



American Association of University Women

Austin (TX) Branch

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

March 2012

Volume LXXVV Number 3

BRANCH MEETING – MARCH 10, 2012

Celebrate **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH** by learning about “**LATINAS IN TEXAS**” at our branch meeting.

Gloria Espitia is a native Texan from Victoria. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in Library Science from Texas Woman's University in Denton. Prior to joining the Austin History Center in 2008, she was an academic librarian at the University of Houston-Victoria for 26 years. As the Mexican American Neighborhood Liaison, Espitia is charged with acquiring and preserving local documents and collections related to the Mexican American community and their history in Austin. She has worked on a number of projects and is currently working on an oral history project entitled “*Recovering and Preserving the History of the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center.*”

Laura Donnelly Gonzalez hails from New York and New Jersey originally. She received her undergraduate degree in English at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, NJ and a master's in Journalism from The University of Texas at Austin in 2003. After 20 years as a “big sister” in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, and more as a member of a multi-cultural family, Donnelly Gonzalez co-founded **Latinitas Magazine** (www.latinitasmagazine.org) in 2002 at The University of Texas at Austin with classmate Alicia Rascon. As Executive Director and COO of **Latinitas, Austin**, Donnelly Gonzalez manages programs, magazine content, resource development, conferences, workshops and the general administration of the first digital magazine **for** and **by** young Latinas, focusing on empowering Latina youth using media and technology.

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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.

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 **Tuesday** 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 luncheon 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 luncheon will also receive a card to put at the place of their choosing. This procedure will encourage all members to mingle and allow the wait staff to serve more efficiently.

Menu: Chicken Caesar Salad: chilled sliced grilled chicken, romaine lettuce with parmesan cheese and croutons tossed in a creamy Caesar dressing. If you have any dietary restrictions, please let Sylvia know when you make your reservation. All plated luncheons are served with rolls and butter, Chef's Choice dessert, iced tea, hot tea, regular and decaffeinated coffee.



Plans are jelling for the Girls in STEM conference, Saturday March 31 at the UT Teaching Center.

I will be sending the instructions by email to our 24 Volunteer Registrars. Volunteers should plan to park at the Bob Bullock parking lot in time to arrive at the Center by 8:30 a.m. Sign in and get your nametag and Girlstart ID in the Volunteers' Auditorium (Room 2.102A). Coffee, juice and snacks will be available after you sign in. We will review the job description and answer any questions you may have at that time.



Stuffing Goodie Bags will be held at the Girlstart facility, 1504 West Anderson Lane (across Lazy Lane from Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1500 W Anderson Lane), on Friday, March 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants from the southwest may want to arrange carpools. AAUW has two items (pencil, wristband) going in the bags. We have 15 members signed up to stuff! An alternate activity is planned to color code the maps for the conference on Friday, March 16, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Girlstart. Anyone who would like to come to either service activity, please call or email me.



Girlstart After-School Program in Engineering

The '**Words of Encouragement**' pages (5½" x 8½") will be added to the girls' journals at the end of the semester, so we need them the **1st week** of April. Bring them to a study group meeting or mail them to me—Lilac Bauer, 2621 Alcott Lane, Apt. A, Austin, TX 78748-5671. Just a generic message of praise, encouragement and hope will be fine for each of the girls, signed by you with American Association of University Women or your job title/area of expertise. We have 530 participants in the After School program, so please write (large) or print ten notes.



Coffee with Girlstart – Second Tuesday of the Month

Anyone interested in attending the next **Coffee with Girlstart** session? March 13th or April 10th Call me!

Lilac Bauer, Girlstart Liaison, 291-9032 (leave message) or email: la_azucena@hotmail.com



THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE WILL PRESENT the FOLLOWING SLATE of OFFICERS to the BRANCH for 2012-2014:

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| President: | Anita Knight | Treasurer: | Ruth Falck |
| VP Programs: | Sylvia Garcia | Secretary: | Janet Widoff |
| VP Membership: | Diane Brewer | | |

The Annual Branch Business Meeting and Election of Officers will be held Saturday, March 10, 2012. Nominations may also be made from the floor provided written consent by the nominee has been obtained. According to our Bylaws, 10% of the branch membership is the required quorum.

YES, the State Biennial Convention will be here before you know it!

Have you sent in your registration? The early bird deadline has been extended to March 10th. You can register for the entire convention or Saturday only as your time permits.

Although most of the Austin Branch members live within the city limits, consider staying at the Sheraton. You will want to be where all the fun and action is and you will be able to visit with friends comfortably without having to worry about driving at night!



Have You Heard?

If you read the February 2012 Texas State Newsletter, *University Woman Texas*, you will have seen The Austin Branch has three members who are candidates for elected positions for 2012-2014:

Inés García

Elizabeth Newell

Judy Reinhart

AND Austin Branch member and Higher Education Liaison *Linda Young* is the featured speaker at Sunday morning brunch!

Early Registration has been extended to March 10, 2012

www.aauwtxas.org

Register Today!

*This is a convention you will **NOT** want to miss!*

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! As you know the Austin and Georgetown Branches are co-hosting the Convention. We are expecting a large number of AAUW members (130+) from our 42 sister branches all over the state. Austin Branch members are invited and encouraged to participate. **YOU ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED TO BE A VOLUNTEER TO HELP IN A VARIETY OF WAYS...** "go for's," time keepers for sessions, welcoming and greeting state and national AAUW members, guest speakers and other members of the public and in many other ways. All volunteers must be registered for the convention. Please let me know if we can count on you to be a volunteer. I can be reached at jareinhart@att.net or 345-5936.

Judy Reinhart, Convention Volunteer Chair

Be sure to read the February 2012 University Woman Texas Convention Issue for Program details and convenient links for Convention and Hotel Registration.



MARCH ACTIVITIES/Calendar

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March 1 - Living History Day at ACC Northridge Campus;
Women's Diversity Event at ACC Eastview Campus.

March 2 - Book Review Group meets at the Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43rd & Avenue B at 10 a.m. *The Hotel at the Corner of Bitter & Sweet* by Jamie Ford. Discussion Leader: Annette Haslund. Host: Carol Fritz. Chair: Natalie Balden, 288-7748.



March 2 - Texas Independence Day

March 5 - Contemporary Literature meets at the Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center Dr. at 7:15 p.m. *From the Sahara to Samarkand: Selected Writings of Rosita Forbes 1919-1937*, edited by Margaret Bald. Discussion leader: Lois Shaevel. Chair: Fern Chester, 345-1102.

March 6 - Classic Book Study Group meets at the Ralph Yarborough Branch Library, 2200 Hancock Dr. at 7 p.m. *Far From the Madding Crowd* by Thomas Hardy. Discussion leader: Sharon Duboise. Chair: Evelyn Boyer, 836-1492.

March 8 - International Women's Day

March 10 - BRANCH MEETING AND LUNCHEON at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, 3401 IH 35 & Woodward St. Registration — 9:45 a.m. — Program — 10:15 a.m. "Latinas in Texas" Panel — Gloria Espitia and Laura Donnelly Gonzalez. Designated Annual Business Meeting includes Election of Officers. Luncheon follows.

March 11 - Daylight Saving Time starts



March 12 - 16 - Spring Break

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

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

March 19 - Books and Brunch Southwest* will gather at 10:30 a.m. at the home of hostess and facilitator Sandi Causey, 6105 Oakclaire Dr., 78735 to discuss *Desert Queen*. RSVP to Sandi, 892-0433. Chair: Ruth Falck, 550-6449. *Note this is the 3rd Monday.

March 19 - AAUW Travel Study Group will meet at the North Village Branch Library, 2505 Steck Ave. to learn about a pilgrimage to the Holy Land (mostly Jerusalem) from Gail Simpler at 2 p.m. Co-Chairs: Mary Ellen Scribner, 255-8428 and Adrian McCulloch, 820-1917.

AAUW FUNDS - Branch Report for 2011

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| AAUW Action Fund | \$ 127.00 |
| Unrestricted LAF Support | 820.00 |
| Mary Ellen Smyth | 15.00 |
| Ann Richards American Fellowship | 980.91 |
| Educational Opportunities Fund | 260.00 |
| Public Policy Fund | 26.00 |
| Leadership Programs Fund | 40.00 |
| AAUW Funds | 300.00 |
| Eleanor Roosevelt Fund | <u>218.00</u> |

TOTAL \$ 2,786.91

Thank you to all branch members and friends who supported AAUW Funds enabling our organization to continue our mission to promote education and equity for women and girls.

RE: Collin Street Bakery Orders—

The Collin Street Bakery sent us \$66.21 in commissions (15% on total orders of \$441.40 for 2011). If anyone ordered holiday cakes, etc., but is not listed here, please let me know to ensure the Austin Branch gets credit for your purchases:

Mrs. David Evans, Ms. Louise Gardner, Mr. George Berasley, Ms. Janie Patterson, Ms. Rosemary Morrow, Ms. Larayne Dallas, Ms. Martha Van Sickle, Mr. J.P. Sanford, Mrs. Anita Knight.

For those of you who have not ordered baked goods from this bakery, famous for their pecan fruit cakes, remember their products are not just for the winter holiday season! Check out specials on their website:

(<http://www.collinstreet.com/>) and consider buying under our branch club account #C012.

Anita Knight

AAUW Funds Chair & Webmaster

512-329-8575, dbasknight@aol.com

MARCH ACTIVITIES/Calendar, continued

March 20 - AAUW Out to Lunch meets at Abuelo's Mexican Restaurant, www.abuelos.com, 2901 S. Capital of Texas Hwy., 78746, 306-0857, SW corner Barton Creek Square Mall off Mopac at 11 a.m. RSVP to Hostess Betty Owen, 444-6015. Chair: Veronica Johnson, 338-1254.

March 21 - Creative Stitchery meets at 10 a.m. at the home of Dorothea Berasley, 7920 Mesa Trails Circle, 78731. Co-hostess: Angie Clark. RSVP to Dorothea, 343-0370 or Angie, 258-5668. Remember to bring finished Dell dolls and sack lunch. Co-chairs: Jan Roberts, 371-0762 and Dorothea Berasley, 343-0370.

March 22 - Culture and Cuisine* meets at the home of hostess Jan Roberts, 5942 Highland Hills Dr., 78731 at 6:30 p.m. Co-hostess is Fern Chester. ASHKENAZI style of cooking will be featured. RSVP to Jan, 371-0762, or Fern, 345-1102. Chair: Mary Owens, 454-9339. *Note change of usual date .

March 23 - PEARS will be attending the Rodeo with Anita and Don Knight. RSVP to Anita for details, 329-8575. Chair: Veronica Johnson, 338-1254.

March 28 - Art Tour Group** *Please note visit to French Legation cancelled due to construction and will be re-scheduled for next year's tours.* The Art Tour Group will gather at 10 a.m. at The Blanton Museum of Art, MLK at Congress, to view a docent-led tour of the new exhibit "Go West" Representations of the American Frontier. Admission is \$2 for Blanton members; all others \$9; adjacent Brazos Parking Garage, \$3, but must validate parking ticket at admissions desk. Please bring admission in cash as we must pay as a group. Optional Lunch: Museum Café.

http://blantonmuseum.org/visit/maps_and_directions/
Hostesses: Diane Brewer and Betty Owen. Chair: Diane Brewer, 328-0474

March 28 - Fourth Wednesday Bridge, 4 p.m. Call Sarah Ezell, 343-8394, for more information; hostess and location change monthly.

March 31 - Girls in Stem Conference Austin Branch members will assist with registration from 8:30—10:30 a.m. at the University Teaching Center at The University of Texas at Austin. Contact Girlstart Liaison Lilac Bauer for more information – la_azucena@hotmail.com or 291-9032.

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.

Anyone interested in a Great Decisions Discussion Group?

"...Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The name is shared by a national civic-education program and publication of the Foreign Policy Association. Published annually, the Great Decisions briefing book highlights eight of the most thought-provoking foreign policy challenges facing Americans today. Great Decisions provides background information, current data and policy options for each issue and serves as the focal text for discussion groups..."

GREAT DECISIONS 2012



Middle East realignment
Promoting democracy
Mexico
Cybersecurity
Exit from Afghanistan & Iraq
State of the oceans
Indonesia
Energy geopolitics

We would probably meet monthly, perhaps on Sunday evenings. Go to:

www.fpa.org/great_decisions/

Contact **Anita Knight** for more information—dbasknight@aol.com or 329-8575.



Here's a recent snap of most of the Book Review Group. They routinely meet at 10 a.m. on the first Friday of the month at the Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43rd & Ave. B. Standing L to R: Natalie Balden, Ramona Nance, Kay Watson, Larie Amsler, Judy Reinhart and Eddie Carpenter. Seated L to R: Gail Smyth, Angie Clark, Annette Haslund and Evelyn Boyer. Not pictured regulars are Carol Fritz, Janie Patterson and Tom Watson, the photographer. If you would like to know more about this group, contact Chair Natalie Balden, nbalden@sbcglobal.net or 288-7748.

IN MEMORY: AAUW LOSES LONG-TIME MEMBER AND FRIEND



Miriam Tormollan, educator, and activist for education of women and girls, died February 8, 2012 in Austin from complications of surgery, at the age of 89. Miriam was a teacher of advanced placed senior English at Crockett High School for more than 15 years, where she was recognized for her excellence by being selected twice as "Teacher of the Year," having organized Shakespeare festivals, and created her own class in English Culture, a combination of English literature and English history. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, and was state legislative chair for four years. Miriam was an active member of American Association of University Women (AAUW), not only in the Austin Branch, but also at the state level. In 2006, she was selected as Woman of the Year for AAUW Texas. For fifteen years, she served as the central coordinator for state board of AAUW, serving as a clearing house for information about the state organization and preparing and distributing the 'link' to all Texas Branch Officers. She mentored many branch officers, and recruited 3 members into AAUW who eventually became presidents of their local branches. She represented AAUW in many capacities: working with Austin ISD on several issues, including the creation of a policy on sexual harassment; serving on a committee to create the Texas Women's Coalition; testifying before the Public Education Committee of the Legislature; serving on the Coalition for Public Schools, and Women's Legislative Days Steering Committee. She was a loving wife and mother, preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Francis Charles Tormollan. Together they made sure that both of their daughters and all three of their granddaughters were financed through college educations. Miriam is survived by her two daughters, Alicia Sparks of Richardson Texas, Anne Price of Round Rock Texas, her three granddaughters Christine Sparks-LaPlaca, Allyson Price and Kathryn Price, a great-grandson Toren Sparks-La Placa, two nephews Vernon King and George King and a cousin Jackie Nelson. A Celebration of her life was held at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home on Saturday, February 18, at 1:00 p.m. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Miriam Tormollan Fund by check payable to AAUW Austin Branch, P.O. Box 684791, Austin, TX 787684791. The fund will be used to establish a scholarship in her name for young women. Obituary and memorial guestbook available online at www.wcfish.com

Our sympathy to all of Miriam's family, especially daughter **Anne Price** and granddaughter **Christine Sparks**, Austin Branch members.

Legal Advocacy Fund - Case Updates



Victory in Title IX Suit

In January, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit overturned a lower court's dismissal of the LAF-supported case *Parker v. Franklin County Community School Corporation*, an Indiana high school athletics lawsuit. The suit alleges that the scheduling of girls' basketball games violated Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. The plaintiffs argue that the majority of boys' games were played in prime time — on Friday and Saturday nights — while the girls' games were relegated to weeknights. They say these schedules unfairly put academic burdens on the girls by forcing them to compete on school nights, discouraging crowd support, and making the girls feel like second-class athletes.

Originally, the case was dismissed by the U.S. District Court for Southern Indiana, which held that school districts are "arms of the state" that are immune from suit in federal court for constitutional violations. On January 31, that ruling was overturned by the 7th Circuit, which remanded the case back to the lower court to determine "whether any genuine issues of material fact exist as to the plaintiffs' claims."

LAF Case Featured in Sundance Award-Winning Film *The Invisible War*

The Department of Defense estimates that about 19,000 military service women and men were sexually assaulted and raped in 2010. The widespread problem of sexual assault in the military is the subject of the new documentary *The Invisible War*. The documentary features several of the plaintiffs from the LAF-supported lawsuit *Cioca v. Rumsfeld*, including the lead plaintiff, Kori Cioca. It also features her attorney, Susan Burke. The documentary premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January and earned the Audience Award.

Go to www.aauw.org/act/laf/ for more information about the **Legal Advocacy Fund**.

Sign up to receive their news directly!