

American Association of University Women

Austin (TX) Branch

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

April 2012

Volume LXXVV Number 4

AAUW TEXAS STATE CONVENTION – APRIL 13-15, 2012



Veronica Johnson agrees with Sarah Harder, Association president (1985-89), who said “We must speak our convictions in words that don’t provoke but persuade.”

It only happens every two years!

YOU CAN STILL REGISTER! — Come for the entire convention or come just for Saturday—meals included—registration remains \$250 for all days; \$200 for Saturday only.

If you haven’t been to a state convention in a long time, this is the year to attend since it is right here in Austin. Conveniently located at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol, 701 E. 11th St. (NW corner of I35 and 11th St.), it is guaranteed to be a stimulating experience.

Be sure to read your *University Woman Texas* state newsletter mailed to all AAUW Texas Branch Members for program details.



Inside this issue:

Words of Encouragement; AAUW Texas Public Policy	2
AAUW Texas Public Policy, continued	3
Study/Interest Group Feature	4
April Activities/Calendar; Did You Know?; Obituary for Janie Patterson	5
April Activities/Calendar, continued; Member News; Save the Date	6

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.

WEAR **RED** FRIDAY NIGHT! Equal Pay Day will be Tuesday, April 17, 2012 and we are encouraged to wear **red** as a symbol of how far women and minorities are “in the red” regarding their pay.

Public Education in Texas is the convention focus. The *Huffington Post* November 14, 2011 reported “...Science and Engineering Readiness Index ranks Texas Public Schools 31st in the nation for Math and Science Education...” The opening session Saturday morning will feature a panel discussion with representatives from various organizations discussing current issues facing the Texas Educational System.

- Hear stimulating speakers
- Interact with branch members from all over the state
- Get ideas for branch programs and fundraising
- Support Austin branch members who are on the Nominating Slate for state positions: **Inés Garcia, Elizabeth Newell, and Judy Reinhart!**

Follow the links to register online: <http://www.aauwtexas.org>

REMINDER...

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 **they are needed the 1st week of April**. Bring them to a study group meeting or mail them to **Lilac Bauer**, 2621 Alcott Lane, Apt. A, Austin, TX 78748-5671. 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. There are 530 participants in the After School program, so please write (large) or print ten notes!



"Women are the real architects of society!"

Harriet Beecher Stowe



ACT on ISSUES of CONCERN for AAUW TEXAS MEMBERS

AAUW TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY Re: TITLE IX

Because this is a Title IX issue and part of AAUW National Public Policy, and in light of the fact that **Lisa Maatz**, AAUW Public Policy, has already issued a statement on this issue, AAUW Texas is issuing this as an AAUW Texas official statement.

This is the Public Policy statement concerning the recent Dallas ISD decision to hold a "Boy's Only" Field trip. It was drafted by the state Public Policy Committee and Public Policy Chair, Rosemarie Herrmann for publication and to post on individual Branch websites and publications.

AAUW-TX was surprised and disappointed that the DISD made the decision to send all the fifth-grade boys to see Red Tails, leaving the girls behind.

For too many years in Texas and elsewhere in the nation, girls have been left behind in schools, playing fields and workplaces, resulting in the imbalance in pay equity (women still get only about \$.78 for every \$1.00 men earn). Women and men must be able to compete on equal footing in sports, academia, and the workplace. Our schools have an obligation, enforceable through Title IX, not only to treat girls and boys equally, but also to avoid the appearance of inequitable treatment.

For any school district to make so blatantly discriminatory a decision tells us that we still have a very long way to go in Texas in sensitizing school boards and administrators to this issue. We think it is very likely that no one at DISD meant to make a gender-biased decision; it was a thoughtless mistake that should give all of us an excellent "teachable moment." It is only through discussion and then positive action that our girls will be confident that they can expect equal treatment. We expect that already; all Texas school districts have non-discriminatory policies in place. The question is, are these policies fully internalized? Do the administrators fully believe that these policies are important and should be considered in making campus decisions? And do they know that their bosses, the School Board members, are truly committed to these policies? All Texas school districts would do well to examine their policies and the implementation of these policies to ensure that such a mistake does not occur again.

Board of Directors, AAUW Texas

The American Association of University Women advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. For more information go to www.AAUWTexas.org or www.AAUW.org

This is an official statement from AAUW Texas and is in conformance with national AAUW policy statements on the issue of reproductive health.

February 27, 2012

AAUW-TX urges all Texans to tell the Governor and the Commissioner of HHSC that playing politics with women's health is unacceptable. The Women's Health Program (WHP) must be continued for another five years. More money must be spent on family planning for low income women, not less! The figures demonstrate clearly that preventing unplanned births is good for Texas. It's good for the women who want to postpone pregnancy so that they can care for the children they already have, and it's good for the taxpayers who save millions of dollars each year.

The program has been in effect for five years and has already proved remarkably successful. Providing birth control for one year to a low income woman costs the state an average of \$241; if that same woman became pregnant, the average cost to the taxpayer for her pre-natal and delivery care and the baby's first year Medicaid costs would be \$16,360. More than 55% of births in Texas are paid for through Medicaid, so reducing unintended pregnancies by only a few percentage points saves millions of dollars. Making low income women eligible for Medicaid family planning services is especially important in Texas, where 26% of adult women are uninsured. The only services provided are birth control, cancer screening and testing for sexually transmitted infections.

The non-partisan Legislative Budget Board, in its report to the 82nd Legislature in 2011, not only recommended that the WHP be continued; it also recommended that it be expanded. Its report states that in the second year of the WHP, more than 5,000 births were averted in Texas for a total dollar savings for 2008 alone of \$42.4 million.

However, on Thursday, February 23, the Commissioner of the Texas Health & Human Services Commission signed an order implementing a new rule in Texas--no agency that is in any way affiliated with an abortion provider can receive state funding for family planning services through the WHP. Governor Perry and Commissioner Tom Suehs both know that signing this order, which is effective March 14, means that Texas will have to cancel this program for ALL family planning providers in Texas. The federal government has already told the Commissioner that Texas will not get approved for the program at all if this politically-motivated decision is implemented. Thus more than 130,000 low-income women will be denied access to family planning and cancer screening services. This cut will come on top of the legislature's recent budget cuts, which reduced funding for family planning by more than 60%. The Governor and Commissioner Suehs should act quickly to reverse this short-sighted decision.

Commissioner Tom Suehs
Commission on Health & Human Services
4900 N. Lamar Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78751
512-242-6502

Governor Rick Perry
State Insurance Building
1100 San Jacinto
Austin, Texas 78701 512-463-2000
<http://governor.state.tx.us/contact/>

The American Association of University Women advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. For more information, go to www.AAUWTexas.org or www.AAUW.org



For more discussion see AAUW Blog posting:

<http://blog-aauw.org/2012/02/10/seeing-red/>



STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS are open to ALL Branch members...

Didn't sign up in the fall, but find a program or event in the Calendar that sounds particularly interesting? That's OK. Just give the Chair a call and let her know you'd like to attend on that occasion!



Gayle Smith, Donna Preibisch and Dorothy Vance admire Terrell Powell's garden.



Above: **The Art Tour Group** is one of our most popular interest groups. In February they visited the Austin home and gardens of artist, painter and sculptor Terrell Powell.

Diane Brewer, Art Tour Chair, reminisced "...Artist Terry Powell's home greeted us with yard whimsies and an open door. Inside, folk art hung, sat, and stood in every available space. When I arrived, the house was alive with eager visitors oohing and aahing over brightly-colored pieces which beckoned you to touch and look more closely. Brightly colored birds predominated in many of the pieces. Small to large canvases of birds with sparkling eyes commanded one to stay and look a while. A totem pole of birds was hard to miss in the middle of the living area..."

The Creative Stitchery Group chose Dell Children's Hospital for a service project this year.

The dolls are used in therapeutic medical play to help children express fears and feelings and learn techniques for coping with stress or crisis.



L-R, Nancy Ellison, Angie Clark, Frances Tomlinson, Beverly Locklin, Fern Chester, Kay Goodwin and Raemar Shown show their completed dolls at a recent meeting. Contact Co-Chairs **Jan Roberts**, 371-0762 or **Dorothea Berasley**, 343-0370 for more information.

Have an idea about a NEW Study/Interest Group?

CBS Films offered free movie passes for an advance screening of the film "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen," based on the Paul Torday novel. With three days notice, **Ruth Falck**, interim Membership VP, was able to organize 45 AAUW Austin branch members and their guests to view the film. Both before and after the viewing there was plenty of opportunity to mix and mingle. Members who attended agreed they would heartily recommend the inspirational comedy. See trailer: <http://fishingintheyemen.com/> A new interest group "Lunch & a Movie" or "Dinner & a Movie" has been suggested. If interested, please contact **Judy Reinhart**, Study Group Coordinator (jareinhart@att.net, 345-5936) or **Ruth Falck**, Membership VP (ruthfalck@yahoo.com, 550-6449).

APRIL ACTIVITIES/Calendar

April 2 - Contemporary Literature meets at the Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center Dr. at 7:15 p.m. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot will be discussed. Discussion leader: Adrian McCulloch. Chair: Fern Chester, 345-1102.

April 3 - Classic Book Study Group meets at the Ralph Yarborough Branch Library, 2200 Hancock Dr. at 7 p.m. *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte. Discussion leader: Karen Jordahl. Chair: Evelyn Boyer, 836-1492.

April 6 - Book Review Group meets at the Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43rd & Avenue B at 10 a.m. *The Possessed: Adventures with Russian Books and the People Who Read Them* by Elif Batuma. Discussion Leader: Evelyn Boyer. Hosts: Kay and Tom Watson. Chair: Natalie Balden, 288-7748.

April 7 - First day of Passover



April 8 - Easter

April 10 - Coffee with Girlstart – Second Tuesday of the Month. Call **Lilac Bauer**, Girlstart Liaison, 291-9032 (leave message).

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

APRIL 13-15 - AAUW TEXAS STATE CONVENTION at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol. See front page for details.

April 14 - Last day of Passover

April 16 - AAUW Travel Study Group will meet at the North Village Branch Library, 2505 Steck Ave. at 2 p.m. Egypt will be explored with Veronica Johnson. Co-Chairs: Mary Ellen Scribner, 255-8428 and Adrian McCulloch, 820-1917

April 16 - Books and Brunch Southwest* will gather at 10:30 a.m. at the home of hostess and facilitator Kathy Csoltko, 6500 Conifer Cove, Austin 78746, to discuss *The Paris Wife*. RSVP to Kathy, 288-0446. Chair: Ruth Falck, 550-6449. *Note this is the 3rd Monday.

April 17 - AAUW Out to Lunch meets at Cheddar's Casual Café, 13301 N. U.S. Hwy. 183, 336-8855, at 11 a.m. www.cheddars.com/Menus/ RSVP to Hostess Marilyn Arrigona, 342-8312. Chair: Veronica Johnson, 338-254.

April 17 - **IRS INCOME TAX DUE!**



Continued on next page

Did You know...?



Natalie Balden and **Sylvia Gregory** greeted members and guests at the March Branch meeting. Following the program, officers for 2012-2014 were elected:

President	Anita Knight
VP Program	Sylvia Garcia
VP Membership	Diane Brewer
Treasurer	Ruth Falck
Secretary	Janet Widoff

Officers will be installed at the May Branch meeting.

Janie Kimball Russ Patterson passed away March 20, 2012 in Austin, Texas surrounded by her



loving family. A native Texan, she was born in Houston on April 16, 1925. She moved to Austin in 1942 to attend The University of Texas at Austin, graduating with a Bachelor of Journalism degree in 1946. She made Austin her permanent home where

she raised her three children. She was an active member of Highland Park Baptist Church for 53 years. For over 20 years she was editorial assistant for Texas Realtor Magazine. In addition to church activities, Janie led an active social life. She was involved with the UT Austin SAGE program, Lifetime Learning of Austin, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, as well as the AAUW Austin Branch. She will be remembered in the Austin Branch for her love of cooking and as the Newsletter Editor for many years. Janie is survived by son, Michael Patterson (Jean) of Austin; son, Thomas Patterson (Elena) of Rio Grande City, TX; daughter, Nancy Patterson Marsden (Mike) of South Padre Island, TX; sister, Ellen Russ Parkerson (Edwin) and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held March 24, 2012 at the Highland Park Baptist Church.

APRIL Activities/Calendar, continued

April 18 - Creative Stitchery meets at 10 a.m. at the home of Fern Chester, 8618 Willowick Dr., 78759. Co-hostess: Jan Roberts. RSVP to Fern, 345-1102 or Jan, 371-0762. Remember to bring sack lunch. Co-chairs: Jan Roberts, 371-0762 and Dorothea Berasley, 343-0370.

April 19 - Culture and Cuisine will sample foods from Northern Germany at 6:30 p.m. at Anneliese Ellerton's home, 5204 Avenue G, 78751. Co-Hostesses: Veronica Johnson and Mary Owens. Please RSVP to Anneliese, 241-8425; Veronica, 338-1254; or Mary, 454-9339. Chair: Mary Owens, 454-9339.

April 21 - San Jacinto Day

April 25 - Art Tour Group will gather at 10 a.m. at Elgin Mayor Marc Holm's business — Architectural Décor, Inc., 621 Lexington Road, Elgin, TX, 512-285-4456, to see exquisite handmade, original and replicated tiles. Carpooling is encouraged. Lunch follows at the famous Southside Market, Elgin. Hostess: Geneva Davis. Chair: Diane Brewer, 328-0474.

April 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.



SAVE THE DATE

May 12, 2012 ~ Branch Meeting

Introduction of The University of Texas at Austin recipients of the 2012-2013 AAUW Austin Branch Fellowships, installation of new branch officers, and the State Convention wrap-up ensures this will be a **VERY** interesting program!

Two Branch Members Honored by Ten Thousand Villages at Event Celebrating International Women's Day



Ruth Falck (Center) member of the Award Ceremony Committee, congratulates **Inés Garcia** (L) and **Marsha Endahl Kramer** (R) at the Ten Thousand Villages International Women's Day event. They were recognized as nominees for the Humanitarian award and received hand-made gold charms.

Excerpt from message to AAUW Members received March 8, 2012 re: International Women's Day

"...AAUW has been committed to global issues for more than a century. Since we started our International Fellowships program in 1921, AAUW has supported 3,283 women from 132 countries, funding graduate-level scholarship and training as well as international project grants to outstanding women scholars. AAUW's work continues to extend globally through collaborations with international organizations, membership in coalitions, travel delegations, and hosting international visitors..."

Carolyn Garfein
AAUW President



"AAUW is not a resting place—it is a train that carries us to new adventures together."

Grace Breeze, Editor
University Woman Texas (1990-92)