



Breaking through Barriers

for Women and Girls

American Association of University Women – Austin Branch

February 2010

Volume LXXVIII Number 2

February Activities

Feb. 1 – Contemporary Literature at Old Quarry BL 7 p.m. – *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*. Discussion leader: Beverly Locklin. Fern Chester (345-1102) or Dorothea Berasley (343-0370).

Feb. 5 – First Friday Book Review at Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43rd & Ave. B. 10 a.m. – *The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society*. Reviewed by Carol Fritz. Hosts: Kay & Tom Watson. Kay Watson (447-2883) or Natalie Balden (288-7748).

Feb. 9 - Mah-Jongg. 7 p.m. 7920 Mesa Trails Cove. Ann Berasley (837-2250) or Janie Patterson (343-3058).

Feb. 9 – Classic Book Study Group at Ralph Yarborough BL 7 p.m. *Cousin Bette* by Honoré de Balzac. Discussion leader: Mary Blockstock. (Evelyn Boyer, 836-1492).

Feb. 10 – Second Wednesday Bridge. 7 p.m. Call Judy Reinhart (345-5936) for more information.

Feb. 11 - Mystery Study Group at Luby's (MOPAC & Steck). 6:30 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. discussion: Heroes/Heroines Outside the Law (*The Kiss Murder* - Mehmet Murat Somer, translated by Kenneth James Dakan; *Portrait of a Lady* – Diane A. S. Stuckart; *Short Straw* - Stuart Woods). Pat Bennett (342-1744).

SHERYL COLE, AUSTIN CITY COUNCILWOMAN, TO SPEAK AT FEBRARY MEETING

February is Black History Month and March is Women's History Month, and for AAUW members across the country these are special opportunities to focus on the struggles, accomplishments, and remaining challenges in achieving civil rights and equality for all citizens. Our speaker in February is superbly qualified to address these issues. By good fortune she was born female and Black, and by choice and hard work she is a wife, mother, lawyer, and strong leader!

A resident of Austin for over twenty-five years, Sheryl Cole earned a BA in accounting from University of Texas and became a CPA in 1986, working for two years with the Big Five accounting firm of Ernst & Young. In 1989 she returned to the University of Texas for law school and earned her JD in 1991 at which time she joined the law firm of Wright & Greenhill. She served as staff counsel at the Texas Municipal League from 1995 until 2001.



Married to Austin attorney Kevin Cole, Sheryl is the mother of three boys-- Marcus, Nelson, and Femi. The Coles live in the Wilshire Woods neighborhood and are members of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association and David Chapel. Sheryl is a past president of the Lee Elementary School PTA, a former board member of Leadership Austin, the Austin Area Urban League, and Communities in Schools. She also served as tri-chair of the 2004 AISD Citizen Bond Committee and was appointed by former mayor Kirk Watson to serve on the 1998 City of Austin Citizen Bond Committee.

First elected in 2006, Sheryl Cole is the first African American woman elected to the Austin City Council. She serves as chair of the council's Audit and Finance Committee and is a member of two subcommittees, that of Land Use and Transportation as well as that of Minority-Owned Business Enterprise and Women-Owned Business Enterprise. Sheryl serves as the City of Austin representative on the boards of the Austin-San Antonio Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District, the Downtown Austin Alliance Board, and the CAMPO Transportation Policy Board.

On February 13 Sheryl Cole will share from her experiences and story as well as talk about her role as an Austin City Councilwoman. Make your reservation to join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of Blacks and women and learn more about the work still to be done.

February Activities (continued)

Feb. 12 – PEARS. Travel Fair and light supper; 6:30 p.m. home of Mary Frances and David Rogerson, 2022 Goodrich Ave.; RSVP Mary Frances (394-5688) or chair Veronica (338-1254).

Feb. 13 - Branch meeting & lunch at Wyndham Hotel, 3401 IH 35 & Woodward St. 10 a.m. Speaker: Sheryl Cole, Austin City Councilwoman.

Feb. 15 - Southwest Austin Book Group with hostess & facilitator Sylvia Garcia, 6403 Dunsmere Court. 10:30 a.m. *People of the Book*. RSVP or for more information: Marsha Endahl Kramer (906-2033).

Feb. 16 – Light Cuisine. 11 a.m. Hostess: Marsha Endahl Kramer, 6907 Telluride; co-hostess: June Huckabee; RSVP Marsha (906-2033) or chair Veronica (338-1254).

Feb. 17 - Creative Stitchery. Hostess: Fern Chester, (345-1102); co-hostess: Lynn Cooksey. (Dorothea Berasley, 343-0370).

Feb. 18 – Culture & Cuisine with Marsha Endahl Kramer, 6907 Telluride Trail. 6:30 p.m. RSVP 444-5643. (Mary Owens, 454-9339).

Feb. 23 – Mah-Jongg. 7 p.m. 7920 Mesa Trails Cove. Ann Berasley (837-2250) or Janie Patterson (343-3058).

Feb. 24 – Art Tour Group. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River Street (just off Rainey St.). 10 a.m. Host: Rita Kraft has arranged for a docent to introduce us to the dramatic works of Sergio Rodriguez; free parking

RESERVATIONS, DIRECTIONS, LUNCHEON MENU

The menu for the February luncheon is oven-roasted sirloin of beef served au jus with garlic mashed potatoes and seasonal fresh vegetables, a salad, bread, dessert, and coffee or tea. The cost of the luncheon is \$20 for a timely reservation with payment made the day of the meeting; a check is preferred or you need to bring the correct change.

Dorothea will send a reminder e-mail one week before the meeting; you can simply reply (see illus. ►►) to her email to make your reservation or you may call her at 343-0370. Reservations or cancellations MUST be received by 6 p.m. on the Wednesday before the Saturday meeting because Dorothea e-mails her reservations count to the Wyndham at that time.



The Branch must pay for all reservations made, so a member who does not keep her reservation will be billed for the full cost of the luncheon. If a member arrives without a reservation and expects to stay for lunch, the cost of the meal is \$30. In this situation, please check in with Dorothea (reservations) and Evelyn (treasurer) at the registration table to determine availability and to make payment; do NOT approach hotel staff directly (this is a business transaction to be handled by the treasurer).

By the 6 p.m. Wednesday deadline, Dorothea also needs to know if you are attending the program but not staying for lunch or if your luncheon reservation has any special dietary requirements such as a vegetarian meal. Seating for members attending only the meeting/program is in chairs set up separate from those at the tables for luncheon attendees. Thus, it is important to let Dorothea know that you will be attending the meeting/program but not staying for lunch so that the hotel will know how many additional chairs to set up.

The February 13 meeting will be at the Wyndham Hotel as all our luncheon/program meetings are this year. The Wyndham is located at 3401 IH 35 and Woodward Street north of Ben White Blvd. Although the hotel has plenty of parking, why not carpool with neighbors and friends? Carpools are more fun and certainly better for the environment! Remaining program/luncheon dates for the year are March 13, April 10, and May 8.



Association for the Study of African American Life and History
Founders of Black History Month
<http://www.asalh.org/index.html>

February Activities (continued)

abounds; and there is no admission! Optional lunch gathering nearby following the tour. Diane Brewer (328-0474) or phone liaison Fern Chester (345-1102).

Feb. 24 – Fourth Wednesday Bridge. 7 p.m. Call Sarah Ezell (343-8494) for more information.

Every Thursday – Bridge at the Senior Center. 9:30 a.m. Call Dorothy Ramsey (442-3841) for more information.

Looking Ahead

March 8, 2010. International Women's Day.



<http://www.internationalwomensday.com/default.asp>

April 15, 2010. Income tax day. Elizabeth Newall reminds us that \$46 of our Association dues are tax deductible.

April 17, 2010. Expanding Your Horizons. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact Raemar Shown, AAUW/EYH Liaison, to sign up to assist. (258-1069)

April 23-25, 2010. AAUW Texas State Convention. Houston. (Marriott Westchase, 1900 Briarpark Dr.).

44th Biennial AAUW Texas Convention Houston, April 23-25

Inspiring and informative speakers, workshops, banquets, and tours are just some of the learning and networking opportunities awaiting Texas AAUW members who convene at the Houston Marriot Westchase for the biennial state conference April 23-25. Among the speakers are Carolyn Garfein, AAUW national president, and Linda Lorelle, an Emmy Award winning TV anchorwoman.

The Winter 2010 *University Woman Texas!* provides complete convention information including the program, workshop descriptions, speaker and candidate biographies, proposed bylaws changes, registration forms, and hotel information. This issue was mailed several weeks ago and is also available online at www.aauwtexas.org. Registration forms may be mailed or submitted electronically. To receive the best rate, one should register before March 15, and members planning to attend should be aware that the hotel convention rate expires on April 5. Anyone interested in sharing a room and/or traveling as a group from Austin, contact President Inés Garcia.

At the state convention there will be a raffle for a wall-hanging sized quilt handcrafted by Jan Roberts. Funds raised will be for the new Ann Richards American Fellowship. The design is the same as the commemorative pin for donors to the new fund--an Americana design in red, white, and blue. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Anita Knight will be selling raffle tickets at the February and March luncheons. The winner does not have to be present at the convention.



AUSTIN BRANCH OFFICERS 2009-2010 (Executive Committee)

Inés Garcia – President – 251-7212 – garines@sbcglobal.net

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Mary Ellen Scribner – Newsletter Editor – 255-8428 –

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📌 Notes from Gail Simpler – LAF VP

Share Your Work Experiences

Between January 25 and February 13, AAUW will participate in a blog radio series and blog carnival on work-life balance issues. We encourage all AAUW members to learn more about the initiative so that you can participate and share your experiences and views. The goal is to flood public spaces with blog posts, opinions, and real, personal stories about what it's like to work in America today.

Support Title IX Legislation!

In January, Congress is likely to vote on the High School Sports Information Collection Act (S. 471) and the High School Athletics Accountability Act (H.R. 2882). These bills would require high schools to report basic data on the number of female and male students participating in their athletics programs and the expenditures made for their sports teams. Schools already collect the data; the bills merely require schools to make the information publicly available. Names of branches that support these bills will be added to AAUW letters asking representatives to co-sponsor the legislation. AAUW staff will hand deliver the letters.

Case Support

LAF is actively reviewing new case support applications and is reviewing five new cases in early February with the LAF committee. If you would like to make a case recommendation, please contact laf@aauw.org. Recommendation forms are accepted on a rolling basis.

For the latest LAF news, visit the AAUW website: <http://aauw.org/advocacy/laf/>

📌 Notes from Marsha Endahl Kramer for Women's Issues

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) - June 3-5, 2010, University of Maryland, College Park. Early-bird registration runs from February 15 to April 16 and regular registration from April 17 to May 19. Submit workshop proposals by February 26. Complete information is available online at

<http://www.aauw.org/nccwsl/support.cfm>.

March is Women's History Month. That will be the theme of the March Branch meeting, so get a head start studying for our annual AAUW history quiz contest! AAUW has an informative online museum at <https://svc.aauw.org/museum/>.

📌 New Branch Members

Csoltko, Kathleen (Kathy). 6500 Conifer Cove, 78736. 288-0446. csoltke@hotmail.com. Southwest Texas State, MA.

Endahl, Ethelwyn (Etta) M. c/o 6907 Telluride Trail, 78749. 906-2033; Florida number (954) 781-74749. eedahl@bellsouth.net. University of Minnesota; Fairfield University (CT), BA.

Reyes, Aurea L. 12809 Basket Flower Cove; Elgin, TX 78621. areyes69@austin.rr.com. 285-6615. Philippine Women's University (Manila), BS in Education; Our Lady of the Lake University (TX), MS in Library Science.

Reyes Gates, Lillian L. 12813 Basket Flower Cove; Elgin, TX 78621. 832-7604 (W). lillian.reyes-gates@dads.state.tx.us. University of Texas at Austin, BS in Home Economics; Incarnate Word College (TX), MS in Nutrition.

📌 Notes from Mary Ellen Scribner – International Relations

Nicholas Kristof, the *New York Times* columnist, and his wife, Sheryl WuDunn, a former *Times* reporter, jointly wrote *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* to advocate on behalf of oppressed, brutalized, impoverished, and uneducated females worldwide. They write of “gendercide” in the developing world, make the case that much such development depends on the labor of but does not benefit impoverished women, and deplore the dearth of health care and educational opportunity for women in many parts of the world. The consequences of rapid economic growth and the one-child policy of China fill many pages, so the reader may or may not be surprised that the book title derives from Mao's statement that “women hold up half the sky.” Kristoff and WuDunn believe that local women are the most effective change agents and should be supported in that role. Many reviewers have pointed out a number of flaws which I had also noticed in my reading of the book, but the authors' keen observations and strong moral stance on such a critical topic make the book “required reading” for AAUW members!

On Thursday, March 4th, 2010 at 7:30pm, CARE will present *Half the Sky LIVE* in movie theaters nationwide. Inspired by the Kristof /WuDunn book, *Half the Sky LIVE* will celebrate International Women's Day with musical performances, celebrity commentary, and the world premiere of “Woineshet,” a powerful short film directed by Academy Award® Winner Marisa Tomei. For more information, go to: http://nawbo.org/content_8818.cfm.