

AAUW
Austin, Texas Branch

Next Meeting
January 9, 2016
10:00 A.M.

ACC Eastview Campus
3401 Webberville Road
Austin, Texas 78702

R.S.V.P. by January 7th
(see below for RSVP info)



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holiday social – don't
miss it!

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January Meeting Guest Speaker – Dr. Michele Rountree **“Important Issues of Our Community: HIV, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health”**



Dr. Michele A. Rountree is an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin. She is a scholar trainee with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and Columbia-University sponsored HIV Intervention Science Training Program for Racial/Ethnic Minority New Investigators (HISTP). Dr. Rountree is also a scholar mentee with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) sponsored African-American Mental Health Research Scientist (AAMHRS) consortium.

With a solid mix of clinical, administrative and research experience, she has a background in studying the complex interplay of social, cultural, political and economic factors as determinants for women's heightened risk for experiencing IPV (intimate partner violence) and sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS. Her research targets the impact of structural, program characteristics and client attributes in shaping the efficacy and utilization of services. In addition she focuses her research efforts on prevention and intervention. Dr. Rountree has had an opportunity to present her research at several local and national conferences.

Dr. Rountree received her master's degree from Boston University with a concentration in macro social work methods and her Ph.D. from Arizona State University. She teaches in the Community and Administrative Leadership (CAL) concentration with classes such as the Dynamics of Organizations and Communities, Foundations for Social Justice and Strategic Partnerships and Collaborative Relationships. She is a recipient of the Lora Lee Pederson Teaching Excellence Award and the Texas Exes Black Alumni Legacy Award.

R.S.V.P. by January 7th: Diane Brewer at zdramamom@austin.rr.com or 512-328-0474 with sandwich choice

Menu: Those who choose to have lunch may order a Jason's Deli box lunch for \$15. Lunch choices include: **ham** on croissant, **chicken salad** with almonds and pineapple on croissant, or a **spinach veggie** wrap. All orders include chips, pickle, chocolate cookie, and packets of mayo and mustard. Coffee, tea, and bottled water will be provided to all in attendance. *A seat fee without lunch includes a beverage for \$5.*

ANNUAL BRANCH HOLIDAY SOCIAL

**The Annual Branch Holiday Social will be co-sponsored with the Austin Woman's Federated Club
 Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 PM
 Texas Federation of Women's Clubs "Mansion"
 2312 San Gabriel Street**

As President of the Austin Woman's Federated Club, and an active member of the Austin Branch of AAUW, Lynn Cooksey believes in networking and is interested in bringing groups of women together to share programs and issues. Lynn consistently invites friends to attend AAUW programs, like our 90th anniversary luncheon. *So join Lynn in inviting YOUR friends and family to share this holiday event!*

Our branch The AAUW Austin Branch Culture & Cuisine interest group and past presidents will treat us to sweet and savory treats, and the Funds committee plans a FUN and unique silent auction. This will be an opportunity for you to purchase terrific holiday gifts for family, friends and associates while helping fund important AAUW sponsored programs via the unrestricted AAUW FUND, including NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders), member leaders programs, *TechSavvy*, *Elect Her*, *Start Smart*, C/U partners, Student Activity Councils, new program development, *Outlook*, AAUW Advocacy, and research.

The silent auction will include tasteful gift baskets, tickets to local arts events, and creative personal services. Bring a friend or prospective member, enjoy holiday music and treats in an historic venue decorated for the holidays, and plan on bringing home holiday spirit and a unique gift.

Dedicated to the pursuit of education and humanitarian programs, the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs was founded in 1897. The goal of a permanent state headquarters was realized with the construction of "The Mansion" in the early 1930s with assistance from local philanthropist Clara Driscoll. The Georgian Revival mansion is located on the southwest corner of 24th Street and San Gabriel Street, adjacent to the historic Neill-Cochran House, built in 1855; and it acts as a cornerstone to the historic Judge's Hill neighborhood, to the west of The University of Texas at Austin. Designed by prominent Dallas architect Henry Coke Knight (1896–1966), it is one of the best examples of Georgian revival architecture in Texas, and is a Texas Historic Landmark, as well as an Austin Historic Landmark, and is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

It is a beautiful venue for a wedding, as well as our holiday party!



PARKING: There is a horseshoe driveway in front for delivery of food and auction items and a small lot right behind the venue with handicapped spaces. In addition we can use the free parking lot just a couple blocks west at the UT International Office, on the corner of 24th and Seton Avenue and the Neill-Cochran House museum lot (accessible behind the historic house next door to The Mansion, via 23rd street in between Leon and San Gabriel).

MESSAGES FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

The end of the year brings reflections and ushers in a time of introspection. What are some of the reflections for the first half of AAUW-Austin?

It has been an interesting six months for the Branch. Membership experienced a 15% attrition rate due to various reasons: death, illness/infirmity, moving out of the area, or a loss of interest in branch activities. That number is beginning to climb again. One key factor is the top-notch programming for this year, which is attracting new members or current members who want to become involved. I offer kudos to the Program Committee for their excellent efforts.

There are exciting plans for the next six months. I hope all of you will support the branch through your time and efforts in pursuit of our goals: improve opportunities for women through education and legislation in order to improve the standards for all women. The Austin Board, and my Co-President, Milli Stecker, have worked diligently to keep the branch focused on our mutual targets and accomplish the plans we have for 2015-2016. Many thanks to all of you!

Membership VP, Elaine Penn, will be announcing a new drive for the first quarter of the year. We will let you know the details when they are finalized. The Funds Committee, chaired by Marsha Endahl-Kramer and Anita Knight, have planned and exceeded their targets for the calendar year, 2015. The finale for their efforts this year will wrap up at the Holiday Social with a Silent Auction. I hope all of you will attend this annual event hosted by Past Presidents, Ines Garcia and Anita Knight. The social is scheduled for December 13th at the Austin Federation of Women's Clubs.

A big thank you to all the members of the Austin Branch! YOU make the events happen through your attendance, \$\$ donations, volunteer work on committees and the Board. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

- Marina M. Rivers

I would like to send a special greeting at this holiday thanksgiving time to express to you my sincere appreciation for your confidence and loyalty. I am thankful to our Board, with special appreciation for Marina Rivers for stepping in and steering us so capably through our time of transition; and Ruth Falck for shouldering newsletter duty - as well as yearbook and branch database responsibilities - showing both logistical and artistic excellence. I am grateful to all our members who gave so generously of their time, money and resources to the Austin branch. I am deeply thankful and extend to you my best wishes for a happy and healthy Holiday Season.

- Milli Stecker

Editor's Note: As many of you know I am moving to North Carolina on December 1st. I have had the privilege of bringing Honorary Life member Jerry Cassidy to Out to Lunch and branch meetings. If you live anywhere near 183 and Spicewood Springs Road and can occasionally give Jerry a ride to either venue, please contact me at ruthfalck@yahoo.com.

IN MEMORIUM

We honor the memory of 73-year AAUW member and Marsha Endahl Kramer's mother, Ethelwyn "Etta" Mae Endahl, who died at age 93 ½ of natural causes Nov 12, 2015. Her memorial service will be later when family members who live from coast to coast will gather in Florida. In addition to serving on a number of boards of directors and in many leadership positions in a variety of non-profits, her favorite activity was creating "small study groups" as she loved the way women shared their journeys and stretched their minds.

DECEMBER/JANUARY CALENDAR

Friday Morning Book Review:

Dec. 4 Maudie's at the Triangle
(12:00 PM) Contact: Gayle Smith
512-345-5585
gaylesmith1@juno.com

No January meeting

Contemporary Literature:

Dec. 7 *Ordinary Grace*
(7:15 PM) Author: William Kent Krueger
Leader: Sharon Duboise

Jan. 4 *The Porcelain Thief: Searching the*
(7:15 PM) *Middle Kingdom for Buried China*
Author: Huan Hsu
Leader: Elaine Penn

Old Quarry Library
Contact: Fern Chester
512-345-1102
fernchester@aol.com

Creative Stitchery:

Dec. 9 Holiday luncheon
(11:30 AM) Olive Garden Burnet Road
Hostess: Beverly Locklin

Jan. 20 Hostess: Fern Chester
Co-hostess: Jan Roberts

Contact: Fern Chester
512-345-1102
fernchester@aol.com

PEARS:

Dec. 12 Home of Milli and Phillip Stecker
(5:30 PM) Contact: Maggie Kadlecsek
512-261-0627
magliz@sbcglobal.net; or
Milli Stecker mstecker@austin.rr.com

Jan. 16 Esther's Follies
(5:45 PM) Optional dinner At Carmelo's
Dessert and/or aperitifs at Carmelo's
Hosts: Diane and Charles Brewer
Contact: Maggie Kadlecsek
512-261-0627
magliz@sbcglobal.net

Southwest Books:

Dec. 24 *A Call to Action: Women, Religion,*
(10:30 AM) *Violence and Power*
Author: Jimmy Carter
Hostesses: Anne Marie Ellis and
Mary Lou Bell
Facilitator: Mary Lou Bell

Jan. 11 *Persian Girls*
(10:30 AM) Author: Nahid Rachlin
Hostesses: Sylvia Garcia and Sue
Ellen Jeffers
Facilitator: Sue Ellen Jeffers
Contact: Mary Braunagel-Brown
512-301-4568
mbbsbb@earthlink.net

Out to Lunch:***No December meeting***

Jan. 19 Quality Seafood
(11:00 AM) 5621 Airport Boulevard
Hostess: Lois Shaevel
512-266-0273
gatorgal66@yahoo.com

Culture & Cuisine:***No December meeting***

Jan. 21 Cuisine: Turkish
(6:30 PM) Hostesses: María Inés García and
Tulis Escobar
Home of María Inés García
Contact: Barbara Houston
512-633-9766
barbyhouston@gmail.com

Art Tour:***No December meeting***

Jan. 27 Home Studio of Pastel Artist Linda Webb
(10 AM) 314 Explorer (Lakeway)
Lunch: TBA
Planner: Maggie Kadlecsek
Contact: Diane Brewer
512-328-0404

IMPORTANT CALENDAR UPDATE - PEARS

The PEARS group will attend a wonderful performance of the Austin Classical Guitar. Grammy Award-winning superstar David Russell will perform. In addition to being a brilliant artist he is a civic-minded leader who has travelled in India and Africa with his music. His travels have given him a global perspective and influenced his art. The performance will be Saturday, February 27, 2016, 8pm, at the AISD Performing Arts Center, 1500 Barbara Jordan Blvd. If you would like to join PEARS for this activity then please contact AAUW member Ruth Rubio at ruthrubio@utexas.edu by December 11, 2015. Tickets are \$20.00.

AAUW FUNDS

The Funds Committee reminds you to turn in, mail or drop off you're purchased or solicited Silent Auction "item" donations (wrapped or unwrapped) and a donor form by Dec 3, 2015, to:

Marsha Endahl Kramer
6907 Telluride Trail, Austin 78749
hughmarsha@aol.com
512-906-6566
or
Anita Knight
529 Buckeye Trail, Austin 78746
dbasknight@aol.com
512-922-4469

Pick ups can be arranged if needed. For "Personal Service" donations (from hours of service utilizing your skills such as gardening or accounting OR being willing to make a meal, bake a pie or mend some clothes we just need a Donor Form with your detailed description attached.

You may make your signage or the committee can prepare one. Need items by Dec 3, 2015 if possible! Questions? Donation forms are linked to the web site or could be mailed to you. Thank you in advance for supporting the tax deductible AAUW Fund. Because we need to turn in all funds collected to meet National's deadline, winning bids need to pay by cash or checks made out to "AAUW Fund." Thanks in advance for your generosity!

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HELP NEEDED – PLEASE CALL!!!

GIFT WRAPPING @ BARNES & NOBLE for "TIPS" proceeds go to the Ann Richards Fellowship Fund

There will be gift-wrapping this year at the NORTH Barnes and Noble in the Arboretum, and also at the SOUTH Barnes and Noble in Sunset Valley.

We still need 3 people for Saturday Dec 5th from 12-2pm and 3 people for Sunday Dec 6th, 3-5pm

Anita Knight (512-329-8575) is coordinating the North store, and Lilac Bauer (512-743-6338) is coordinating the South store

LATINITAS / GIRLSTART NEWS

Latinitas was rain-stormed out for their **Healthy Chica Conference** at Austin Community College. They postponed it until Saturday November 21 at the Mexican American Cultural Center. **Thanks** to all those who volunteered to assist with registration and check-in, or provided snacks: Diane Brewer, Ines Garcia, Tulis Escobar, Anita Knight, Janie Maldonado, Soon Merz, Elizabeth Newell, Judy Reinhart, Ruth Rubio, Mary Ellen Scribner, Cindy Werland. Only Lilac and Mary Ellen were able to help at the re-scheduled event at the MACC , and some of the perishable snacks were sent on to the Club Latinitas after school groups the week after the storm.

GirlStart has been gracious to host our AAUW Board Meetings once a month. Girlstart held their Community STEM “Spooktacular” at the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum Oct 30th and will hold the deSTEMber Fest there at the Bullock also on December 6 from noon – 3 pm.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO ASSIST WITH THIS FUN COMMUNITY EVENT, PLEASE GO TO THE girlstart.org WEBSITE AND CLICK ON THE VOLUNTEER TAB....or contact Lilac for more information.

Lilac Bauer 512-743-6338 la_azucena@hotmail.com

IN THE NEWS – THANK YOU LETTERS TO THE BRANCH

From Judge Tim Sulak:

November 6, 2015

Dear Ms. Scribner,

Thank you—and your sister AAW members—for giving me the opportunity to speak to and with you about the recent bond election.

It is gratifying to have your level of interest and participation in our community. I hope that you and your group will continue your efforts.

We appreciate it and are better for it.

Sincerely,

Tim Sulak

Judge Tim Sulak

353rd District Court

Travis County, Texas

From Latinitas:

Lilac and Mary Ellen,

I have so enjoyed our partnership on these conferences with AAUW - thank you for your commitment to us. The snack packs, fruit supply, etc. were great and your presence and support kicking these things off saves my life every time!!! You are my favorite feminists in Austin. Keep us posted on any events you need us at -or help our girls can provide AAUW.

Laura

Laura Donnelly

Founder, COO Latinitas