



## American Association of University Women AAUW Austin (Texas) Branch

---



Austin AAUW Branch Executive Board for 2012-13: Ruth Falck, treasurer; Janet Widoff, secretary; Diane Brewer, membership vice president; Sylvia Garcia, program vice president; and Anita Knight, president.

### AAUW's Mission

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

### AAUW's Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

## **Break the ice and beat the heat at the annual AAUW-Austin SUMMER SOCIAL!**

**Sunday, August 19, 2012 - 3 p.m.**

**Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Windsor & Exposition Blvd.**

We are going **red**, **white**, and **blue** in this election year! Our organization is growing and poised to make a real difference in Austin, and this is your opportunity to become a part of the action! You will be able to sign up for study groups, consider new interest groups, learn about upcoming programs and activities, and take part in a raffle for two tickets to *Rock of Ages*, a Broadway show coming to the Long Center. We will have plenty of seating, snacks, and refreshing glasses of wine or punch, and you definitely want to be there to visit with friends, meet new members, and rev up your interest in getting out the vote in this election year!

Drive to the parking lot by the Parish Hall at rear of the church, where you will find plenty of parking and AAUW signs directing you toward the entry of the Parish Hall. We encourage carpooling whenever possible!

## NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS BRING EXPERIENCE, ENTHUSIASM

**President Anita S. Knight** is the daughter of immigrant parents from Germany and grew up in Queens, New York. Anita met her husband in college in Pennsylvania, and they moved to Michigan where they raised their children. In 1991 they moved to Chicagoland. Anita used her biology/chemistry degree and graduate work in environmental science in the chemical industry, primarily in product safety. Always a dedicated volunteer, Anita is a life member of AAUW for which she has been an officer in Michigan, Illinois, and Texas; former program chair for professional group SCHC (Society for Chemical Hazard Communication); former elected member of Board of Education in Michigan; member of several environmental groups; docent for Wild Basin Preserve and the Colorado River Foundation, and a National Wildlife Federation Habitat Steward. More recently, she joined the board of Global Austin and enjoys hosting delegations of international visitors. Anita and her husband Don stay busy with exercise, travel, grandkids, and volunteer activities. To complement their love of travel and meeting different people, Anita and Don also recently joined Friendship Force of Austin, and they took their first outbound FF trip to Alberta, Canada this summer.



**Program Vice President Dr. Anita Sylvia Garcia** was born in San Diego, Texas, and graduated from San Diego High School. She received a B.S. degree in pharmacy, an M.S.W. in social work, and a Ph.D. in social work administration from the University of Texas at Austin. She worked as a pharmacist in several cities throughout Texas. Later, she joined the Texas Education Agency where she served as director of

dropout prevention and alternative education. Dr. Garcia was recognized twice by the Texas Legislature for her contributions to education. Since retiring, she has been active in the Tejano Genealogy Society of Austin, the American Association of University Women, and Travis Audubon.



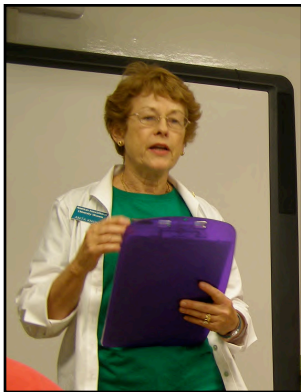
**Membership Vice President Diane M. Brewer** writes, "My lifelong passion for theatre was fed by the Country Playhouse and the Alley Theatre in Houston. As a fairly new teacher, I was hired to replace legendary Lamar HS theatre teacher, Ruth Denney, which thrilled me to death! She was charged with creating Texas' first high school for the performing arts. I married my sweet Charles in 1969. Following the production of three little boys in a row, I left teaching for a while. We chose to come to little Austin from booming Houston in 1977. We loved the simplicity, the rocks, water, hills, and thrilling views from almost every vantage point. Those simple days are gone forever, but the beauty and way of life remain. In 1981, Hill Country Middle School, Eanes ISD, became my teaching home, where I remained until retirement in 2001. During my years of building the theatre program at HCMS, I was named EEA's Spirit of Education by my school in 1992, and Texas Educational Theatre Association's Outstanding Educator, Middle School, in 1995. I was so pleased that Ruth Denney was in the audience at the time! After retirement, I reactivated my AAUW membership. I have truly enjoyed playing bridge and chairing our art activities, and especially the many wonderful friends I have made! I am honored to serve as Membership VP for the next two years.

**Secretary Janet Widoff** is relatively new to Austin and the Branch, and she is already willing to take on the job of recording the minutes of meetings and handling correspondence. She says, "I have recently relocated to Austin from Central Pennsylvania to be near family and to enjoy the excitement of living in and learning about a new city and state. My husband Mark and I find Austin a welcoming community. My professional life was a checkered one in the field of education--from work as an art teacher in elementary schools to work in teacher training in the Peace Corps (where I met and married my husband) to work as English as a Second Language teacher and finally to work as an administrative staff member from Penn State Harrisburg. While in Pennsylvania I was active in the Harrisburg Branch of AAUW, participating in the book groups and newsletter outreach. I am delighted to find the welcoming community of AAUW here in Austin. The AAUW connection provides a fine transition from one part of the country to another."

**Treasurer Ruth Falck's** career in the financial industry, both as a consultant to large corporate pension funds and 401(k) plans and as a controller for a real estate developer, shows her love of numbers and finances. Interestingly, she consulted to the AAUW Educational Foundation starting in 1996, and Carol Rogin, then interim director, sent a letter to her boss complimenting her abilities! That stayed with her for many years and prompted her to join the organization when she retired to Austin two ago. So being treasurer is right up her alley as she loves to work with numbers! Ruth also serves as the coordinator of the Southwest Books and Brunch study group and would like to start a movie group if there is enough interest. Her sister, Lois Shaevel, is also a member of the Branch.



## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear AAUW Members,

On June 23, the U.S.A. marked the 40th anniversary of the signing of Title IX into law. Title IX is the theme of the spring/summer issue of AAUW's *Outlook* magazine. The July issue of *Newsweek* also had an article by President Obama extolling the benefits of Title IX. Some of us benefited from the increase in educational and athletic opportunities that were opened to women in the 1970s. Otherwise, we saw the changes for our daughters, granddaughters, and other women.

Whether or not all of you AAUW members are personally involved, or even interested in such legal or legislative issues, we all value our forebears who founded AAUW in 1881 to promote higher education for women, as well as the suffragettes who fought for women's vote.

This important election year, let's become informed voters and encourage the young millennial women to exercise this right, which many in the U.S. take for granted and do not even exercise. Your new board is launching some new ideas and collaborating on several projects (CTAUN in September, "It's My Vote: I will be heard" with National Women's Political Caucus, STEM with Girlstart), so I hope you continue to find fun and fellowship in our various study groups, as well as stimulation and inspiration in some new programs and activities with your AAUW friends! .... Your ideas and your participation are valued! Let's COLLABORATE and CELEBRATE!

**Anita S. Knight, President of Austin Branch of AAUW**

**Do all you can with what you have, in the time you have, in the place you are.**

Nkosi Johnson





### STUDY GROUPS RESUME IN SEPTEMBER

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Week 1				Bridge 9:30 a.m.	Book Review 9:30 a.m.
	Contemporary Literature 7:15 p.m.				
Week 2	Southwest Books & Brunch 10:30			Bridge 9:30 a.m.	
			Bridge 4:00 p.m.		
Week 3		Out to Lunch 11:00 a.m.	Stitchery 10:00 a.m.	Bridge 9:30 a.m.	
				Culture & Cuisine 6:30 p.m.	
Week 4			Art Tour 10:00 a.m.	Bridge 6:30 p.m.	
			Bridge 4:00 p.m.		

Note: PEARS meetings are as scheduling allows so days and times may vary. Theatre and restaurant evenings are Dutch treat, and all AAUW members are welcome.

### Suggested New AAUW Study Groups

Each year AAUW members suggest ideas for new Study Groups. Below are five suggested new groups for 2012-2013:

- **Hiking:** This group would select and plan hiking outings—short hikes around town, one day out-of-Austin treks, or maybe even an overnight trip.
- **Mah Jongg:** In the recent past AAUW had a Mah Jongg group that played twice a month. Interest has been expressed in rejuvenating this group. Mah Jongg is a fascinating rummy-like game which originated in China and is played with tiles, instead of cards.
- **Dinner and a Movie:** Several members have expressed an interest in gathering for dinner followed by a movie.

- **Canasta:** This rummy-type game of the '50s and '60s is gaining in popularity once again. It is played with three decks of cards and can be played with two, three, four, or more persons.
- **Evenings Out:** Evening outings could include a variety of entertainments such as: theater, dinner, movies, ballet, opera, musical theater, ball games, etc.

Decisions about creating new groups will be determined by interest shown. If you are interested in participating in one of these groups, sign-up sheets will be available at the August 19 summer social. If you are unable to attend the summer social, please let me know of your interest by sending an e-mail to me: Beverly Locklin, blocklin@austin.rr.com or by phone, 343.0782.

## SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR SEPTEMBER

CTAUN - September 22, 2012

AAUW Austin has a presence on the steering committee of the CTAUN (Committee on Teaching About the United Nations) along with Delta Kappa Gamma; Global Austin; the UT Colleges of Liberal Arts and of Education; AISD; Hemispheres; the Northwest Austin Rotary Club; and the United Nations Association of Austin. Annually, CTAUN holds a conference designed for educators, students, and concerned citizens.

In order for as many Branch members as possible to attend this year's conference, it will serve as the Branch meeting for September. The conference will be held at the Joe C. Thompson Center at the University of Texas on Saturday, September 22, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Promoting Tolerance: Solutions for Change," the conference theme, will be addressed by keynote speakers, panelists, and breakout leaders. Local and global social, educational, and legal trends and solutions will be considered.



Invites you to a Conference at the University  
of Texas, Austin organized by the  
Committee on Teaching about the United Nations  
(CTAUN)

Saturday, September 22, 2012

**PROMOTING TOLERANCE:**

**Solutions for Change**

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

General Registration Fee (received by September 10 -  
lunch included): \$50

Registration *after* September 10 (no  
lunch included): \$60

For program details and registration  
go to our website: [www.teachun.org](http://www.teachun.org)



Each Branch member will be responsible for her own registration which can be done online or by mail. Lunch is included--if you make your registration in time! Just because there is much free parking available, there is no reason not to carpool! Fill your car with Branch members, friends, and neighbors and "come on down"!

## BRANCH BITS &amp; BYTES

**TITLE IX TURNED 40 ON  
JUNE 23 — AND AAUW  
WAS THERE EVERY  
STEP OF THE WAY!**



**TEXAS STUDENTS WORK WITH AAUW, WIN  
NATIONAL HISTORY CONTEST**

“Four Texas middle school girls who interviewed AAUW staff about the history of Title IX for their entry in the National History Day Contest won first prize in the junior website category.”

The headline and preceding paragraph appeared in a recent *AAUW Action & Mission* e-newsletter. The backstory is that Veronica Johnson gathered a group of Branch members to meet with the girls in her home. Nita Hornbeck describes the experience thus: “...several of us were given the privilege of listening to and doing a little editing of their work. Hope they will do a program for us next year. They are so talented, concerned, and sincere in their belief in the help provided by Title IX. Such an inspiration!”



Branch members pictured with the girls are (l-r) Marsha Endahl Kramer, Mary Owens, Nita Hornbeck, Nancy Danley, Pat Rehm, and hostess Veronica Johnson.



## BRANCH BITS & BYTES (continued)

### BRANCH HAS NEW HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Confirmation has been received from national membership that **Pat Bennett** has been named an honorary life member in recognition of her fifty years of membership in AAUW. Congratulations Pat!

### AAUW FUNDS NEWS

Thanks to the twenty Austin Branch members who included contributions to the various AAUW funds along with membership renewal payments. These contributions have allowed us to raise over \$800 for programs including the Ann Richards Fellowship even before the new Branch year begins.

Please stop by the AAUW Funds display at the August open house to learn more about the programs supported by your contributions.

**Dr. Mary Braunagel-Brown**,  
AAUW Funds Chair - 301.4568;  
mbbsbb@earthlink.com



### COOPERATIVE PROJECT ON VOTER REGISTRATION/ EDUCATION CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN

Our Branch is joining with several women's groups in a proposal aimed at increasing the

women's vote in Austin. The other women's organizations participating in this project are the Women's Political Caucus and the League of Women Voters. The proposal was submitted in July and the results will be announced in early August. Five events targeting young women will be held at campuses of Austin Community College from August to October 2012. Our Branch has committed to a minimum of three registrars per event. To be a voter registrar, one has to receive training for one hour at the Travis County Tax Office located on Airport Drive. If you are already trained or want to get trained in order to be involved in this exciting project, please contact:

**Dr. Sylvia Garcia.**

288.6745; cell 826.371;  
garo4317@yahoo.com

### NEW TASK FORCE TO SEEK, VET WORTHY PROJECTS FOR BRANCH

Since its founding in 1923, the Branch has made some very significant contributions to the Austin community including the establishment of the Austin Public Library in 1926; the establishment of an endowment fund at the University of Texas that was completed in 1992; the founding in 1941 of the Austin Community Nursery Schools (now Mainspring Schools); the establishment of a Travis County Literacy Council (now Literacy Austin) in 1983; and became a co-sponsor in 1990 of Expanding Your Horizons in Science and

Mathematics. These accomplishments are now mature, and it is time to turn our attention to some endeavors for the twenty-first century.

**Branch President Anita Knight** has asked **Mary Ellen Scribner** to head a task force of one year's duration to address this effort. The task force will spend the program year 2012-2013 seeking worthy projects to recommend to the Branch in a final report. Broad criteria beyond the AAUW mission statement initially informing the work of the task force are:

- Of benefit to the Austin community (especially women & children);
- Reflect 21st-century needs & concerns;
- Be significant enough to raise the Branch profile in the community.



Four Branch members will be appointed to serve with Mary Ellen. Are you plugged into the greater Austin Community? Committed to the mission of AAUW? Tech savvy enough to conduct much of the business online? If that describes you, please contact Mary Ellen by email: [maryescribner@gmail.com](mailto:maryescribner@gmail.com)

## PROPOSAL TO BRING STEM EXHIBITION TO AUSTIN

*Here, There, and Everywhere* (HTE) is a NASA-funded program that consists of a series of exhibitions, posters, and supporting hands-on activities that utilize analogies in the teaching of science, engineering, and technology (STEM) to provide multigenerational and family friendly content in both English and Spanish. **Mary Ellen Scribner** and **Adrian McCulloch** worked with Bernadette Phifer, the culture and education manager of the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, to write a proposal to bring the exhibition to Austin in the spring of 2013. If the proposal is accepted, the exhibition venue will be the Carver Cultural Center, and the Center and the Branch will work together to maximize the effectiveness of the exhibition in the Central Texas Area.

## THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, SALLY



1952-2012

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

Condolences to **Dr. Rosemary Morrow** on the death of her mother Gladys Louise Rentz Morrow, 94, of Cuero who passed away Monday, July 9, 2012. Of her mother, Rosemary said, "She lived a full life, and her faith was very strong – a model for others." Services for Mrs. Morrow were held on July 14 at Calvary Baptist Church in Cuero.



Summit of Westlake for rehabilitation. Her daughter Ingrid said that Annette is greatly enjoying receiving cards and notes from her AAUW friends and that we may continue to send them to her home address: 1302 Ridgehaven Drive, Austin 78723-2527.

<><><><>

Branch member **Linda Young** has been elected president of the National Women's Political Caucus and has been making



the rounds to speak out on women's issues and to speak for NWPC members. She provided

the keynote address for the American Association of University Women's Texas Convention in April. She had been given the assignment to "rouse the troops" and motivate AAUW members to do more. The topic was "Sisterhood and Collaboration among Women's Organizations."

Through her remarks and a prepared Power Point presentation, Linda shared some of the new partnerships and collaborations along with talking about HERvotes.

<><><><>

**Ervalyn McVeigh** reports that Eddie Carpenter, husband of the late Branch member **Faye Carpenter**, is in the rehab center at Heartland Health Care Center, Room 2104. Faye was a very active AAUW member for many years, and she and Eddie were active in PEARS. Ervalyn says that Eddie would appreciate visits or calls from Branch members who knew Faye and him.



## FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS DAZZLE MEMBERS WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF RESEARCH

Speakers for the May program were three of the four recipients of \$2,500 fellowships from the Branch this year. Each one presented an overview of the research she doing in pursuit of a PhD as Branch members listened intently to the fascinating details of what each hopes to achieve.

Andrea Gustavson is analyzing snapshots taken by military men and women to see how they construct their own visual archives of war. Her American studies dissertation title is "What Comes Home: Vernacular Photography and the Cold War, 1945 - 1991."

Beibie Zou is at the LBJ School of Public Affairs and is focusing on insurance regulation. Title insurance is the charge added to the cost of buying a home to insure the title of the property is clear and good, and her research looks at title insurance as it is handled by five states. Her dissertation is "Regulation versus Competition: How Regulation Explains Price Variation in Title Insurance among States."

Marisa Miller wants to improve the productivity of food crops. Hybrids show increased growth vigor when compared to their parents, but the molecular mechanism for the increased vigor is relatively unknown. Her dissertation is entitled "Regulation of Circadian Rhythms and Growth Vigor in Arabidopsis Hybrids and Polyploids."

Shahana Kurshid, whose research is in the field of civil, architectural and environmental engineering, was unable to be present.

