginalized citizens, activists and alternative media are using new digital tools such as Facebook and Twitter for social change, helping shape a still-developing field in which most of the theories and strategic knowledge about communication and activism are analog-based and developed in a pre-Arab Spring, non-digital era.

SAVE THE DATE

September 21, 2013 - Branch meeting with program from Center for Public Policy Priorities - LCRA Redbud Center - 10 a.m.

September 27-29, 2013 - Texas Tribune Festival on the UT campus.

October 26-27, 2013 - Texas Book Festival - Texas Capitol & Grounds.

November 13, 2013 - Branch Ninetieth Anniversary - Austin Women's Club - 10 a.m.

April 25-27, 2014 - 2014 AAUW Texas Convention - Hurst Conference Center, Hurst, Texas (the best STUFF is in the MIDDLE, between Fort Worth and Dallas) - Hosted by the NE Tarrant County Branch and the North Texas Interbranch.

The BRANCH in the COMMUNITY

Latinitas & Girlstart



Cine Chicas Summer Camp

Ines Garcia, Sylvia Garcia, Anita Knight, Mary Ellen Scribner, and Lilac Bauer met with Latinitas founder and COO Laura Donnelly Gonzales and Program Assistant Andrea Zarate. Anita attended the planning meeting for the College Chicas Conference to be held October 5, 2013 at Austin Community College; Sylvia presented at the Media Chicas Summer Camp about the Tejano Monument at the Capitol Building; Lilac worked with the girls on a photography project during Cine Chicas Summer Camp. We have been asked to help with College Chicas check-in, lunch set-up, refer role models, speakers, presenters for the conference. Be ready to sign up at the summer social—you are needed!

Girlstart is covering Texas and going national! The AAUW Tormollan scholarship recipient has been selected, and it went to Bonnie-Claire Duren, a Girlstart afterschool intern who is studying STEM education at the University of Texas. The Girls in STEM Conference will be held either March 22 or April 12, depending on the UT decision. In March the Branch will be helping with preparation for the conference. Those who wish to register online may also help with more of the hands-on duties.

Lilac Bauer
Girlstart Liaison & Women's Issues

A First for the Branch

For the first time in its long history, the Austin Branch sent a member to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). **Katie Jackson** attended the three-day conference in College Park, MD, at the end of May.



Branch Member Establishes UT Endowment

UT alumna **Dr. Mary Braunagel-Brown** is committed to the establishment of an endowment supporting women undergraduates selected for INSPIRE Leadership, a three-year revolving program serving sophomores to seniors that helps women develop the skills they need to achieve the highest levels within their chosen academic fields. Dr. Braunagel-Brown is matching new gifts dollar-for-dollar for the proposed Mary Braunagel-Brown Excellence Fund, up to a total of \$25,000. By matching the gifts of other donors, Braunagel-Brown wants the INSPIRE fund to grow quickly and support as many students as possible.



In recognition of her generosity Dr. Braunagel-Brown (center) received the 2013 Contributor of the Year Award from the Center for Women's and Gender Studies in The College of Liberal Arts at UT Austin.

Austin Girls Have a Second Win in National History Day Competition



The spark for the girls' project on the Voting Rights Act of 1965 began with their visit to the AAUW National Office last year where they were asked to do a short video on why voting is important. It made the students realize that in the next presidential election they will be 18 and eligible to vote! Now, they will be ready!