



American Association of University Women AAUW Austin (Texas) Branch

DR. SHIRLEY ROBINSON SPRINKLES TO SPEAK AT FEBRUARY 8 BRANCH MEETING



In her first book, *From Dunbar to Destiny: One Woman's Journey Through Desegregation and Beyond* (Wheatmark, 2008), Dr. Shirley Robinson Sprinkles relived a time when people of color wrestled their identity and their dignity from a callous and largely indifferent Jim Crow system. Her second book, *Seven Keys to Successful Single Parenting* (Wheatmark, 2011) looks back on a life of peaks and valleys that incorporate the joy and struggles of rearing four children through episodes of marital failure, financial turmoil, and career challenges. On Saturday, February 8, AAUW Austin members and guests will have the opportunity to meet and hear Dr. Sprinkles talk about the challenges and successes of her life in "One Woman's Journey Through Desegregation and Beyond."

Shirley was born in Greenville, Texas, but when she talks about her hometown, she is talking about Tucson, Arizona. That is because she attended Tucson schools from first through the eleventh grade before her family moved to Los Angeles, California, where she finished high school and college. She graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in elementary education prior to her first marriage. She later received an M.A. in educational administration from California State-Los Angeles, and ultimately, a Ph.D. in educational administration from The University of Texas at Austin. Today, Shirley is semi-retired and lives with her husband, Rev. Leo Morris, in Northwest Austin.

"I've kind of been a change agent all my life," she says. "Not because of my choosing, but because of where I was, when I was there. ... There will always be obstacles in one's life, but a quality education — with quality teachers and one that is unshackled from racial restrictions, can go a long way toward lighting the way through them." You don't want to miss this opportunity to hear Shirley tell her story!

For this program, we return to the Wyndham Garden Hotel, 3401 South IH35. Program VP **Dr. Sylvia Garcia** has selected a special menu of a bacon wrapped pork tenderloin plate with house salad (ranch & Italian dressings), caramelized onion mashed potatoes, seasonal fresh vegetables, rolls & butter, chef's dessert selection, plus water, iced tea, regular & decaffeinated coffee, hot tea. A chef's choice vegetarian plate is also available (Please note when making your reservation.) The cost of the luncheon is \$23.00 payable at the door; a check or correct change is greatly appreciated. Please make your reservation with Membership VP **Diane Brewer** (see box to the right) no later than Tuesday, February 4. If you are attending the program but not staying for lunch, Diane still needs to hear from you so that there will be enough seating and your name tag will be waiting for you. Networking begins at 10:30 a.m., and the program begins promptly at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon.

**RESERVATIONS FOR
FEBRUARY 8 PROGRAM
& LUNCHEON (\$23.00)**

**Wyndham Garden Hotel
3401 South IH 35
Austin, Texas 78741**

**Call Diane Brewer,
512-328-0474 or email her at
zdramamom@austin.rr.com
by Tuesday, February 4**

February Calendar of Branch Activities

February 3, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Contemporary Literature. Old Quarry BL. *Reinventing Bach* by Paul Elie. Discussion leader: Mary Ellen Scribner. Chair: Fern Chester, 512.345.1102.

February 3, 1-3 p.m. Board Meeting. Senior Activity Center-Lamar, 2874 Shoal Crest Ave.

February 5, 3 p.m. Movie & Dinner. Call Lois Shaevel at 512.266.0273 for specific details.

February 7, 10 a.m. First Friday Book Review. Hyde Park Church of Christ. *Rin Tin Tin* by Susan Orlean. Reviewer: Evelyn Boyer. Chair: Gayle Smith (512.345.5585).

February 8, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Branch Meeting. See page 1 for details.

February 10, 10:30 a.m. SW Book Group. *In the Time of Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez. Hostess and facilitator is Dr. Mary Braunagel-Brown (7321 Roaring Springs Dr., 78736). Chair: Inés Garcia, 512.444.5643. **{Editor's note: Julia Alvarez will speak at the Harry Ransom Center on March 31, 2014, 7 p.m.}**

February 12, 4 p.m. Second Wednesday Bridge. Contact: Judy Reinhart, 512.345.5936.

February 16. PEARS, 5 p.m. Austin Playhouse production of *The Liar* by David Ives. Austin Playhouse is located at Highland Mall, 6001 Airport Blvd., 78752). Marina Rivers and Wendell Harwell (512.386.1905) are hosts. Dinner to follow (no host) at Pappadeaux on I-35 North near the theatre.

February 18, 11 a.m. Out to Lunch. Hyde Park Bar & Grill (4521 West Gate Boulevard). RSVP required. Chair: Ruth Falck: ruthfalck@yahoo.com or (512. 550.6449).

FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

Recently our Austin Branch has received *thank you's* from the Wyndham Garden Hotel where we have hosted several meetings in recent years, the Barnes & Noble Bookstore where we participated for the third year in their gift-wrapping opportunity for fundraising, and the Austin Community College Foundation which manages our Frances Malmberg endowed scholarship fund. Our AAUW VP of Government Relations Lisa Maatz thanked President Barack Obama for signing a comprehensive Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) into law (a fight AAUW helped lead), and also Lilly Ledbetter for writing an op-ed in the *Washington Post* to promote the Paycheck Fairness Act.

As your president for the past year and a half, I want to add my *thank you's* to all our Branch members and board members for their contributions to our Branch's current activities and successful 90-year history, in particular those who have served as a mentor to others. January 16, 2014, marked the seventh annual "Thank Your Mentor Day™", and we appreciate those who have stepped up to inspire and/or assist others, including generous transportation and assistance for some of our members to attend our programs!

Thanks also for all our dynamic new members whom we hope to stimulate and involve as we continue living our mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

In November 2013, AAUW convened a gathering of fifty member leaders from all levels of AAUW, with geographic and demographic diversity. Focusing on different aspects of fundraising within the overall AAUW landscape, they agreed on several key points:

- ★ Fundraising best practices and the regulatory environment have changed significantly.
- ★ Individuals support organizations and causes that offer value of mission and personal relevance.
- ★ AAUW's commendable stewardship of resources has earned the highest national charity-rating recognition and is worthy of the trust of members and supporters.
- ★ The entire AAUW community of states, branches, members, and supporters must commit strong philanthropic support to magnify the impact of AAUW's work as the leading advocacy voice for women and girls.

We are planning a major fundraising event for this spring-- hope you and your friends and family will commit to strong support for a unique film event! THANKS IN ADVANCE!

Anita Knight
Branch President 2012-2014
dbaskin@aol.com
512.329.8575

February Calendar of Branch Activities

(continued from preceding page)

February 19. Creative Stitchery.

Hostess: Beverly Locklin (512.343.0782); co-hostess: Rachel Flake (512.343.17424).

February 20, 6:30 p.m. Culture & Cuisine.

Hostess: Elaine Penn, 912 Dartmoor, 78746. Co-hostess: Anita Knight. Heart-healthy recipes plus Austria/Chocolate. Chair: Anneliese Ellerton (512.241.8425).

February 26, 10:00 a.m. Art Tour.

Hostess/ planner: Diane Brewer. Westlake art studio of Eileen Pestorius; 512 Konstanty Circle, Austin 78746; 512.328.0474. Lunch: Abuelo's, 2901 S. Capital of Texas Highway (Barton Creek Mall). Chair: Diane Brewer. RSVP: 512.328.0474 or zdramamom@austin.rr.com. (See p. 6 for more information.)

February 26, 4 p.m. Fourth Wednesday Bridge. Contact Sara Ezell (512.343.8494).

February 28, 8 a.m. Hiking Group. Walnut Creek. Leader: Dr. Linda Welsh (512.586.1571 or lawelsh@gmail.com). Contacts: Ginny Tannebring (512. 922.9645 or ginnyz@sbcglobal.net) or Beverly Locklin (blocklin@austin.rr.com or 512.343.0782).

Every Thursday, 9:30 a.m. Bridge at the Senior Center. Call Dorothy Ramsey (512.442.3841) for more information.

April 25-27, 2014

AAUW Texas State Convention
Hurst Conference Center 1601
Campus Drive
Hurst, TX 76054

<http://aauw-tx.aauw.net/events-projects/events/2014-state-convention/>

THE BRANCH

BRANCH BOARD MEETING

The next monthly Branch board meeting is Monday, February 3, 1-3 p.m. at the Senior Activity Center-Lamar, 2874 Shoal Crest Ave., Austin TX 78705.

ALERT FROM BRANCH PARLIAMENTARIAN

The March newsletter will have the proposed by-laws changes for the Branch. Members will vote on the by-law changes in April.

Janie Maldonado

janie_maldonado@hotmail.com

living history books exhibit

You Have Never Read Books Like These Before!

Join Us!

Celebrating March As
Women's
History Month

Thursday
March 6, 2014
9:30am-12:00pm and
1:00pm-4:30pm

ROOM 1223, BUILDING 1000 - Campus Library
ACC Northridge Campus
11928 Stonehollow Drive

If You Have questions About the Living History Books Exhibit or Need More Information, Please
Send all inquiries to: tinurl.com/LBHE-ACC

Visit tinurl.com/LBHE-ACC

If you would like to participate in this annual Living History Books Exhibit scheduled for Thursday, March 6, 2014, at the ACC Northridge Campus, email Branch member **Dr. Melinda Townsel** at mtownsel@austincc.edu for complete information. **Anita Knight** and **Judy Reinhart** will be reprising their Amelia Earhart roles.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT: Diane Brewer

We could not have had a more thrilling start to the new year of programs than the one the fifty-eight members and guests shared at Westwood Country Club on January 10! Dr. Karen Pope presented her vast insight into Women Artists of the 20th Century. After our hanging on her every word, we enjoyed a crisp green salad, chicken crêpes, green beans, and a lime curd tart for dessert. Planner **Marina Rivers** and Program VP **Dr. Sylvia Garcia** saw to every detail of the event and it showed. This duo brought their appreciative audience a sublime morning, and it was terrific that so many of you invited guests to attend! We welcomed International Fellow **Claudia Rueda** attending for the first time, and several of our newest members. And we signed up several new members to reach our current total of 188! Allow me to introduce **Freda Bryson** and **Bergan Casey**, who joined prior to the Branch meeting, and **Monica Benoit-Beatty**, **Connie Levy**, and **Terry Franklin**, who took advantage of AAUW's Shape the Future benefit and became members at the branch event!



Ruth Rubio, Lilac Bauer, and Mary Kate Fredrikson visit prior to the February program at the Westwood Country Club.

Freda Bryson, already a national AAUW member, contacted me in late 2013 with her desire to affiliate with our local branch, and she joined the first week of January! Freda is working on her Ph.D. in adult education at Texas State University. She earned a B.A. in criminal justice at Auburn in 1985 and her M.A. at Troy University in 2010 in adult education. She is very interested in our public policy activities. Freda is involved with the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education and sees her interests working well with ours in her bright future.

Bergan Norris Casey was first referred to us by member **Lila Igram**, and this busy activist communicated with me several times over the fall. Her interest in women's issues in general meshes with her other many community and service activities that she has experienced in Austin, from the LBJ School of Public Affairs, where she earned her M.A. in 1997, to multiple experiences as an event planner, community organizer, Grassroots Director of the Texas Democratic Party, tireless worker and planner for various non-profits, including the Junior League of Austin. She and husband Stan are owners/managers in Casey Communications where she is a public relations and strategic communications and development whiz. Bergan is currently active with the Community Board of Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas; is chair and board member of Inherit Austin/ Preservation Austin; and is a founding member of the Strategic Planning/Interim Board at the LBJ School of Public Affairs and LBJ Library Future Forum. She recently agreed to consult with President Anita Knight in late January about our need for a profitable fundraiser. If Bergan can share a little of herself with us, she will make a huge mark. She and husband Stan have a ten-year-old daughter, Peyton. She admits to having a wide range of serious computer skills among her other accomplishments. Bergan earned her B.S. in advertising at UT prior to earning her masters at the LBJ School. I don't know how she does it, but she also managed to attend the branch meeting on the 10th and appear quite unhurried and lovely! Bergan, we hope you have time to throw some of your organizational magic our way!

After **Lynn Cooksey** invited her to our ninetieth anniversary celebration in November, **Monica Benoit-Beatty** said that she had such a good time that she wanted to attend another meeting. She attended the Pope event and joined on the spot! Monica and husband Glenn live in Round Rock, and she is a bit concerned about her location making it difficult to participate. I assured her that we have many members who live *way up north*, and I hope you folks take note so that you can encourage her participation. Off the top of my head I know **Mary Ellen Scribner**, **Marina Rivers**, **Karen Wood**, **Jerry Cassidy**, **Brenda Scholin**, and others are involved in many things and live a good

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way up the road from midtown Austin. Monica graduated from UT in 1985 with a B.B.A. in finance. She currently serves as philanthropy officer and fundraiser for Songwriting With Soldiers < <http://www.songwritingwithsoldiers.org/>> which works with returning soldiers in a retreat setting to help them let go of their personal and wartime pain through music and songwriting. She has been honored by the Austin Business Journal Profiles in Power Award, as the Volunteer of the Year by Austin Women's Federated Club, and was nominated to the Hall of Fame by the Texas Governor's Commission for Women where she served as assistant to the executive director. She founded healincomfort4achange.org and lists her



Monica Benoit-Beatty (left) at non-profit she founded.

interests as wide and numerous. She is a perfect candidate for our many interest groups, and we welcome yet another powerful, gifted woman to our membership!

Last month I made a partial introduction of **Connie Levy** to you because she had let me know in no uncertain terms that she definitely planned to rejoin AAUW after the first of the year, and she did! **Marsha Endahl Kramer** and **Dixie Schurle** shared a swimming exercise class with Connie and found her to be extremely sharp and a really good fit for AAUW--she had previously been a member in Corpus. Initially, Connie was weighted down with getting her first novel to the publisher where it is undergoing the editing process at present. In addition, her talented son has produced an acclaimed documentary film called *Spinning Plates*--focuses on the behind-the-scenes work and mayhem of chefs creating their masterpieces--which played downtown in December. Finally, a lull came along for Connie and she attended and loved the Pope event, and is now a member...again! Connie spent most of her life

in Corpus Christi where she taught at Carroll High School. She earned her B.A. in English at Texas Women's University in 1961, and she acquired her M.A. in English and speech at Texas A and I in 1966. In 1982 she earned certification in education supervision at Corpus Christi University, and she currently volunteers her time with the Roaring Readers at Mills Elementary and is involved at Congregation Beth Israel. Her interests include art, singing, writing, and swimming; however, her working life prior to writing novels was amazing!! She taught English, theatre arts, creative writing, and worked with the elite Humanities Academic Decathlon squad. She was a recognized teacher by Who's Who in American Women, received multiple recognitions for her excellence as an educator and still found time to enjoy playwriting and acting! The Corpus Christi *Times* named her a Distinguished Teacher of South Texas. My goodness! Welcome to AAUW Austin, Connie!

We have one more marvelous new member, **Terry Franklin**, who was invited by **Dr. Kay Keys** to hear Karen Pope. Following the meeting, Terry, another member with deep roots in the arts, also joined us. She earned her B.F.A. in fine and graphic arts at Cooper Union in 1975. In 1990, she earned an associate degree in applied science at Northern Virginia Community College/Nova. She worked as an electronic publication specialist at one time and now shares her talents as a docent at the Blanton Museum of Art and at Contemporary Austin. She is a widow but fills her life with a love of art, food, book clubs, UT NOVA, NCIW, fitness, film, and travel. Kay made her acquaintance through their work as docents. Terry is a lovely new member, and with her interests and strengths should be able to participate in multiple ways. Thank you, Kay, for bringing her to our Branch meeting!

I love to write about our new members, but I would also like to share news of our existing members. You may be aware that **Martha Van Sickle** spent about six months in the Northwest with her son, but I am happy to say she is back in town and we are happy to have her back! **Iilene Payton** had a bout of bad bronchitis last month which put her in the hospital for a while. She is home again and growing stronger by the day. We missed her sweet face at the Branch meeting and

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look forward to having her back, doing things like the art tours that she enjoys so much. My dear neighbor, **Elaine Penn**, lost her mother December 14, but Elaine said her mom lived a marvelous life well into her nineties, and she is at peace with her transition. **Jean Bessent** and I wrote back and forth in December, about her mother, Joan Dixon, who wanted to join AAUW after the first of the year. Sadly, Joan passed away, I believe unexpectedly, on Christmas Day, before she could join. Jean is also recovering from a knee replacement, so she has had a lot to deal with! And I especially want to recognize **Dr. Kay Keys, Anita Knight, Lynn Cooksey, Marsha Endahl Kramer, Dixie Schurle, Jan Roberts, Martha Van Sickle, Mary Kate Fredriksen, and Beverly Locklin**, whose love of this organization has spurred them to invite others to our Branch meetings or have given me the names of potential members for follow up. Our current roll of 188 members is because you care!



Rachel Flake, Asmahan Rasool, and Karen Wood chat while waiting for Dr. Karen Pope's lecture on Women Artists of the 20th Century to begin.

I also want to thank **Ruth Falck** who faithfully includes **Jerry Cassidy** in Branch meetings and other outings. Jerry no longer drives but loves AAUW, so Ruth makes sure she can attend by picking her up and returning her to her home. Ruth also very generously made it possible for some of our members to attend the Branch meeting who might not otherwise have been able to attend. Thank you, Ruth! We have other members who are unable to drive, and we have members who need assistance to attend our meetings in one way or another. If you would like to be an AAUW Angel, let me know. There are members who have always given others a

helping hand and that is greatly appreciated. Perhaps we could facilitate putting other rides together or get help for those who would like to participate but cannot. We all appreciate the angels among us.

Joining AAUW is a great thing because it supports our struggle for women's equality, our efforts to educate and train young women to aspire to a better life, and it helps us make an impact as a force to be reckoned with, politically. However, in order for us to have the other benefit of membership, friendship, you must become a part of the action. We want to see you!! Try a new group, do something to make a little difference, show up, get to know us, and help make us the most amazing branch in Texas. Welcome to AAUW Austin!

Diane Brewer

Membership Vice President 2012-2014

zdramamom@austin.rr.com

512.328.0474

ART TOUR GROUP FOCUS

The Wednesday, February 26th art tour is a visit to the studio of Austin artist, Eileen Pestorius. Her studio is in the Westlake area at 512 Konstanty Circle, 78746. Learn more about Eileen and her work on her website <www.Eileenthepainter.com>.



After the visit to the studio, the group will have lunch at Abuelo's in Barton Creek Mall, 2901 S. Capital of Texas Highway; 512.306.0857. Please RSVP to Diane Brewer (zdramamom@austin.rr.com or 512.328.0474) for studio tour only or studio tour plus lunch.

THE BRANCH & THE COMMUNITY

**LET’S WIN THE WAR ON POVERTY
IN OUR LIFETIME**

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty, here are three actions you can take right now to help secure a strong economic future for all women and families — and join a legacy of AAUW members fighting for the same goal. After you take one, two, or all three of these actions, we hope you sign up for AAUW Action Network so you can find out the latest ways to continue the War on Poverty.

1. [Join fair pay icon Lilly Ledbetter](#) in urging Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

If women were paid the same as their male peers are, we could cut the poverty rate in half, according to an analysis in The Shriver Report’s [A Woman’s Nation Pushes Back from the Brink](#). The report, for which AAUW was a resource, also found that the U.S. economy would be \$448 billion stronger if women received the equal pay we deserve. So what’s holding us back? Congress keeps dragging its feet on the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would close loopholes in the outdated Equal Pay Act of 1963 that prevent the law from fulfilling its promise of equal pay for equal work. With the fifth anniversary of the [Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act](#) happening in 2014 as well, now is the perfect time to join Lilly in [urging your members of Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act](#).

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

2. Help us raise the federal minimum wage.

With today’s minimum wage stuck at \$7.25 per hour, someone who works 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year will take home less than \$20,000 a year. That’s below the poverty line for a family of four. Minimum wage is a working woman’s issue — two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women — and it is especially important for women of color. Take two minutes to write your members of Congress and urge them to support the Fair Minimum Wage Act, which would gradually increase the minimum wage over the next three years until it eventually reaches \$10.10.

3. Write a letter to your local paper about the need for policies to reduce poverty.

As a reader of our website, you know that we need policies at the federal, state, and local levels to keep women and families out of poverty — but does everyone else in your community know that? A letter to the editor is a great way to educate your friends and neighbors about issues such as equal pay, minimum wage, and anti-hunger programs. AAUW’s how-to resource will walk you through how to write your letter from start to finish!

From Robert Reich, former US Secretary of Labor, comes an exposé on the nation's widening economic gap.

State Senator Rodney Ellis, Workers Defense Project, Center for Public Policy Priorities, Austin Area NAACP, Austin Area Urban League, Texas AFL-CIO and Community Action Network

invite you to attend a special nationwide event: a screening for legislators and the public marking the

50th Anniversary of the War on Poverty

February 5, 2014
2 pm screening
Refreshments provided/Discussion to follow

Texas Capitol Extension Auditorium
E1.004

Click here to RSVP by Feb. 4

To view the movie trailer visit:
www.inequalityforall.com

WINNER
AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE

He's taking this fight to the street.

INEQUALITY FOR ALL

Ask Your Alma Mater to Join AAUW

Your alma mater can join AAUW and receive 15 months of membership for the price of 12. Through February 28, institutions can join as [college/university partner members](#) at our budget-friendly rate of \$125.00. To find out how to recruit your school, go to www.aauw.org/resource/ask-your-alma-mater-to-join-aauw/.