

# Breaking through Barriers

## AAUW for Women and Girls

American Association of University Women – Austin Branch

August 2010

Volume LXXVIII

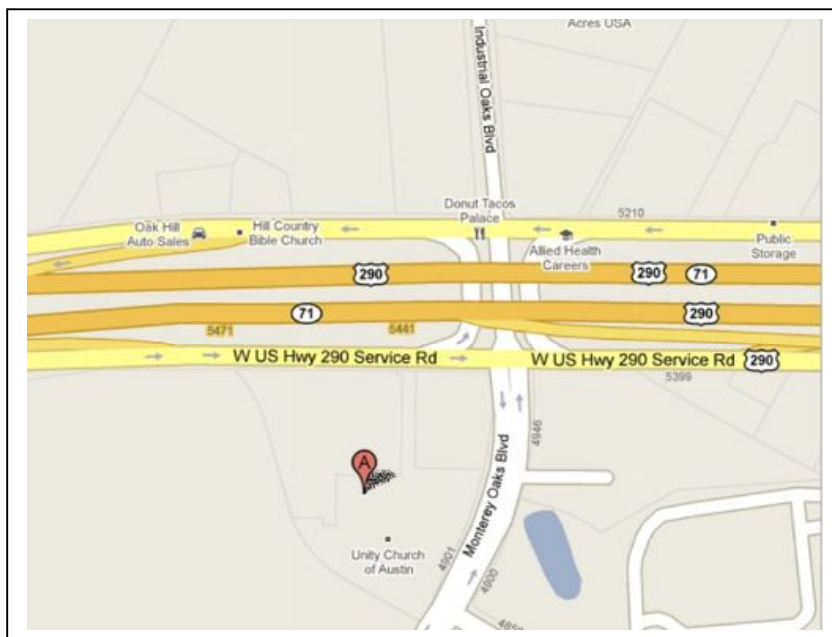
### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP OPEN HOUSE IS AUGUST 22

The Austin AAUW Branch kicks off its 2010-2011 programs at an annual open house for members and potential members to be held at Unity Church of Austin on Sunday, August 22, 3-4:30 p.m. This is an exciting opportunity to:

- meet the new officers elected at the May meeting,
- hear about the initiatives and activities being planned for the year ahead,
- sign up for a variety of study groups that also meet throughout the year,
- catch up with AAUW friends after the summer break, and
- very importantly, introduce potential members to the premier organization for college-educated women across the U.S.

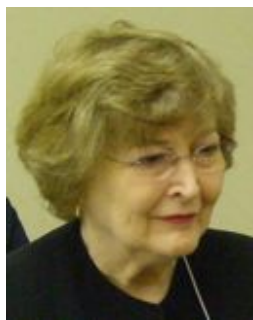
Invite your friends, neighbors, colleagues, daughters, mothers, and maybe even that nice woman you met at the branch library on your last visit! Mention that we will enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, tea sandwiches, cheese and crackers, veggies and dip, punch, coffee and tea, plus a variety of desserts while we visit with the officers and browse the study group (see list of groups elsewhere in this issue) tables! Organize a carpool!

The Unity Church of Austin is located at 5501 West Hwy. 290, Austin, TX 78749. Questions about the event or directions may be addressed to Membership Vice President Marsha Endahl Kramer at 906-2033 or [HughMarsha@aol.com](mailto:HughMarsha@aol.com). Questions about study groups may be addressed to the chair, Judy Reinhart, at 345-5936 or [jareinhart@att.net](mailto:jareinhart@att.net).



**MEMBERSHIP OPEN HOUSE**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2010 3-4:30 P.M.**  
**UNITY CHURCH OF AUSTIN**  
**5501 WEST HWY. 290, AUSTIN 78735**

## MEET YOUR 2010-2011 BRANCH OFFICERS



**President Kay Watson** became a member of AAUW and its Austin Branch in January of 2005 after a number of years of pursuing her education and raising three children while her

husband's work kept the family on the move around the U.S. In 1978 Kay had recently completed her MA in psychology at the University of Michigan and the family had relocated to Austin when her husband died while on a business trip. The next few years were very busy for her as she worked at the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and was a single mom to her three children who have now rewarded her with three grandchildren! In 1991 Kay married Tom Watson, a widower, and they both retired on June 30, 2003.

Sue Worden, Kay's cousin, had tried for years to get her to join AAUW inviting her to attend some of the branch meetings and luncheons, but Kay did not think she had time to commit to membership. Her first Branch meeting as a member was at the Onion Creek Country Club on January 15, 2005. She remembers, "Sue paid my dues for the year, and Nancy Myers paid for my lunch!" Her first responsibility in the Branch was as hospitality chair, and then she was LAF chair for two years. Kay continues, "I had a fantastic committee comprised of Nancy Myers, Veronica Johnson, Natalie Balden, and others who made it possible to exceed expectations. Then, I became president elect in 2008 but had to resign after fracturing my ankle in Russia. I again accepted the nomination for president elect in 2009 and became president in May 2010. With the work ethic and expertise of the wonderful members of AAUW, I am looking forward to a productive and successful year."

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**Program Vice President Linda Leff** has degrees in

English from East Texas Baptist University and Baylor University and a PhD in American Literature from Oklahoma State University. She is a native Houstonian



who retired to Austin after thirty-five years of teaching in state universities from Nebraska to Illinois to Oklahoma. She now teaches literature--poetry and novels--for the Lifetime Learning Institute. She also enjoys taking classes, especially line dancing and Spanish. At home she gardens, cooks, and reads, when she's not traveling to New Jersey to visit her son, daughter-in-law, and two grandsons, Sebastian, six years of age, and Julian, who's three. Her goal for AAUW Austin Branch is to help her program committee develop exciting and invigorating programs for 2010-11.

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**Membership Vice President Marsha Endahl Kramer**'s mother

joined AAUW shortly after her graduation from the University of Minnesota in the 1940s, so there was never a time when AAUW hasn't been a part of

Marsha's life. She herself has a degree in sociology from the University of Toronto and an MS in counseling from the University of Bridgeport and has held a variety of jobs in fields associated with her degrees. Marsha lived in Toronto, Ontario, Canada for fifteen years, and the first thing she did after marrying second husband, Hugh Kramer, and moving back to the U.S. was buy a home in New Canaan, Connecticut, and join the local AAUW Branch. She served on its board for many years before moving to Florida in 1990 where she was Boca Raton Branch president for two years, and over the years she also took her turn as EF-VP and serving as chair of international relations, mem-

bership, women's issues, etc. Marsha and Hugh have traveled to forty-eight countries in their twenty-six year marriage (thanks mostly to IBM World Trade). While living in Caracas, Venezuela, Marsha was active with IAUW (International Association of University Women) and connected with AAUW women in Brazil and Mexico. She is still a dual member.

Marsha loves grand parenting Kyle (6), Ella (3), and Olivia (19 months), daughter Jennifer (and Ryan) Whitney's children, who live minutes away in Austin, and often sees daughter Jillian (Toronto) and her late eldest sister's two daughters. She is grateful to AAUW for helping make her move to Austin an easy transition and appreciates new friends made through the interest groups and Branch. She is proud of the work members continue to do on behalf of women and families and hopes the Branch will continue to honor its long time commitments to international issues.

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### **Secretary Dorothy**

**Vance** is a native of San Antonio where she attended an all-girls Catholic high school. She began a long career in nursing with an LVN course at the Santa Rosa School of Vocational Nursing in San Antonio followed by an associate degree in nursing from San Antonio Community College. Her first nursing experience was at Santa Rosa Hospital, and then during a brief marriage, she lived in Dallas and worked at Baylor University Medical Center. In 1975 Dorothy moved to Houston and enrolled at the University of Houston, graduating in 1978 with a BA in psychology. While residing and studying in Houston, she was employed at MD Anderson Cancer Research Hospital and also worked for a nursing registry for a time. During the time she worked in Texas, Dorothy had focused on medical nursing but had begun to take a very serious interest in psychiatry. In 1978 she moved to Los Angeles, California, and began



working at the UCLA Neuropsychiatry Institute there. For the next six years she improved her nursing skills and expertise by practicing in both adult and geriatric in-patient treatment units. She also enrolled at the UCLA Graduate School of Nursing and was awarded a Master of Nursing degree in Adult Mental Health in 1984. For the next twenty-one years Dorothy continued her mental health career at various public as well as private counseling psychiatric facilities treating both adults and children/families.

About retirement in Austin, Dorothy says, "I briefly became a member of AAUW in the San Fernando Valley chapter of Los Angeles. After I retired and relocated to Austin, Texas, I renewed my interest in the organization and joined the Austin branch in December 2009. I have always enjoyed a love of books and reading, so I naturally am an active participant of the contemporary lit reading interest group, and I plan to also be a part of the newly proposed travel group and enjoy the art tour activities. Since my retirement I have actively volunteered at a local elementary school and during the 2009-2010 school year mentored two school-age children. I plan on continuing to be a mentor at the school in the fall. I also volunteer as a play leader at the Austin Child Guidance Center, and for the past year I have contributed eight hours of my time monthly at Ten Thousand Villages."

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### **Treasurer Inés García**

was initiated into AAUW in 2005. Inés served as president of the Austin Branch in the 2009-2010 biennium and Vice President for Programs in the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 biennia. With degrees in English (Texas A&M)



and Spanish (Texas A&M Kingsville) Inés started her teaching career in Corpus Christi where she taught secondary Spanish and English and worked

as a school librarian. She moved to Austin in 1974 to take a position at the Texas Education Agency as a Spanish consultant in the Division of Curriculum Development. She retired from the Agency as the Director of Languages Other Than English in 2001. Inés managed the state's teacher exchange program with Spain until 2006. In retirement, you will find her busy assuming executive positions with the Pan American Roundtable of Austin, Alpha Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (DKG), the Texas State Organization of the DKG, and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. She enjoys traveling and her extended family.

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## AAUW AUSTIN BRANCH STUDY GROUPS 2010-2011

### **Art Tours – Fourth Wednesday, 10 a.m., locations vary**

The standard meeting time is 10 a.m. unless otherwise specified on the schedule (to accommodate the venue being visited). The fourth Wednesday of the month is the meeting day except in November when the tour is on the third Wednesday due to the Thanksgiving holiday. There is no meeting in December. Diane Brewer (328-0474; [zdramamom@austin.rr.com](mailto:zdramamom@austin.rr.com)) and Natalie Balden ([nbalden@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nbalden@sbcglobal.net); 288-7748) are the co-chairs.

### **Book Review—First Friday, 10 a.m., Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43<sup>rd</sup> & Avenue B**

A member reviews a previously selected book, and another member(s) serve as hostess(es). Co-chairs are Kay Watson ([kwatson03@austin.rr.com](mailto:kwatson03@austin.rr.com); 447-2883) and Natalie Balden (288-7748; [nbalden@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nbalden@sbcglobal.net)).

### **Bridge - Second Wednesday, 4 p.m.**

Hostesses and locations vary. Contact Judy Reinhart (345-5936; [jareinhart@att.net](mailto:jareinhart@att.net)).

### **Bridge - Weekly on Thursday, 9:30 a.m., Senior Activity Center, 29<sup>th</sup> & Lamar**

Call Dorothy Ramsey (442-3841) for more information.

### **Bridge - Fourth Wednesday, 4 p.m., locations vary**

Contact Sarah Ezell (343-8394; [slezell@aol.com](mailto:slezell@aol.com)) for more information. Hostesses and locations vary.

### **Classics Reading Group - Fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m., Ralph Yarbrough Library, 2200 Hancock Drive**

Members take turns serving as leader who gives a brief biography and suggests discussion topics. Evelyn Boyer ([evelyn.boyer@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:evelyn.boyer@dshs.state.tx.us); 836-1492) is chair.

### **Contemporary Literature - First Monday, 7:15 p.m., Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center Drive**

Fern Chester (345-1102; [fernchester@aol.com](mailto:fernchester@aol.com)) and Dorothea Berasley (343-0370; [auw-austin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:auw-austin@sbcglobal.net)) are co-chairs. Members take turns serving as discussion leaders and typically give comments or quotes from two or three reviews, set the focus by discussing what they found interesting in the book selection, and offer suggestions and questions for further discussion.

### **Creative Stitchery - Third Wednesday, 10 a.m., locations vary**

The hostess will e-mail the members regarding the monthly meeting and provides the beverages. The co-hostess provides the dessert. Each member brings her own lunch and will work on a project of her own choice or a group project as decided by the members. Dorothea Berasley (343-0370; [auw-austin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:auw-austin@sbcglobal.net)) chair.

### **Culture and Cuisine - Third Thursday, 6:30 p.m., locations vary**

The members are interested in learning more about other cultures and cuisines and serve as hostess or co-hostess once a year. Costs are shared. Mary Owens ([domowens@aol.com](mailto:domowens@aol.com); 454-9339) is chair.

### **Light Cuisine - Third Thursday, 11 a.m., locations vary**

This year we will have no cooking in the Light Cuisine group. We will be "Out to Lunch" looking for light cuisine on the menus. The restaurants we choose will give individual checks and open at 11 a.m. Veronica Johnson ([veronicajj@aol.com](mailto:veronicajj@aol.com); 338-1254) is chair.

**Mah-Jongg - Second and Fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m., 7920 Mesa Trails Circle**

The ancient Chinese game of mah-jongg is played twice each month year round. Play is according to the rules of the National Mah-Jongg League, and members are very willing to teach anyone who is interested in learning to play. Ann Berasley (837-2250; [berasley@swbell.net](mailto:berasley@swbell.net)) and Janie Patterson ([janiepat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janiepat@sbcglobal.net); 343-4058) are co-chairs.

**Mystery Study Group - Second Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Luby's, MoPac & Steck Ave.**

All readers of mystery books are welcome to meet at 6:30 p.m. for food followed by the discussion at 7 p.m. Co-chairs serve for four months at a time.

**Pears - Days, times, and locations vary**

The Pears group meets six times a year to attend events or participate in activities as a group. Theater and restaurant evenings are Dutch treat. Veronica Johnson ([veronicajj@aol.com](mailto:veronicajj@aol.com); 338-1254) is chair.

**Two New Groups for 2010-2011**

**Books and Brunch Southwest Group - Second Monday, 10:30 a.m.-noon September to May and as scheduled through the summer**

Books are chosen throughout the year, and meetings are in the homes of members. The hostess, who facilitates the discussion, also provides light snacks/refreshments--sometimes matching the theme of the current book! Chair is Marsha Endahl Kramer ([HughMarsha@aol.com](mailto:HughMarsha@aol.com); 906-2033).

**Action, Armchair, Unparalleled, & Wannabe Travelers Study Group (AAUW Travelers) - Third Monday, 2-3:30 p.m., Ralph Yarborough Library, 2200 Hancock Drive**

Travelers of all descriptions are invited to join this new study group. We anticipate sharing our travel experiences, possibilities, new ideas, recent discoveries, etc., in a variety of ways including book reviews, illustrated talks, panel discussions, PowerPoint or other types of slide shows. Co-chairs: Mary Ellen Scribner (255-8428; [mescribner@alumni.utexas.net](mailto:mescribner@alumni.utexas.net)) and Adrian McCulloch ([adrian.mcculloch@gmail.com](mailto:adrian.mcculloch@gmail.com); 250-2235).

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**IN MEMORY**



Austin Branch member **Betty Louise Alexander** died Saturday, May 22, 2010; she was born March 14, 1935 in Rush County, Indiana. Betty married Vaughn Alexander in 1954, and they moved to Ft. Worth where she completed her BA at Texas

Christian University and went on to teach in Fort Worth ISD. She fell in love with Texas and was proud that both her daughters were born there. Betty and her family then moved to Chicago, Illinois, where she was a stay-at-home mother before returning to the classroom to teach special children in inner city Chicago. She completed her MA in counseling and school psychology at Roosevelt University in Chicago where the family lived for fourteen years before moving to Austin. Betty went on to serve as a school psychologist in the Austin Independent School District for thirty-four years where she was devoted to working with the youth and staff. Betty was an active volunteer in many charitable organizations, and much of her time and heart were poured into her church where she served in numerous important capacities over the years including chairman of the board, chairman of the elders, trustee, teacher and friend to all.

**Marilyn Balch**, sister of **Rosemary Morrow**, died Monday, May 24, 2010. A funeral service for her was held Cuero, Texas, on May 27.

**BRANCH COMMUNICATIONS CONTACTS**

Telecommunications Chair: **Dorothea Berasley** – [aauw-austin@abcglobal.net](mailto:aauw-austin@abcglobal.net) - (343-0370)

Telecommunications Co-Chair: **Sylvia Gregory** – [aauw.satgreg@yahoo.com](mailto:aauw.satgreg@yahoo.com) - (345-2420)

Newsletter Editor: **Mary Ellen Scribner** – (255-8428) – [mescribner@alumni.utexas.net](mailto:mescribner@alumni.utexas.net) - The newsletter deadline is 9 a.m. on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.



**🍴 Bakers, Shoppers and Cooks:**

We welcome contributions of hors d'oeuvres, tea sandwiches, cheeses and crackers, veggies and dip, or your favorite "finger" dessert for the membership open house. We forgot to pass around a sign up sheet at the last meeting, but several of you have generously asked what we need. Please let Marsha Endahl Kramer know what you would like to contribute. Donations are, of course, optional and most importantly we need you to attend the event and bring potential members with you!

Personal invitations will be sent to any of your friends, neighbors, colleagues, and family members that you identify as potential members for AAUW-Austin. Please send Marsha Endahl Kramer your list of invitees, preferably with names, addresses, e-mail and phone information so a "master list" of invitees can be created... though we will just send a written invitation (unless you suggest a phone call would be preferred). 906-2033;

[HughMarsha@aol.com](mailto:HughMarsha@aol.com)

From Membership VP Marsha Endahl Kramer

**🍴 Planning ahead:**

The first program/luncheon will be September 11, 2010, at the Wyndham Hotel, 3401 IH35 & Woodward Street. The program is "Going Green into the Future," and the facilitators for this program are Anita Knight and Carol Fritz.

From the Program Committee

**🍴 Legal Advocacy Funds Raised:**

Gail Simpler is pleased to report that the decision to send a letter to all members suggesting a cash gift to the LAF be made instead of holding fundraisers has already showed its merit. To date forty-six Branch members have contributed \$1,400 to the fund. Many of the gifts were given in memory or in honor of someone. If you have not yet made a gift, you may send your check to Gail for forwarding to the Association Office with the appropriate paperwork for branch recognition. Her address is 9551 Singing Quail Dr., Austin, TX 78758-6134, and if you have questions, you can call her at 834-9481. All gifts are tax deductible.

**🍴 Expanding Your Horizons:**

Although EYH isn't happening until late March 2011, Raemar Shown is already recruiting volunteers to assist with this great project which introduces girls in upper elementary and middle school to career possibilities in math, science, engineering, and technology. She will be looking for you at the Open House on August 22 clipboard in hand, or you can all call her at 258-1069.

**🍴 Educational Foundation Funds Raised:**

Marsha Endahl Kramer reports that the Branch raised \$3,685.10 for EF during 2009. This year thus far, we have raised \$970.67. Great job everyone!

**🍴 Branch Fellowship Recipient Recognized:**

The July/August issue of *The Alcalde*, a publication for alumni and friends of the University of Texas, spotlights "Philanthropy at Texas." In a section titled "Philanthropy's Impact on Graduate Students: Higher Learning" the focus is on Reeya Jayan, one of our three fellowship recipients. At the May luncheon where the recipients were introduced, Reeya dazzled us with her smile and the explanation of her work on the "Development of Efficient, Stable Organic-Inorganic Hybrid Solar Cells." The *Alcalde* article reads in part, "It's that kind of innovative thinking that makes Jayan, who recently received a doctoral fellowship from the American Association of University Women, a perfect candidate to help solve the world's energy challenges."

**🍴 Have you paid your 2010-2011 dues?**

If not, you can bring your check to the Open House and give it to Treasurer Inés García. Dues are \$75 for Branch members and \$26 for life members. Your check should be made out to "AAUW" with "2010-2011 membership" in the "For" space. If you don't want to wait until the Open House, you can mail your dues payment to Inés at:

American Association of University Women  
Austin Branch - P.O. Box 27223  
Austin, TX 78755-2223

**🍴 Branch Member Rita Kraft Is Very Ill:**

Rita Kraft and her husband Lee are waging a fierce battle against the very aggressive form of cancer with which she was diagnosed earlier this year. Art Tour Study Group chair Diane Brewer has been keeping that group informed of the valiant struggle for Rita's life and health that is underway. Messages of support and encouragement are greatly appreciated by both Rita and Lee. Their address is 2504 Golden Gate Park, Austin TX 78732-2422. E-mail is [RitaKraft@austin.rr.com](mailto:RitaKraft@austin.rr.com).

## AUSTIN BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2010-2011

\*Kay Watson – President – 447.2883 – [kwatson03@austin.rr.com](mailto:kwatson03@austin.rr.com)  
\*Linda Leff – Program Vice President – 302.4373 – [lkleff@earthlink.net](mailto:lkleff@earthlink.net)  
\*Marsha Endahl Kramer – Membership Vice President – at 906.2033 (H); 906.6566 -  
[HughMarsha@aol.com](mailto:HughMarsha@aol.com)  
\*Dorothy Vance – Secretary – home 373.3612 (H); 673.9696 (C) – [arnoff321@cs.com](mailto:arnoff321@cs.com)  
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\*Indicates elected officers; all others are appointed.

## MAY OFFICER INSTALLATION; FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS; NAMED GIFT RECIPIENTS

