



The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) works to combat sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

<http://www.aauw.org/act/laf/>

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

Questions? Call me at 834-9481 or 560-6329.

American Association of University Women

Austin (TX) Branch

<http://austin-tx.aauw.net>

January 2012

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BRANCH MEETING – JANUARY 14, 2012

“Evidence-Based Sentencing: Trends in Criminal Justice”

The Honorable Karen Sage is the judge of the Travis County 299th Criminal District Court. Formerly an Assistant District Attorney for Travis County, Ms. Sage was tasked by District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg to help develop and formulate the first ever Mental Health Docket for Travis County. Before that she prosecuted hundreds of important and high-profile felony cases, with crimes ranging from sexual assault to murder.



Before moving to Austin with her family, Ms. Sage worked as a prosecutor in the United States Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of New York. One of her biggest cases in New York was the prosecution of the latest no-fault insurance fraud in history at that time. Prior to working in the U.S. Attorney's Office, she served as Counsel to the Mayor of Los Angeles for three years. She helped develop policies in the immediate wake of the Rodney King riots that are still in use today, as well as being influential in a number of important civic issues.

Ms. Sage is also an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Law School at The University of Texas at Austin where she teaches a class on the Ethics of Criminal Law. We hope you will join us for this unique opportunity to hear Judge Sage and visit with her informally.

Wyndham Garden Hotel

3401 IH 35 (NE corner IH 35 and Woodward St.) Austin, TX 78741

9:45—10:15 a.m. Registration, Socialize and Network

10:15—11:15 a.m. Program

11:15 a.m. Branch business meeting

12:00 p.m. Luncheon (\$20 w/reservation; \$30 at the door)

All members planning to attend should RSVP to Sylvia Gregory by 6 p.m. the Wednesday before the meeting via e-mail at aauw.satgreg@yahoo.com or by phone—345-2420. This includes members *only* attending the meeting, as well as those staying for lunch to ensure ample seating. There will be open seating for all members and guests. Everyone will be given their nametags when they check in. Those staying for lunch will also receive a lunch card to put at the place of their choosing. This procedure will encourage all members to mingle and allow the wait staff to serve lunch more efficiently.

Menu: Meat Lasagna with seasonal fresh vegetables and garlic bread sticks. If you have any dietary restrictions, please let Sylvia know when you make your reservation. All plated luncheons are served with House salad or Caesar salad, rolls and butter, Chef's Choice dessert, iced tea, hot tea, regular and decaffeinated coffee.



AAUW Texas Biennial State Convention

AAUW Opening Opportunities!

April 13-15, 2012

Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol

701 East 11th Street

Focus: Public Education in Texas



Registration is now open! Program information and Registration Form are in the Winter 2012 *University Woman* Texas. You may also go to the AAUW Texas home page: www.aauwtexas.org/ and click on "early register" to access the form. You will find our own **Sandi Causey** is the Convention Registrar!

Members of Austin and Georgetown Branches are hostesses!

For more information and to volunteer, please contact Elizabeth Newell by email at enewell4@austin.rr.com or by phone, 345-1686.



FUNDRAISER AT TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

Four husbands joined 14 Austin Branch members in staffing the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Benefit from 5–9 p.m. December 5, 2011. In addition to volunteering, branch members joined "off the street" shoppers in making purchases resulting in a total of **\$275** for LAF. Many thanks to all who participated, especially **Veronica Johnson**, who made the arrangements and coordinated this profitable event. Winners of the prizes for bringing the most family and friends were **Mary Owens** and **Kay Watson**. Extra special thanks to Kitty Bird, Ten Thousand Villages Manager (guest speaker at the November Branch meeting), for giving us the opportunity to be a part of their community outreach to other non-profit organizations.



 **TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES.**
A FAIR TRADE RETAILER

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



GIFT WRAPPING for the GIRLS IN STEM CONFERENCE at the Barnes and Noble Booksellers at The Arboretum

MEMBERS CAREER AND INTERESTS INFORMATION

For the 2010-2011 Yearbook it was decided not to include career and interests information, as most on file was incomplete and out-of-date. Almost a year later, after extensive follow-up with members by the Membership Committee in writing, phone, email interviews and during the renewal process, the information is now up-to-date and available in an easy to read on-line way. One can use this to help identify potential leaders or to network with like-minded individuals who share common interests or careers. We are extremely proud of all our members and want to offer special thanks to **Anita Knight** and **Inés García** who gave extraordinary help to **Marsha Endahl Kramer**, Membership Vice-President, and Membership Committee members: **Gail Simpler**, **Veronica Johnson**, **Peggy Holland**, **Ginny Tannebring**, **Janie Maldonado**, **Natalie Balden**, **Larie Amsler**, **Dorothy Vance** and **Ruth Falck**. Please contact Marsha at hughmarsha@aol.com, 906-2033; or Anita Knight at dbasknight@aol.com, 329-8575 if you would like to receive this information. Adobe Reader is necessary to access this PDF document.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO FILL STATE CONVENTION TOTE BAGS!



Gail Simpler and **Marsha Endahl Kramer**, Tote Bag Co-Chairs for the AAUW Texas State Convention, have received their first donations. Many thanks for Avon lip balms from **Rima Xoyamayagüa-Undavia** and Mary Kay products from **Jocelyn Rose Bingham Brandt**. Many more items are needed to fill the 150 tote bags! *What do YOU like to receive when you go to a conference?* Some ideas include: regular or sugar-free candy, tissues, key chains, eyeglasses cleaner, hand sanitizer, pens, notebooks, make-up samples, band aids, luggage tags, small water bottles, discounts at local stores and restaurants, etc. They are needed by April 6th, a week before the convention, so the totes can be "stuffed." Acknowledgements will be sent to the donors. We are still looking for a major donor for the 150 tote bags. Please contact Gail or Marsha with suggestions or questions about donations.

Gail can be reached at gsimpler@mail.utexas.edu or 834-9481. Marsha can be reached at hughmarsha@aol.com or 906-2033. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

EXCERPTS OF MESSAGE written by Art Tour Group Chair **Diane Brewer** after 28 Austin Branch members visited the Benini Foundation Galleries and Sculpture Garden in Johnson City, TX Nov. 30, 2011.

www.Benini.com or www.SculptureRanch.com

Photos by **Ruth Falck** and
Marsha Endahl Kramer



Lorraine Benini and Ruth Falck



“...The belief that art should be available to all without the price of admission is at the core of the Benini philosophy. Benini grew up in an area of northern Italy near Bologna and Florence, where inspiring art was available to all every day, at no cost to the beholder. Benini and wife Lorraine have carried that commitment to their 140 acre Benini Foundation Galleries and Sculpture Ranch in Johnson City, Texas....

Our excursion today could not have been lovelier, more compelling, or more rewarding...the day was simply aaahh-mazing.

Lorraine greeted our arrival this morning with warmth and dozens of chairs in the art gallery...The space is now dazzling and filled with Benini's large, colorful, unique, and provocative art. He dabbles in sculpture, but seriously and purposefully produces a huge volume of two dimensional art which is on display and in storage....

We were also given a rare opportunity to hear Benini talk of his art, his life, his adoration of Lorraine, and his commitment to giving and sharing with others. I say rare, because his painting technique requires that he paint all night long at 50 degrees, thanks to a powerful AC and a special humidifier to keep the tools of his trade working. He habitually sleeps during the day...the black-clad, bearded and pony-tailed artist was open and hilarious. Lorraine spoke briefly to us about the challenge of installing the quite large sculptures on the property for viewing by the public...

The sculptors come from all over the country and from many walks of life....All must meet 3 basic criteria for their work to be accepted at the sculpture ranch: It must be physically strong enough to withstand the extremes of winds, storms, and temperatures of the Texas Hill Country; it must be visibly grand—they prefer about 10' in height; and finally, it must be true. That is to say that the materials must be what they appear to be: stone, bronze, iron, steel, etc....



The gallery foyer is home to dozens of paintings of Lorraine and Benini which have been done by others paying homage to this lively pair whose commitment to sharing their genius has inspired so many other artists and enabled them to display their work at no cost to the artist!...Their life together is one of shared joy. They are both passionate and committed to this time and place. He is clearly the love and driving force of her life; she is his muse, his integrity, his discipline, and his structure. Together they are formidable...” *DB*



Benini and Ruth Falck

JANUARY ACTIVITIES/Calendar

January 2 - Contemporary Literature meets at the Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center Dr. at 7:15 p.m. *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most powerful Indian Tribe in American History* by S.C. Gwynne. Discussion leader: Beverly Locklin. Chair: Fern Chester, 345-1102.

January 3 - Classic Book Study Group meets at the Ralph Yarborough Branch Library, 2200 Hancock Dr. at 7 p.m. *Frenchman's Creek* by Daphne Du Maurier by John Steinbeck. Discussion leader: Mary Zeitler. Chair: Evelyn Boyer, 836-1492.

January 6 - Book Review Group meets at the Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43rd & Avenue B at 10 a.m. *Pearl of China, a novel* by Anchee Min. Discussion Leader: Judy Reinhart. Hosts: Evelyn Boyer and Janie Patterson. Chair: Natalie Balden, 288-7748.

January 9 - Books and Brunch Southwest will gather at 10:30 a.m. at the home of hostess and facilitator Sylvia Garcia, 6403 Dunsmere Court, to discuss *DeLeon, A Tejano Family History*. RSVP to Sylvia, 288-6745. Chair: Ruth Falck, 550-6449.

January 11 - Second Wednesday Bridge, 4 p.m. Call Judy Reinhart, 345-5936, for more information; hostess and location change monthly.

January 14 - BRANCH MEETING AND LUNCHEON at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, 3401 IH 35 & Woodward St. Registration — 9:45 a.m. — Program — 10:15 a.m. Judge Karen Sage will speak about “Evidence-Based Sentencing—Trends in Criminal Justice.” Business Meeting and Luncheon follows.

January 16 - Martin Luther King Day

January 17 - AAUW Out to Lunch meets at the Lion & Rose British Restaurant, 701 S. Capital of TX Hwy S, Suite M, at 11 a.m. See <http://www.thelionandrose.com> RSVP to Hostess: Nancy Myers, 338-4335. Chair: Veronica Johnson, 338-1254.

January 18 - Creative Stitchery meets at the home of hostess Angie Clark, 5406 Pony Chase, at 10 a.m. Co-Hostess: Raemar Shown. Remember to bring sack lunch. RSVP to Angie, 258-5668 or Raemar, 258-1069. Co-Chairs: Jan Roberts, 371-0782 and Dorothea Berasley, 343-0370.

Continued on next page

HAVE YOU HEARD?...

- ◆ **The Girls in STEM Conference** is set for Saturday, March 31, 2012. The tips received for gift wrapping at two Barnes and Noble Booksellers locations in December resulted in donations of **\$286**. These monies are designated for an AAUW treat to put in conference attendees' “goodie” bags to take home after the workshops. 18 branch members each worked 2–4 hours on three days during our pre-assigned 14 hours. Many thanks to everyone who donated their time and energy during this busy time of the year. It was good for visibility in the community, good for membership recruitment, and good for the treasury! A number of newly created bookmarks made by **Anita Knight** were distributed. Kudos to Anita for facilitating this fun and successful event!

For all the latest conference program information go to: <http://www.girlstart.org/our-programs/girls-in-stem-conference> Contact **Lilac Bauer**, our Girlstart Liaison, for more details at la_azucena@hotmail.com or 291-9032.

- ◆ Two AAUW members will be teaching classes this spring through the **Lifetime Learning Institute of Austin** (LLI). Classes begin the middle of February. **Mary Ellen Scribner** will teach a class on Africa Thursday afternoons from 1–3 p.m. at The Village at Arboretum. **Linda Leff** will teach a class on Romantic Poets Tuesday mornings at the Highland Park Baptist Church from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and a course on Steinbeck, Faulkner, and Hemmingway on Fridays from 2–4 p.m. at the Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Over 50 classes are offered in the spring and fall, and include languages, exercise, and art for adults 50 and older. The schedule of classes can be found at <http://www.lliaustin.org> or in a course catalogue at your local library. The basic fee for each eight week course is \$20. The LLI office telephone number is 206-4232. Julie Sanford (guest speaker at the November Branch Meeting) is the Program Coordinator.

Serving on the Lifetime Learning Council are **Marilyn Arrigona** and **Janie Patterson**; both are also LLI office volunteers. **Sara Ezell** is on the computer staff. The Lifetime Learning Institute of Austin was founded in 1977 by Honorary Life Member **Kay Goodwin**, an active AAUW member for 62 years.



Visit the National Website often to keep informed: www.aauw.org

JANUARY ACTIVITIES, *continued*

January 19 - Culture and Cuisine meets at the home of hostess Gail Simpler, 9451 Singing Quail Dr. at 6:30 p.m. Co-hostess is Barbara Houston. Colonial Williamsburg is the theme of the month. RSVP to Gail, 834-9481, or Barbara, 633-9766. Chair: Mary Owens, 454-9339.

January 21 - PEARS will celebrate the New Year with dinner at the home of Natalie and Harry Balden, 8917 Hachita Dr. at 6:30 p.m. RSVP to Natalie, 288-7748. Chair: Veronica Johnson, 338-1254.

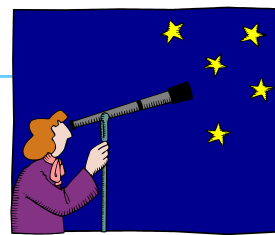
January 23* - AAUW Travel Study Group will meet at the North Village Branch Library, 2505 Steck Ave. to learn about the "West African Perspective (Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Mali)" from Mary Ellen Scribner at 2 p.m.
*Note change of date for this month. Co-Chairs: Mary Ellen Scribner, 255-8428 and Adrian McCulloch, 820-1917.

January 25 - Art Tour Group will meet at the Westwood Country Club, 3808 West 35th St. at 10 a.m. to hear noted art historian and author Karen Pope. Luncheon follows the lecture and slide presentation. Hostess: Nancy Myers. Advanced reservations required; cost is \$23 by check only. RSVP to Chair: Diane Brewer, 328-0474, or if you need additional information.

January 25 - Fourth Wednesday Bridge, 4 p.m. Call Sarah Ezell, 343-8394, for more information; hostess and location change monthly.

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

- ◆ Austin Branch Higher Education Liaison Board member **Linda Young** shared one of her latest opportunities as President of the National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) at the Holiday Open House. She was invited to the White House to meet with senior level women in the Obama Administration recently. Linda was asked to meet regularly with them as one of the advisors to this focus group to discuss issues important to the rights and opportunities for women in the United States. We are proud to have a member whose leadership is valued in Washington, DC and across the country.



SAVE THE DATE

February 11, 2012

**Branch Meeting speaker is
Tricia Berry, Director of the
Women in Engineering
Program at UT Austin**

Wyndham Hotel

DID YOU KNOW?...

- ◆ Austin Branch member **Gigi Edwards Bryant** is being honored as a community leader and fierce advocate for children in foster care at the CASA-BLANCA GALA 2012 on February 11th. The gala is the annual fundraiser for the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) in Travis County.
- ◆ It was just learned **Carol Fritz**, Austin Branch Public Policy Chair, has accepted a position on the AAUW Texas Public Policy Committee. She is helping plan a session for the state convention in April.
- ◆ Everyone had a marvelous time at our Holiday Open House at **Inés García's** lovely decorated home. We appreciated her gracious hospitality and enjoyed visiting informally with a number of members we haven't seen recently. We were also delighted to have several prospective members join us for this festive occasion.



Raemar Shown and **Sandy Nankin**, "snow bird" from the AAUW Milwaukee North Shore Branch (WI), enjoyed getting acquainted at our Holiday Open House.