



American Association of University Women AAUW Austin (Texas) Branch

"WHAT IS PAST IS PROLOGUE"

William Shakespeare

The spirit of Shakespeare's words will be evident throughout the October 12 Branch program as we build momentum for the celebration of our ninetieth anniversary next month! Susan Rittereiser [right], Curator of Archives and Manuscripts at the Austin History Center, will headline the program with a look at the records of our past. Following Ms. Rittereiser's remarks, we will get to meet and hear from Melodía Gutiérrez [see p. 7], the newly assigned AAUW state organizer for branches in Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Ms. Gutiérrez will share her goals as well as describe her new responsibilities which include coordinating grassroots activities on local, state, and federal public policy issues; supporting branch and state mission-based initiatives; working with campus leaders; and recruiting new members. Linda Young, Austin Branch member and president of the National Women's Political Caucus, will conclude the program with information about the launch of a STEM initiative for girls in Africa and the meeting she attended on September 23 with a number of the first ladies of Africa during the UN General Assembly.

The meeting will be at the Wyndham Garden Hotel located at 3401 S. I-35 at Woodward. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by brunch at 10 a.m., and the program will start promptly at 10:30 a.m. There will be a short business meeting following the program.

The brunch buffet selections will include sliced seasonal fresh fruit, fluffy scrambled eggs, O'Brien potatoes, warm buttermilk biscuits (with butter and jelly), country gravy, and either bacon or ham. Beverages available will be chilled orange juice, regular and decaffeinated coffee, or hot tea. The cost of the brunch is \$20.00, and the treasurer would appreciate receiving either the correct amount of cash or a check. Please make your reservation online at austinaauw@gmail.com or call Sylvia Garcia at 512.221.2863 and leave a message; indicate whether you will be attending the program and meeting only or will also take part in the brunch. Reservations should be made no later than Tuesday, October 8, 6 p.m.



Susan Rittereiser

Susan Rittereiser has been the Curator of Archives and Manuscripts at the Austin History Center since 2007. She is in charge of the manuscripts department which includes multiple sub-collections—manuscripts; oversized volumes; oversized archives; and the architectural archives, artifacts, and city records. For the past year, she has also been the supervising manager for the community archives program, which includes Mexican American, Asian American, and African American archives. The Center is also the repository for the archives of the AAUW Austin Branch, as well as several other women's organizations.

Susan graduated *summa cum laude* with a B.S. in psychology from Arizona State University and her MLIS is from the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to coming to the AHC she worked for the UT General Libraries for more than eleven years and held a variety of responsibilities there.

October Calendar of Branch Activities

October 1, 3 p.m. Movie & Dinner: Call Lois Shaevel at 512.266.0273 for specific details.

October 4, 10 a.m. First Friday Book Review. Hyde Park Church of Christ. *West African Folk Tales*. (Jack Berry & Richard Spears). Reviewer: Carol Fritz. Chair: Gayle Smith (512.345.5585).

October 7, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Contemporary Literature: Old Quarry BL. *The Round House* (Louise Erdrich). Discussion leader: Jan Roberts. Chair: Fern Chester, 512.345.1102.

October 9, 4 p.m. Second Wednesday Bridge. Contact: Judy Reinhart, 512.345.5936.

October 12, 9:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Branch meeting. Speaker is Susan Rittereiser, Austin History Center. Wyndham Garden Hotel. Make reservation by Tuesday, October 8.

October 12. PEARS: Hyde Park Bar & Grill; Hyde Park Theater. Contact: Diana & Fred Thom, 512.836.2278.

October 14, 10:30 a.m. SW Book Group. *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor. Facilitator is Sylvia Garcia; hostess is Inés Garcia. Chair: Inés Garcia, 512.444.5643.

October 15, 11 a.m. Out to Lunch: Green Pastures, 811 Live Oak (512.444.1888). Chair: Ruth Falck (512.550.6449).

October 16, 10 a.m. Creative Stitchery with hostess Rachel Flake (512.343.1742) and co-hostess Beverly Locklin (512.343.0782).

FROM THE PRESIDENT : Anita Knight

History is our focus for this month and next. The longer I live, the more I appreciate history as a living subject even though I was a science major! Ninety years of *HERstory* of the Austin Branch are on our website <<http://austin-tx.aauw.net/>>. AAUW-Texas State President Pat Ross and Nita Hornbeck coined the term HERstory. Nita explains, “We hear about HIStory (history) all the time, so we decided there should be a HERstory, too. And who best to tell that story than AAUW branches in Texas? Each Branch helped me put together ‘Her Story.’” I edited and printed the entire collection, which was given to all state board members at the state convention during Pat's time as president.”

Some of us learned the history of National Women’s Political Caucus (NWPC) at their convention last month in Austin when Liz Carpenter’s daughter Christy spoke about women in leadership roles. AAUW was there with the women’s groups in

Branch members attending NWPC included (l-r): Carol Fritz, Gail Simpler, Anita Knight, Elaine Diefenderfer.



Mary Ellen Scribner is interviewed by a reporter from San Antonio at the Stand Up for Science rally.



the ‘70s that founded NWPC. Members of AAUW have always displayed a dichotomy of purpose in joining AAUW--is it the mission? Or friendly study groups? One purpose may lead to the other. Some have avoided the political missions, e.g., right to choice, Title IX, equal pay--preferring the social and educational aspects of the organization. But since

1881, AAUW has “empowered women” and examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day--educational, social, economic, and political. Who else remembers when the mission of AAUW was to “promote equity for all women and

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October Calendar of Branch Activities

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October 17, 6:30 p.m.

Culture & Cuisine: Hostess: Jan Roberts. 5942 Highland Hills Dr. Co-hostess: Fern Chester. Chair: Anneliese Ellerton (512.241.8425).

October 23, 4 p.m.

Fourth Wednesday Bridge.

Contact Sara Ezell (512.343.8494).

October 25, 8 a.m. Hiking Group.

McKinney Falls State Park. Contacts: Ginny Tannebring (512.922.9645 or ginnyz@sbcglobal.net) & Beverly Locklin (blocklin@austin.rr.com or 512.343.0782).

October 30, 10:15 a.m. Art Tour:

Hostess/planner: Mary Frances Rogerson. Deep in the Heart Art Foundry (foundry where the Vietnam memorial is being cast); 405 South Jackson Street; Bastrop, Texas 78602; info@deepintheheart.net. Lunch: Baxter's on Main; 919 Main Street; Bastrop, TX; 512-321-3577. Chair: Diane Brewer; RSVP zdramamom@austin.rr.com. Please carpool!

Every Thursday, 9:30 a.m.

Bridge at the Senior Center. Call Dorothy Ramsey (512.442.3841) for more information.

Looking Ahead

November 13: Celebrating Ninety Years! Lunch at the Austin Woman's Club, 708 San Antonio St. Chair: Judy Reinhart (512.345.5936). Judy is planning a display of Branch and AAUW memorabilia at this birthday celebration. Please contact her if you have items to use in the display.



FROM THE PRESIDENT Anita Knight

girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.” Lately, we have seen more activism—witness us “Standing with Texas Women” and Senator Wendy Davis, then co-sponsoring and attending the discussion with Leader Nancy Pelosi on a new economic agenda for women! Some of us also attended the TFN rally Standup for Science at the State BOE in September.

Join for the mission, but stay for the friendships! Join us for the friendships, but stay tuned to and for the mission! As Dr. Deviney challenged us at our September program: “What can you do for a better Texas?”

Anita Knight
Branch President 2012-2014

“What can you do for a better Texas?”



At the September meeting, members in attendance heard an excellent, informative, and sobering presentation by Dr. Frances Deviney, the director of the KIDS COUNT project at the Center for Public Policy Priorities. The Texas KIDS COUNT project looks at eighty indicators to develop a statistical portrait of the well being of Texas children. Their annual report is available online to all decision makers. Having this information at your fingertips when you talk with your legislator, local school board, city council, etc., will greatly increase your effectiveness. URLs: <http://forabettertexas.org/home.html> or <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/> where the same type of information for every state is available.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT: Diane Brewer

The nicest part of this job is welcoming our newest members, and it is my pleasure to introduce ten new members since our last newsletter! AAUW-Texas and Austin co-sponsored the August 26 visit of U.S. House Minority Leader and former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. As one of the country's leading women in government, her visit naturally created a lot of interest. Many of our members attended the Monday morning gathering at the Eastside Campus of ACC, where **President Anita Knight** came away from the highly successful event with six new members who had signed up on the spot: **Soon Merz, Carol Gilson, Kalli Doubleday, Monica Guzman, Allison White, and Amber Hausenfluck**. Since the Pelosi event, **Carol Lumpkin, Asmahan Rasool, Carrie Brewer, Barbara Foreman, and Mine Tafolar** have also submitted their applications. AAUW Austin's active membership has now reached 177!

Soon O. Merz, vice president of effectiveness and accountability at Austin Community College, attended the Pelosi event and wanted to become a part of Austin AAUW. Soon received her associate degree in general education from Central Texas College, her B.A. in general business from the University of Central Texas, and her M.A. in public administration from the University of Kansas. She lives in Pflugerville and is involved with the Texas Association for Institutional Research. She is on the organization's nominating committee, and she enjoys crocheting, reading, and music.

Amber Lauren Hausenfluck, also a Pelosi fan and new member, earned her B.A. in Government from UT Austin, and her J.D. from St. Mary's Law School. She works with Texas Senator Leticia Van de Putte as her deputy legislative director. She is affiliated with Alpha Delta Pi Alumnae Austin and Leadership Austin. Amber is living in the lively Barton Springs/Zilker Park area, and we hope she can find the time to participate in some of our Branch activities.



Carol D. Gilson met **Anita Knight** and **Marsha Endahl Kramer** at an August National Women's Political Caucus luncheon and expressed an

interest in knowing more about AAUW. She was unable to attend the social but was eager to attend the Pelosi event and submitted her application and dues that morning. Carol earned her B.A. at UT Austin in 2012 in social work, and is currently a graduate teaching assistant at UT while working on her master's degree. She is a Kenneth Ashworth Fellow, a Carole Pool Fellow, a King Davis Fellow, and is involved with Friends of Springdale Park. This busy young woman is involved with New Leadership-Texas, the Annette Strauss Leadership Series, the Disability Student Advocacy Coalition, National Women's Political Caucus, HELP (Horse Empowered Learning Program), and is founder and chair of the Visibility Initiative. She volunteers with VSA-Texas, and is a dean's ambassador and student mentor, all at UT. She has also published an article called "Disability Finds Its Voice." This mover and shaker is going to stir things up in our Branch!

Newlywed **Kalli Fullerton Doubleday** also joined our Branch of AAUW at the Pelosi event. Kalli earned her B.A. in geography at Texas Christian University, her M.A., also in geography, from California State University Long Beach, and is currently teaching and working on her Ph.D. at UT in geography researching tiger/community conservation. She was awarded a UT recruitment fellowship in geography and the environment and finds time to volunteer at both Mobile Loaves and Fishes and South Austin Pregnancy Resource Center. She likes to swing dance and her impressive résumé even includes a 2006 stint as a finalist in Dallas Cowboy Cheerleader Camp!

Community activist **Monica A. Guzman**, another Pelosi attendee, is a community relations consultant and serves as an advisor with the AISD citizen's communication committee. Monica earned her B.A. in political science from St. Edward's University and her M.A. from Our Lady of the Lake University in human sciences: sociology and education. I see a role for Monica working with Lilac Bauer on women's issues, and in particular, Latinitas! Welcome, Monica!

When **Asmahan Rasool** attended our recent summer social, she decided that our activities and missions of service were perfect for her. She is excited to get to know other members and become a part of the action. She has an associate degree from

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FROM THE MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT: Diane Brewer

ACC and has chalked up many more hours at other schools as well. She is a lifelong learner whose focus has been in general studies and political science. She and **Rachel Flake** struck up an immediate rapport. Asmahan doesn't drive, but will do all she can to become involved. She can be reached at 512.469.9238. She is interested in art, reading, technology, political action, and in particular, issues pertaining to both women and children.

Carol Lumpkin moved to Austin following retirement from teaching a couple of years ago. She submitted an article to the *American Statesman's* ongoing series, *Tales of the City*, which I found charming because it reminded me of my own UT Austin experience back in the day moving into Kinsolving Dormitory. Carol sounded like someone who would really love AAUW Austin. Taking a chance, I both wrote and called her. While she was unable to attend the social, she sent in her member form and dues anyway! We finally got together at Brio for lunch recently with the OTL group. Carol is living in the Mesa/Spicewood Springs area and will find lots of members who live not far from her. She earned her B.A. from the University of Houston in English. She also earned her M.A. in English at U of H; she studied education and Spanish at UT Pan American, and retired from teaching at Houston Community College. She has published numerous book reviews, short stories, essays, and articles. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, volunteers at church and does ESL instruction. She also enjoys her pets and gardening. I think she is a perfect fit for several of our interest groups.

My lovely daughter-in-law **Carrie Brewer** and husband Cass team their design/build/development skills in Legacy DCS. Carrie is the energetic mother of two sons, ages eleven and ten, and works full time as principal partner and designer with Legacy. Carrie earned her B.A. in interdisciplinary studies from SWTSU, now Texas State University. She left teaching in Bastrop ISD in 2000. When Cass and Carrie lived in Jonestown, Texas, Carrie served the Chamber of Commerce as VP and worked to upgrade the town's image. She now volunteers in two Eanes schools and is proud of multiple design and green building awards earned by Legacy. She is a talented photographer, a creative videographer, loves fitness, travel, and is a wonderful member of our family.

SMOOCHES is how outgoing **Barbara Foreman** signs off on her emails. This vivacious and busy lady was already a national member and after visiting with **Prez Anita**, decided to join our local Branch. Her impressive résumé includes a B.A. from St. Edward's University in public administration, an M.A. in justice administration from Norwich University, and graduate certification from the Leadership Command College at Sam Houston University's Beto School of Criminal Justice. She managed to accomplish all this while raising her family. Barbara once served as special assistant at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC. Now, she is president and CEO of Leopard Print Media where she does special event planning, marketing, promotions, and lifestyle writing. She is also an adjunct professor of criminal justice at St. Edward's. She is deeply interested in issues concerning women and children and has published numerous articles on both criminal justice and public safety. She wrote her master's thesis on the PATRIOT Act, and is involved with numerous organizations, including this one, at the local level. She is a president *emerita* of National Women of Achievement, Inc., and a member of Anti-Basileus, Sigma Gamma Rho sorority – Alpha Kappa Sigma chapter. She is vice-chair Board of Fellows, College of Liberal Arts, Norwich University, and she is founder and director of Connie Yerwood Conner African American Women's Profiles of Prominence. Whew! Anita has seen her at other local functions, too, and was very impressed by her. We look for Barbara's energy and influence to be a big plus in AAUW Austin.

AAUW International Fellow **Allison White** is another one of our impressive new members who attended the Pelosi event. She earned her B.A. from Occidental College, *summa cum laude* with departmental honors in politics; her M.A. from the University of Chicago, Department of Social Sciences, with an emphasis on political science and the limits of Russian diplomacy; and she is now at UT for her Ph.D. She also worked with Dr. Peter Trubowitz among others in her comparative politics and international relations studies, Russia in particular. She is an AAUW Fellow for 2013-2014, and has earned other fellowships and awards almost too numerous to list. This accomplished young woman is also an instructor in government at UT.

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Finally, but definitely not the least, is **Mine (pronounced Mee-nah) Tafolar**, who, like **Allison White**, is an AAUW International Fellow. Mine attended the wonderful program by Dr. Deviney at the September branch meeting and said she was eager to join. Mine, a citizen of Turkey, earned her B.A. in political science, international relations, and history from Bogazici University, and an M.A. from Ataturk Institute for Modern Turkish History, Bogazici University. She is now at work on her Ph.D. in the department of government at the University of Texas Austin in the field of comparative politics where she analyzes the Turkish Conditional Cash Transfer program which operates within traditional clientelist politics and aims to influence debates about social programs. She instructs students in political science, social policy, and comparative politics. She graduated from Bogazici with high honors and was honored with a Graduate Dean's Prestigious Fellowship at UT Austin. While her studies are intense and profound, Mine radiates joy and plans to be a liaison for our younger members. She would like to form a group that gets together to chill out. Contact Mine if you would like to get together! Mine.tafolar@utexas.edu



We are very excited about the vibrant, committed, accomplished new members we have. We always hope that you will attend our Branch meetings and some of our interest groups. That is the best way to become a part of AAUW Austin and find the kind of friendships so many of us share. We are a group of women with a common purpose for the future of all women, in this country and abroad. Our united voices make a difference!

Diane Brewer
Member Vice President 2012-2014

BRANCH MEMBERS & MONEY AT WORK!

Linda Young, in addition to presiding at the National Women's Political Caucus convention in Austin in August, contributing her ACC resources for the Pelosi reception, serving on the White House Focus Group on Women and the Economy, and coordinating a number of ACC special activities such as voter registration on campuses, has participated in the launch of STEM for girls in Africa! During the September 2013 UN General Assembly she met with the first ladies of African countries to promote their participation in the launch.

Dual member (Austin and Georgetown) **Pam Wolfe** is the new AAUW-TX UWT editor. Her e-mail contact is UWTeditor@aauwtx.org. In order to receive the *University Woman Texas (UWT)*, the AAUW Texas quarterly newsletter, log on to www.aauwtx.org and click on [Sign up here](#) for the AAUW Texas newsletter.

The Austin Community College Foundation has reported that the new recipient of the \$2500 Frances Malmberg scholarship is Whitley Saffron, who is taking prerequisite coursework for the physical therapy assistant program. Whitley became a professional ballet dancer after graduating from high school, but several injuries that required PT prompted her to pursue a new career in which she can help others as she has been helped.

Molly Polk, 2013-14 Austin Branch UT fellow, whom we met in May, writes, "*My research is progressing and my fieldwork this summer in the high mountains of Peru was very productive. Inspired by the support of the Austin Branch of the AAUW, I have decided to submit an application for the national dissertation fellowship.*" WE WISH HER THE BEST OF LUCK!

Note: The "numerical snapshot" of our membership showing how many of us are honorary or life members; how many fellows (local, national, international) we have, and perhaps some other interesting stats about members will be published in a future newsletter. We have so many new members that it will take a little longer to compile these numbers!

OPPORTUNITY'S KNOCKING!

NEW AAUW ORGANIZER ASSIGNED

Melodía Gutiérrez is the new AAUW state organizer assigned to assist Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma branches with advocacy, social media, etc. Melodía was raised by community organizers, and her earliest memories are of working with her



mom to empower minority communities through art, education, and music. She has managed and consulted on several statewide and city-wide campaigns, as well as worked with state and county parties. In addition, she has worked with nonprofit and political organizations to advance minority issues through advocacy, lobbying efforts, rallies, and events.

Most recently, her work included increasing civic and political engagement among Latino communities in Utah and advocating for immigration reform. She has a B.S. with an honors certificate in political science from the University of Utah and continues to take courses to increase her knowledge surrounding strategic communications and graphic design.

After growing up in a political family in Texas, Melodía took some time to work and travel as a flight attendant. As a result, she has lived in TX, CA, GA, and UT, and now is back home in the Lone Star State after finishing her degree in Utah.

When she's not consulting for campaigns, volunteering for nonprofits, and supporting local political efforts, you can find Melodía either reading, dancing hip-hop and zumba, or kickboxing.

WANT TO BE A GAME CHANGER? HERE'S HOW!

The Girlstart fall fundraiser is a luncheon on October 17 at the AT&T Center on the University of Texas campus. The donation is \$100. For more information please contact Lilac Bauer at 512.743.6338 or contact Girlstart directly at www.girlstart.org/game-changers or by calling 512.916.4775 ext 35.

Game Changers Annual Luncheon October 17, 2013

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

AT&T Conference Center and Hotel

Women in STEM Awards

Honoring Outstanding Texas Women

Katy Lindsay & Lori MacNeill, Co-chairs

TRAVEL TO INDIA WITH AAUW AND CCS

AAUW is collaborating with Cross-Cultural Solutions, a leading organization in the field of international volunteering, to offer AAUW members the International Project Grant Cultural Immersion. Volunteer abroad with CCS in India and become truly immersed in a new culture and community while experiencing the impact of AAUW's International Project Grant firsthand. During November 2-16, travel to New Delhi, India, for one or two weeks to participate in impactful volunteer work and eye-opening cultural activities. Learn more and reserve your spot: <<http://www.crossculturalsolutions.org/discover-what-you-can-do/volunteer-india-aauw-and-ccs?s=aauw>>

There will be other destinations offered in the future. A trip to Cuba is scheduled for January.

