



American Association of University Women AAUW Austin (Texas) Branch

Former Austin Mayor and Texas Comptroller to Speak at September 13th Program

Carol Keeton, our keynote speaker for the first program of the 2014-15 year, is a lifelong Austinite. Her core values, including respect for the rule of law, were first developed while being told bedtime stories by her dad, Page Keeton, who was dean of the UT law school at the time. Carole will discuss her role as mayor of Austin and all it led to, and we will celebrate her 75th birthday which just happens to be September 13. She is the mother of four sons, one of whose offspring is beginning as a student at UT this fall. Carole will describe how being mayor of Austin shaped her leadership skills and provided the framework for a long list of firsts as a woman in public service. She was the first woman mayor of Austin, the first woman comptroller of the state, and also served as a railroad commissioner for the State of Texas.



Her life has been a landmark for women and has served as a role model for establishing opportunities for women in her areas of public service. Carole will discuss Austin's past, present, and its future in a time of increasing population, water availability issues, and a need to set priorities for quality of life for our community in the years to come. She has evolved into a political Independent, after having discovered the importance of independence in becoming the woman she is today.



The September 13 meeting will be at the Norris Conference Center located in the former Northcross Mall at 2525 West Anderson Lane #365. The Center can be reached from Northcross Drive (optimal), Burnet Road, or Anderson Lane, and there is plenty of free parking available.

The program begins at 10 a.m. The menu will be King Ranch chicken served with black beans, home style green beans, and chips and salsa. Dessert will be birthday cake in honor of the speaker. Iced tea, coffee, and water will accompany the meal. The cost is \$30.00, and as always, a check or the correct amount of cash will be greatly appreciated by the treasurer.

To make your reservation for the meeting, please call Diane Brewer at 512.328.0474 or email her at zdramamom@austin.rr.com by Wednesday, September 10.

FROM THE BRANCH CO-PRESIDENTS

As we begin the new fiscal year in AAUW, I am reminded of the reason that we join this venerable organization and why we commit ourselves to working so hard in its mission. "Joining our voice on critical issues that make women stronger" is at the heart of membership in AAUW. Some of the issues of the day include speaking out against campus sexual violence, empowering girls to fight gender stereotypes, calling attention to shrinking the pay gap, highlighting the fact that sexual harassment is a daily problem in schools or on the street, defending women's healthcare, and working to ensure all women vote in the coming elections.

We are currently in the process of updating the branch goals to ensure that they remain closely aligned to the recently approved national Strategic Plan, addressing the AAUW Mission, Value Promise, Value Statement, and Diversity Statement, which is available at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/strategic-plan/>. The branch goals contain objectives and strategies that describe how the Branch is involved in the meeting of each goal. The structure will exist for members to hold themselves accountable for meeting the association mission. I thank **Dr. Anita Sylvia García** and **Mary Ellen Scribner** for volunteering to update the branch goals.

Most board positions have been filled. **Anita Knight** has been diligent about finding a new chair for the public relations and communications team, as well as a chair for the AAUW funds committee. We hope to see members stepping up soon to help the Branch with these two critical tasks. Our thanks to all of you who have volunteered to help the Branch do its work. We are blessed with exceptional talent among our members and meeting challenges is not a foreign concept to our strong leaders.

This Branch works hard and we play hard, too. What a party Diane Brewer and her committees gave on Sunday, August 17! This year's membership social was well attended, full of yummy cakes, cooling beverages, special door prizes, bright conversation, and plenty of infor-

mation available about who we are. New member numbers are not available at this time, but there were many fascinating women in attendance who would make super additions to our work. On behalf of **Anita Knight**, co-president, and myself, we give those responsible for the success of the occasion a standing ovation.

We all look forward to the first meeting of the new fiscal year, set for September 13. Carole Keeton is the keynote speaker, and she will speak about Austin, a topic that she is very familiar with as a native Austinite and as former mayor of the city. We anticipate a witty talk and good food at a great venue, the Norris Conference Center. I hope to see you there!



María Inés García
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Thanks to our new PR/communication team members **Janani Janakiraman**, **Vandana Nayak**, **Soon Merz**, **Bergan Casey**, **Dr. Kay Keys**, **Patricia Horton**, **Anita Knight** and **Mary Ellen Scribner** (note underlined are NEWer members), we have a revised, enhanced website, an active Facebook presence, and good ideas going forward for publicity and outreach. (New member **Michelle Martin** initially pitched in with her marketing expertise and shared good ideas, as well as agreeing to chair this team, but her graduate coursework has since necessitated that she drop out "temporarily.")

Check out <http://austin-tx.aauw.net-especially> this page: <http://austin-tx.aauw.net/2014/07/06/monthly-branch-program-august-2014/>!

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS with VP Diane Brewer

AAUW Austin celebrated the start of a new program year in style Sunday, August 17th. The annual summer membership social was held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and throughout the afternoon about seventy people meandered around the interest and mission tables, visited with friends and our many invited guests, and signed up for new activities. While some renewed their dues, eleven of our guests joined for the first time. Treasurer **Marina Rivers** was stationed at the membership table and stayed so busy processing membership forms she was never able to leave her spot. Other submissions are still to come.

The membership committee could not have worked better together to create this awesome event! Evites and eye-catching print works designed by our membership social planner **Ruth Falck** both caught our attention and reeled us in. Guests relaxed at festive tables brightened by sunny flowers in watering tins provided by **Marina Rivers**; tables were loaded with yummy edibles provided by **Judy Reinhart, Betty Owen, Maggie Kadlecek, Dorothy Ramsey, and Marina Rivers**. Food expeditor Judy R planned the treats and served our delicious desserts. Maggie and best bud **Eugenie Whalen** brought lemonade, tea, waters and ice to keep our whistles wet through the lively afternoon. Guests entering the room were name-tagged by **Larie Amsler** and **Milli Stecker**, then warmly greeted by a smiling **Elaine Penn** and given a ticket for a chance at one of the eight door prizes! It was like Christmas in August! It was especially fun that hard-working **Co-Prez Inés Garcia** won the grand prize, \$125 in beauty services plus hair products (too pretty to need it!) provided by Kim Tolbert at Salon Presly. The door prizes were all fun and generous, including jewelry, books, CDs, gift certificates to HEB, compliments of Betty Owen and two free tickets to any show at Austin Playhouse! **Fern Chester** made sure the interest group tables ran smoothly.

The eleven new members we welcomed on the 17th include:

★ **Resa Dunn**, formerly a president of the AAUW Orange, Texas Branch in the eighties. Resa is a retired librarian, mom and grandmother, and is married to Sam, and a friend of mine from St. Mark's.

★ **Suzy Lindeman Snyder**, who has visited AAUW Branch occasions several times with good

friend Lynn Cooksey. Suzy was instrumental in creating the nursery school which was later to become Mainspring Schools. Her daughter **Anne Wheat** is also a branch member.

★ Busy **Lilac Bauer** recruited retired anthropologist **Mary Gray Rust**. Mary is a neighbor and good friend of Lilac's. She is currently executive director of A Place We Call Home. She is a community organizer in matters of sociological inequity and is a perfect fit in AAUW with our emphasis on helping people improve their lives.

★ **Judy S. Cook** is a retired psychiatric nurse who found her way here after getting her bachelors at Colorado University and her masters at Idaho State University. Judy began inquiring about our branch in January and then came to the social and joined!

★ **Jeanette O'Dell**, retired from the State of Texas Legislative Budget Board, and a fellow Westbanker, also joined. Jeanette has shown an interest in several of our interest groups and volunteers with the Assistance League of Austin.

★ I am excited about **Sherry Sniderman**, a fellow Eanes ISD retiree and another Westbanker joining. Sherry is an educator of the gifted and talented whose expertise is valued at St. Edward's University where she periodically is a guest speaker.

★ **Charlene Gagon**, a retired accounting analyst from the Fairfax County, Virginia Public Schools system, was trained in applied music but also earned an MBA. While in Virginia, she was treasurer of the McLean, Virginia, branch of AAUW! This musical mathematician also served as North Virginia District AAUW treasurer. So often musicians have a dual talent for numbers! We are so happy you have come to Austin, Charlene. We won't put you to work too soon!

★ Barton Hills resident **Cindy Werland**, a retired literacy specialist with AISD, also decided to kick retirement and went back to AISD again serving as a literacy specialist. Cindy was trained in elementary education and bilingual education. We hope she can also enjoy some of our interest groups while still working!

★ **Lala Niemeyer**, a friend of Lynn Cooksey's through the UN Association, and who attended our ninetieth anniversary bash, said she just couldn't say no to Lynn's urging to join AAUW Austin. Her son Stephen is a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church; she is married to Victor; and is another Westbank resident. Lala (beautiful name!) was trained at the

(membership news continues on next page)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS with VP Diane Brewer

University of Texas to teach both English and Spanish. She is a world traveler who has been associated with other organizations on the international front which draw educated women!

★ **Sue Ellen Jeffers**, another Barton Hills area resident, is also another woman trained in the arts and in business! Sue Ellen is retired now, but she last managed the art collection at the Blanton Museum of Art, at the University of Texas. She earned her BA in art at Macalester College, then her MBA in business at UT! We will be happy to have her on the art tours, I can tell you!

★ A fellow parishioner from St. Mark's, a retired Eanes ISD special education teacher, and a former colleague of mine at Hill Country Middle School, **Ann Williams**, also joined on Sunday. Ann is married to L.A., has a lovely daughter, Jenny, and is looking forward to hiking, OTL, and art tours! So happy that she joined!

It was my special privilege to announce that our own **Jerry Cassidy**, transplanted to Austin from South Carolina, achieved her honorary member status just the week before the social. Jerry chose all the door prize tickets for us. I love seeing this Southern Belle smile! Imagine fifty years of supporting women and girls! We now have fifteen members who are honorary.



Jerry Cassidy

It was so much fun to meet **Asmahan Rasool's** daughter and granddaughter. She shared with me that she is going to continue her education and wants to focus on women's issues. **Vandana Nayak** brought 8th grade daughter Eesha to the social, and **Janani Janakiraman** once again brought her two terrific twin girls, Kavya and Priya. Older daughter **Divya Ramamoorthy** is a student affiliate of Austin AAUW at UT. Vandana and Janani, both engineers who work in the tech sector, have been updating our website and working to improve our public persona. They know the value of exposing their girls to the company of educated women.

It was wonderful to see **Rima Xoyamayagüa**, too. Her good-looking husband came along with her and seemed quite comfortable mingling with all of us women. Tireless worker for women's rights **Linda**

Young also came by with luscious cookies to share. I loved seeing **Freda Bryson**, who is hard at work on her PhD at Texas State University in women's issues attending and holding court at the public policy table. Freda wants to create a branch in San Marcos and she is on her way!

It was awesome that so many others of you longtime members also came, visited, and made our party reveal how terrific this branch really is. Both **Lilac Bauer** and **Betty Owen** staggered away with containers loaded with donated back-to-school items for Girlstart and Mainspring Schools, thanks to your generosity.

At the social the creative stitchery table, longtime stitchery maven **Dorothea Berasley** was missing. I wondered why she wasn't there as she always attends! Later, **Fern Chester** shared with me that Dorothea had broken her pelvis in July, was in hospital, then rehab through half of August. She is now home and healing. We hope you feel frisky soon, Dorothea!

In other member news, **Brigitte Benquet** and her longtime partner recently married on a boat! **Ruth Falck** and others of us at Chez Zee enjoying an Out to Lunch occasion, marveled at the photos of the super moon just rising over their heads as they kissed on the water! Super romantic!

Awesome speaker and activist for children in the foster system, **Gigi Bryant**, recently shared with me that she is running for Place 2 on the Austin Community College Board of Trustees. She hopes to replace someone who has served for a good while, but is stepping down. Gigi would be an excellent member of the board.

Member and community organizer **Monica Guzman** is also running for office, as we announced in the August newsletter. She is fighting for a place on the Austin City Council, District 4. Monica knows her area and is a hardworking AISD liaison for the Mexican American community. If you can support these two women in your voting district, please do!

I look forward to strong branch programs all year, thanks to **Judy Reinhart**, **Janet Widoff**, and **Ruth Rubio**, who share the VP Programs job! See you on the 13th!

Diane Brewer
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 512.328.0474

SCENES FROM THE SUMMER SOCIAL



September Calendar of Branch Activities

September 8 (Rescheduled from first to second Monday due to Labor Day holiday), 7:15-8:30

p.m. Contemporary Literature:
Old Quarry BL. *The Lowland* (Jhumpa Lahiri). Discussion leader: Mary Ellen Scribner. Chair: Fern Chester, 512.345.1102.

September 8, 10:30 a.m.-12:30

p.m. SW Book Group. *The Movement of Stars* by Amy Brill. Facilitator is Dr. Anita Sylvia Garcia; hostess is Anita Knight. Chair: Inés Garcia, 512.444.5643.

September 8, 2-4 p.m. AAUW Board Meeting. Yarborough BL.

September 10, 4 p.m. Second Wednesday Bridge. Contact: Lynn Cooksey, 512.477.2774.

September 13. PEARS. Gather between 2-3 p.m. for 3 p.m. behind the scenes tour. Bullock Museum; tour followed by IMAX movie & dinner. Contact: Anita & Don Knight, 512.329.8575.

September 13, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Branch meeting. Speaker is Carole Keeton, former mayor of Austin. Norris Conference Center, 2525 West Anderson Lane #365. Make reservation by Wednesday September 10.

September 16, 11 a.m. Out to Lunch: Brio Tuscan Grill, 10000 Research Blvd., (512.794.1234). Hostess: Diane Brewer, (RSVP: zdramamom@austin.rr.com). Chair: Ruth Falck (512.550.6449).

September 17, 10 a.m. Creative Stitchery with hostess Frances Tomlinson (512.899.9244) and co-hostess Elaine Penn (512.328.3100).

AAUW Austin

"Do I know you?"

Captions for Photos on the Preceding Page

1. Maggie Kadlecek; Eugenie Whalen
2. Divya Ramamoorthy; Eesha Nayak; Vandana Nayak; Kavya Ramamoorthy, Janani Janakiraman
3. Kathy Mitchell; Karen Wood
4. Diane Brewer; Lois Shaevel; Jerry Cassidy
5. Ruth Rubio; Mary Lou Bell
6. Ilene Payton; Brenda Scholin; Beverly Locklin
7. Dr. Sylvia Garcia
8. Mary Owens; Anneliese Ellerton, Fern Chester



LONGTIME BRANCH MEMBER DIED IN JULY



Novella Wiley, longtime AAUW Austin Branch member, died on July 28, 2014. She received a B. A. in English cum laude in 1962 and an M.A. in Latin from the University of Texas in 1973. Novella retired in 1984 after twenty-two years as a teacher in Austin ISD at Fulmore Junior High and Austin High School. She then served as president of the Austin Retired Teachers Association and president of Region 10 of the Texas Retired Teachers Association. She served as president of the alpha chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, International Society for Key Woman Educators.

After she retired, Novella became a docent at the LBJ Library and continued until recently. Novella received many honors for her professional and civic work such as Austin High School Teacher of the year, Austin High School Hall of Honor, and Texas Retired Teachers Association named a conference room for her in the state headquarters in Austin.

Novella was a very active member of the Austin Branch until her health started to decline. **Pam Wolfe** recalls, "As a retired teacher, Novella practically lived at the State Board of Education meetings during some of its more turbulent years and kept our AAUW Austin Branch informed."

Sept. Calendar of Branch Activities

(continued from preceding page)

September 18, 6:30 p.m.

Culture & Cuisine: Hostess: Jan Roberts; co-hostess: Fern Chester. Theme is Thailand. Chair: Anneliese Ellerton (512.241.8425).

September 24, 10 a.m. Art Tour.

Planner: Ruth Rubio. Sculptor/painter Augusto Brocca (Studio 10 Art Gallery, 1011 West Lynn Street, 78730). Lunch: Cipollina West Austin Bistro,, 31213 West Lynn Ave. Chair: Diane Brewer; RSVP zdramamom@austin.rr.com.

September 25, 4 p.m.

Fourth Wednesday Bridge. Contact Sara Ezell (512.343.8494).

Every Thursday, 9:30 a.m.

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



First Meeting in October

First Friday Book Review. Chair: Gayle Smith (512.345.5585). Next meeting scheduled for October 4.

Hiking Group. Contacts: Ginny Tannebring (512.477.3579 or ginnyz@sbcglobal.net) & Beverly Locklin (512.343.0782 or blocklin@austin.rr.com). Next scheduled hike is October 25.

Girls in STEM

Thanks to everyone who brought supplies for Girlstart's AfterSchool program at the recent summer social! We collected just over 100 composition books and spirals for the girls' science journals, and a 12"x18" basket full of pencils, sharpeners, post-its, tape and other supplies.

Saturday, October 25th from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. is the Latinitas College "Code" Chica at Austin Community College with an emphasis on computer skills, but also including topics on media, technology, and careers. They have asked for our help with registration the morning of the conference, as well as some pre-conference support. Call or email Lilac Bauer to volunteer.

The Latinitas Summer Camp Program included four weeks of technology and media: CineChica (video-photography-filmmaking); GamerChick (video games, coding, websites, social media); FashionForward (fashion writing-fashion photography); HealthyChica-body and soul (health-wellness-sports-body image). They will have similar programs for their Chica Saturdays.

Thursday, October 30th from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. is the Girlstart GAMECHANGERS LUNCHEON, the annual fundraiser for their programs. It is a FUN showcase for the accomplishments of women, and also for the girls participating in the Girlstart programs. **Anita Knight** was on the selection committee this year for the awards to outstanding women in STEM careers for their contributions to encouraging young women and girls to enter those fields. Individual AAUW members may purchase a ticket to attend the luncheon for \$100; this is a tax-deductible contribution. If you wish to attend, please let me know!!—we are planning to reserve a named Table of Ten to show AAUW's support for this outstanding STEM organization. You can also make an additional contribution to help pay for one of the Girlstart club members to attend at our table. Make your check out to Girlstart, note that you are an AAUW member, and either you wish to attend, or wish to help sponsor a girl. I will collect checks at the next meeting and turn them in together to reserve the table.

We have been asked to assist with the data entry of the pre-service surveys given to each of the almost 1,000 girls in the AfterSchool program. Call or email me to volunteer for two or more hours of service (at your convenience) at the Girlstart STEM Center at 1400 W. Anderson Lane.



Lilac Bauer
STEM chair

512-743-6338

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The proposed budget will be put to the membership for a vote at the September 13 meeting. You can address questions to Marina Rivers, branch treasurer, at marinarivers@gmail.com.

AAUW AUSTIN BRANCH
PROJECTED BUDGET 2014-2015 VS. BUDGET 2013-2014

Branch Income	2013-2014	2014-2015
Dues	\$2,500	\$2,500
Branch Donations -- Cash	\$600	\$600
Program Income	\$300	\$300
Branch Lunch Income	\$100	\$100
Branch Fundraisers		
Interest Income	\$50	\$50
Total Branch Income	\$3,550	\$3,550
Branch Expense		
Officers		
President	\$50	\$100
Program VPs	\$150	\$350
Membership VP	\$518	\$500
Secretary	\$25	\$25
Treasurer	\$25	\$25
Total Officers Expense	\$768	\$1,000
Committees		
Yearbook/Postage	\$900	\$800
Seminars and Conferences	\$500	\$500
Newsletter	\$300	\$250
Memorials	\$100	\$100
Other Committees (Bylaws/Public Policy)	\$50	\$25
UT Fellowships	\$50	\$25
Study/Interest Groups	\$30	\$25
AAUW Funds	\$25	\$25
Total Committee Expense	\$1,955	\$1,750
Non-Committee Operations		
Computer Software	\$200	\$200
Liability Insurance	\$160	\$180
Signage	\$131	
Postal Box Rental	\$80	\$80
Bank Charges/PayPal	\$60	\$60
Other	\$196	\$280
Total Non-Committee Operations	\$827	\$800
Total Branch Expense	\$3,550	\$3,550

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	Balance as of July 31, 2014	
	CHECKING:	\$7,654
	CD: Mainspring Schools	\$10,151
	MONEY MARKET:	\$3,634
	SAVINGS	\$402
TOTAL Cash in Bank Accounts		\$21,841