

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE - December 4, 2011



AUSTIN BRANCH - HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 4, 2011

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

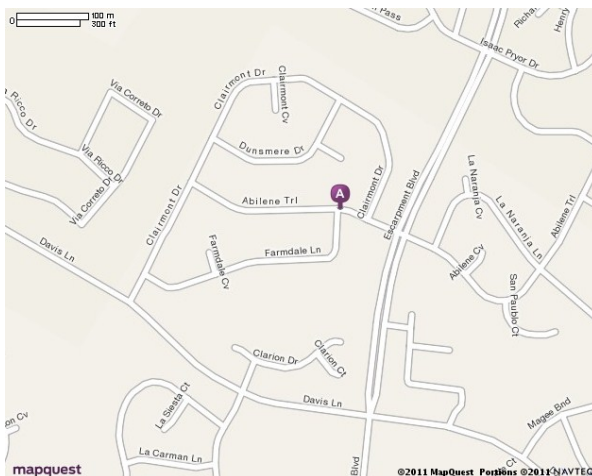
Hostess Inés García cordially invites all members to attend the annual Holiday Open House at her home, 6310 Abilene Trail. Past Austin Branch presidents are co-hosting the event. Everyone is encouraged to stop by and celebrate the season with current and prospective members.

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Newsletter Deadline is noon on the 20th of the preceding month. Send to: gsimpler@mail.utexas.edu

Questions? Call me at 834-9481 or 560-6329.
Thanks, Gail Simpler



Inés lives in South Austin. Directions from the north: Go south on Mopac. Take the Davis Lane exit. Turn right (west). Continue on Davis to the stop light at Escarpment Blvd. Turn right (north) then immediately get into the left lane. The first street on your left is Abilene Trail. 6310 will be on your right. Please call Inés if you have any questions...444-5643.



Season's Greetings and Happy New Year to Everyone!

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Newest Member: Our 164th member is **Carmen “Becky” Garcia**, Home: 512-447-8201, Cell: 512-791-3841, Email: bgarcia1x@gmail.com Becky earned a BA in Liberal Arts with a minor in Economics from The Evergreen State College (Olympia, WA) in 1981, MLIS from The University of Texas at Austin in Library and Information Science in 1986, a MBA from St. Edward’s University in 2001, and has Project Management Professional (PMP) certification. She is the Director of Development at Host Publications and works part-time for Ten Thousand Villages where her official title is “Countess.” (Becky is the inventory manager!) She also works as an agent with Primerica. Becky volunteers with Austin German Shepherd Dog Rescue, Gold Ribbon Rescue (golden retrievers) and is Auction Coordinator at Run Like the Wind, the annual fundraiser for the Schrodi Memorial Training Fund. Becky is also a supporter of SCARE for a Cure. Becky is involved with other dog-related activities with her own five dogs. She is a member of the St. Mary’s Cathedral Conference of St. Vincent de Paul. We welcome Becky and spouse, Jim Cullen, to our AAUW community.

Newest member **Becky Garcia** sat with **Veronica Johnson** and **Anneliese Ellerton**. They especially enjoyed the fair trade program panel and silent auction.



Ruth Falck, Lilac Bauer, Marsha Endahl Kramer, and Inés García had fun at the November Branch Meeting celebrating the Austin Branch’s 88th Birthday!

Potential Members: The 2011-2012 Membership Committee—**Natalie Balden, Peggy Holland, Veronica Johnson, Janie Maldonado, Gail Simpler, Ruth Falck, Larie Amsler, and Marsha Endahl Kramer** encourage members to take advantage of a perfect opportunity to invite potential members as your guests to our branch Holiday Open house December 4th. There is no charge for this event and it gives potential members an opportunity to socialize, and get a feel for the enthusiasm of celebrating the season with stimulating, active and fun-loving AAUW sisters! If you want to have a friend/guest *officially* invited, please contact Marsha at hughmarsha@aol.com or 906-2033. Thanks in advance for being an AAUW ambassador.

Mystery Members: More than 100 of you in the Yearbook are not able to participate in monthly meetings or small interest groups; however, you support our branch, state, and national organization and therefore hold a special place in AAUW. ***PLEASE ATTEND OUR HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE!*** You may not know anyone, are a brand new member, or have not been to meetings in years, but this is a great opportunity to see what affiliation looks like in person. We know many of you are swamped with career, family, and community responsibilities and participate from a distance. You are still important and help strengthen our voice nationwide. We know you by degrees, but ***please know YOU MATTER***, since you share our common goals of making a difference in the lives of girls and women. We hope you will be able to join us December 4th.

Former Members: It is the custom of the Austin Branch to purchase a book for the Austin Public Library in memory of recently deceased members. The library staff selects a book and whenever possible, the member’s special interests are considered in the selection. The book has a nameplate noting it was given by the AAUW Austin Branch in memory of the member. Larie Amsler has completed the paperwork to honor the following former members:

Betty Louise Alexander, Patricia Kaplan, Rita Kraft, Mary Lou Matlock, Dr. Vi Marie Taylor

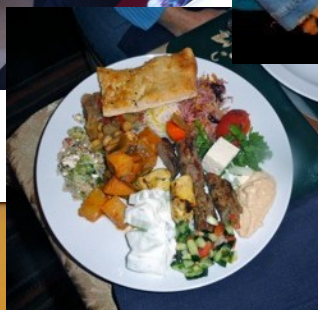
It was brought to our attention **Frances G. Wheless** passed away in Dripping Springs, TX on November 1, 2011, just after her 102nd birthday. A member of AAUW for 72 years, Frances spent most her life in Austin and was president of the Austin Branch in 1957-1958. She was one of the first women graduates of Baylor University (BA 1931, Education/History), active in the National PTA, and a member of the University Baptist Church. Preceding her in death was her husband, Jesse Hartwell Wheless (1907-1978) and her youngest son, Jerry (1946-2007). Frances is buried with her husband in the Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. She is survived by sons, Robert Wheless and family, Seattle, WA; Edwin Wheless and family, Irvine, CA; and granddaughter Lisa Boyer and family, Denver, CO. A book will be donated to the Austin Public Library in her memory next year.



The Books and Brunch Southwest group enjoyed a lively discussion at a recent gathering.



The Culture and Cuisine group's theme was Persian and Armenian foods last month. In December "A Croatian Christmas" will be held. Call Chair Mary Owens if you are interested in knowing more about this group—454-9339.



L-R Barbara Houston, Dixie Schurle, Brenda Hahne, Fern Chester, and Jan Roberts enjoyed sampling Middle Eastern foods at C & C.



The Nominating Committee will begin accepting nominations for the Austin Branch Board of Directors Executive Committee for 2012-2014 on January 2, 2012. The Executive Committee is comprised of the President, Program Vice-President, Membership Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. [See Bylaws ARTICLE VI OFFICERS, Page 40 in 2011-2012 Yearbook] The Nominating Committee is currently in the process of selecting a Committee Chair. Please send names of potential candidates to Diane Brewer, Fern Chester, Sylvia Garcia, Rosemary Morrow, or Mary Ellen Scribner. The roster of candidates will be presented to members at least one month prior to the election. Written nominations are preferred with your reasons why that member would be a good candidate for office. Thank you.

Kay Watson
President, Austin Branch



Anita Knight (center) gets ready to assist Honorary Members Frances Tomlinson (L) and Nancy Myers (R) in blowing out the candles on our Branch Birthday Cake at the November meeting.

Summary of AAUW fundraising activities on November 12, 2011:

AAUW FUNDS - \$473.50 total

\$308.50 for the Ann Richards American Fellowship Endowment

\$140.00 for the Educational Opportunities Fund

\$ 25.00 for the Legal Advocacy Fund

Branch Operating Expenses - \$109.00 total

Grand Total - \$582.50

**Lucky Winner of the Holiday Quilted Wall Hanging was
Jacquie Vilstrup, Cross Plains, WI (Gail Simpler's sister!).**



DECEMBER ACTIVITIES/Calendar

December 1 - Deadline for Board members to give Rosemary Morrow suggestions for updates for additions/corrections/deletions to job descriptions or any other pages, from the old 2006 Policies and Procedures notebook. Please contact Rosemary if you have any questions. She can be reached at rmorr5@sbcglobal.net or 251-7212.

December 2 - Book Review Group meets at the Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43rd & Avenue B at 10 a.m. A Christmas Story will be reviewed. Discussion Leader: Ramona Nance. Host: Angie Clark. Chair: Natalie Balden, 288-7748.

December 4 - Holiday Open House at Inés García's home, 6310 Abilene Trail, Austin, 2–5 p.m. See front page for directions.

December 5 - International Volunteer Day.

December 5 - Special LAF Benefit Shopping Night, Ten Thousand Villages, 1317 S. Congress Ave., Austin, 5–9 p.m. 10–15% of the total sales during this time will be donated to the Legal Advocacy Fund by 10,000 Villages. There is a prize for the member who brings the most friends and family to shop! Need more information? Call Veronica Johnson, 338-1254.

December 5 - Contemporary Literature meets at the Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center Dr. at 7:15 p.m. *The Gargoyle: A Novel* by Andrew Davidson. Discussion leader: Fern Chester. Chair: Fern Chester, 345-1102.

December 6 - Classic Book Study Group meets at the Ralph Yarborough Branch Library, 2200 Hancock Dr. at 7 p.m. *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* by Rudolf Besier. Discussion Leader: Evelyn Boyer. Chair: Evelyn Boyer, 836-1492.

December 7 - Creative Stitchery celebrates the season with luncheon at Bistro Mirabelle, 8127 Mesa Dr. Suite A100, Austin. <http://mirabellerestaurant.com/> Advance reservations required. RSVP to Kay Goodwin, 467-8255. Co-Chairs: Jan Roberts, 371-0782 and Dorothea Berasley, 343-0370.

December 12 - Books and Brunch Southwest will gather at 10:30 a.m. at the home of hostess and facilitator Marsha Endahl Kramer, 6907 Telluride Trail, to discuss *The Stone Diaries*. RSVP to Marsha, 906-2033. Chair: Ruth Falck, 550-6449.

December 14 - Second Wednesday Bridge, 4 p.m. Call Judy Reinhart, 345-5936, for more information; hostess and location change monthly.

December 15 - Culture and Cuisine meets at the home of hostess Veronica Johnson, 7600 Cat Tail Cove, 78750 at 6:30 p.m. to experience "A Croatian Christmas." Co-hostess is Fern Chester. RSVP to Veronica, 338-1254 or Fern, 345-1102. Chair: Mary Owens, 454-9339.

December 17 - PEARS will meet at 7 p.m. at the home of Veronica Johnson and Don Meyer, 7600 Cat Tail Cove, for a Holiday Party—games and festivities. RSVP to Veronica, 338-1254. Chair: Veronica Johnson, 338-1254.

Every Thursday Bridge - Bridge at the Senior Activity Center-Lamar, 2874 Shoal Crest Ave. (29th and N. Lamar) 9:30 a.m. to Noon. Check with Chair: Dorothy Ramsey, 442-3841 for holiday schedule.



SAVE THE DATE

January 14, 2012

Judge Karen Sage

Evidence-Based Sentencing:

Trends in Criminal Justice

Wyndham Hotel

DID YOU KNOW?...

After many months and hours of hard work gathering the data, the Personal Information Database of Austin Branch members (includes careers, interests, AAUW activities, offices held, etc.), **is finally ready for distribution!** If you would like to have it, contact Anita Knight at dbasknight@aol.com or 329-8575 or Marsha Endahl Kramer at hughmarsha@aol.com or 906-2033. Please indicate what format you prefer—PDF in a Word document or PDF in an Excel spread sheet. Many thanks to ALL members who assisted in this arduous task.

