



Breaking through Barriers

for Women and Girls

American Association of University Women – Austin Branch

February 2011

Volume LXXVIV Number 2

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Feb. 1 – Classic Book Study Group at Ralph Yarborough BL. 7 p.m. *Babbitt* by Sinclair Lewis. Discussion leader: Mary Blackstock. Chair: Evelyn Boyer, (836-1492).

Feb. 4 – First Friday Book Review at Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43rd & Ave. B. 10 a.m. *Cheese Chronicles* by Liz Thorpe. Reviewed by Natalie Balden. Chair: Natalie Balden (288-7748).

Feb. 7 – Contemporary Literature at home of Fern Chester. (Note: One-time venue change). 7:15 p.m. *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry. Discussion leader: Sharon Duboise. Co-chairs: Fern Chester (345-1102) & Dorothea Berasley (343-0370).

Feb. 8 – Mah-Jongg. 7:00 p.m. 7920 Mesa Trails Cove. Ann Berasley (837-2250) or Janie Patterson (343-3058).

Feb. 8 - *When I Rise*, the uplifting story of Barbara Smith Conrad, premiers on the PBS series *Independent Lens* at 9 p.m.

Feb. 9 – Second Wednesday Bridge. 4 p.m. Call Judy Reinhart (345-5936) for more information.

Feb. 12 – Branch meeting & catered box lunch at Mainspring School, southwest corner IH35 & Riverside Drive. Registration, meeting, & program: 9:45 a.m.

Feb.11 – Books & Brunch Southwest with hostess & facilitator Anita Knight. 10:30 a.m. *The Girls from Ames* by Jeffrey Laslow. RSVP Marsha Endahl Kramer (906-2033 [h] and/or 906-6566).

Feb. 18 – AAUW (Action, Armchair, Unparalleled, & Wannabe) Travelers. North Village BL, 10-11:45 a.m. (Note: date & venue change for February only) “Heart of India & the Hidden Kingdom of Bhutan” by Anita Knight. Co-chairs: Mary Ellen Scribner (255-8428); Adrian McCulloch (820-1917).

LET’S SHOWER MAINSPRING SCHOOL WITH LOVE THIS VALENTINE MONTH

Let’s make Mainspring School our special valentine and “shower” it with love this Valentine 2011! As you know, AAUW Austin started the original Austin Nursery School in 1941 to serve preschool-age children of the working poor. You can read more about this wonderful community resource which we continue to support in many loving ways on page twenty-nine of our yearbook.

The February 12 Branch program and meeting will be at Mainspring School located at the southwest corner of Riverside Drive and IH35. The social hour will start at 9:45 and include tours of the building, and the regular meeting will commence at 10:15. During the program we will be hearing from Rudi Andrus, Executive Director, and the teacher she has selected to be the recipient of the scholarship which we will be awarding at this event.



January's newsletter included a list of items on the school's wish list which included various size batteries, children’s underwear, grocery store gift cards, etc. The list is repeated in this newsletter on page two, and of course, money donations are always acceptable! For additional information, you may call **Nancy Myers** (338-4335) or **Betty Owen** (444-6015). Please gift-wrap your donation--let's make this “shower” festive and fun!

Catered box lunches will be served at a cost of \$10.00. The choice of sandwiches include chicken salad, oven roasted turkey, ham, or a veggie wrap. Coffee and hot or iced tea will be available. Please make your reservation and sandwich choice with **Sylvia Gregory** by Wednesday, February 9; she will send the usual reminder the week before. And as usual, please bring exact change or a check

Nancy and Betty have provided excellent directions for finding Mainspring School at its temporary location (renovations on permanent facility continue), and it is important to follow these directions carefully as there are no clearly visible signs or street names! **Take the IH35 access road south from Riverside Drive and turn right into the very first drive and proceed up the hill. This will take you to the school building where you may unload passengers. There is very limited parking so please save those spaces for our handicapped members. For parking during the meeting drive back to the access road and take the drive to the next building where there is plenty of parking. Carpooling is highly recommended!**

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES (continued)

Feb. 15 – Light Cuisine—Out to Lunch. 11 a.m. Gumbo’s, 3600 North Capital of Texas Hwy. Hostess: Marilyn Arrigona, (342-8312). Bring your favorite light recipe or article to share and enjoy not cooking. Chair: Veronica Johnson, (338-1254).

Feb. 16 – Creative Stitchery. Hostess: Fern Chester (345-1102). Chair: Dorothea Berasley, (343-0370).

Feb. 17 – Culture & Cuisine with Carol Fritz, 1011 Silbury Dr., 78758. “SE Asia (Singapore).” 6:30 p.m. [Note: Change from yearbook; call Chair Mary Owens (454-9339) with questions.]

Feb. 20 – PEARS. Roller derby event (Holy Rollers vs. Rhinestone Girls). 7 p.m. Palmer Events Center. Contact Peggy Holland (335-1224) for information and to reserve tickets

Feb. 22 – Mah-Jongg. 7: 00 p.m. 7920 Mesa Trails Cove, Ann Berasley (837-2250) or Janie Patterson (343-3058).

Feb. 23 – Fourth Wednesday Bridge. 4 p.m. Call Sarah Ezell (343-8394) for more information; hostess & location change monthly.



Feb. 23 – Art Tour Group. 10 a.m. Hostess: Marsha Endahl Kramer. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress Avenue. “Highlights Tour” admission for seniors is \$8.00; parking is extra. AAUW’s Christine Berkland will be the docent. Lunch is available at the museum. Chair: Diane Brewer, (328-0474).

Every Thursday – Bridge at the Senior Activity Center. 9:30 a.m.-12 noon. Call Dorothy Ramsey (442-3841) for more information.

MAINSRING SCHOOL WISH LIST

- ♥ Batteries (AAA, AA, C, D)
- ♥ Clear contact paper (to laminate teaching supplies)
- ♥ Dry erase markers
- ♥ Regular markers
- ♥ Underwear, size 2T-6
- ♥ Unisex shorts and pants (for use in case of accidents)
- ♥ 3 plastic cutting boards
- ♥ Cans of coffee for teachers
- ♥ Grocery store gift card for purchasing milk to go with lunches
- ♥ Unscented diaper wipes
- ♥ CD player
- ♥ Recycled grocery store plastic sacks (for diaper disposal)
- ♥ Toilet paper rolls
- ♥ Plants during appropriate months, vegetable starts, flowers
- ♥ Gardening supplies: soil, spades, etc.



EYH, GIRLSTART & GIRLS IN STEM CONFERENCE

As girls and young women in school, most women of a certain age were generally not encouraged to take more than the required minimum in math and science. Classes in technology and engineering were few, if they existed at all. I was one of those girls who not only was apprehensive about taking any math or science course in high school but actually feared doing so.

Over time, a little maturity and a few successes have eased this fear, and I now enjoy reading in the fields of general science, archaeology, and paleontology.

Three of my four grandchildren are girls, and these children along with my own history and gaps in my undergraduate education have made me an advocate for EYH and programs such as the Girls in STEM Conference.

Our Austin Branch has had a long and successful history as volunteers for this yearly conference. Thirty wonderful and dedicated women have already signed up to volunteer for this important event. However, we need at least six or seven more volunteers for this conference so that we can continue to do our part in making this annual event a big success.

Our 2011 conference is Saturday, March 26, and will again be held in the University Teaching Center at the University of Texas. The hours are from 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Please email or call me TODAY to volunteer!

Adrian McCulloch (Girlstart Liaison)

adrian.mcculloch@gmail.com

512-820-1917

LOOKING AHEAD

March 21, 2011 – Day trip to Schulenburg to tour Central Texas’s famous “Painted Churches” with the AAUW Travelers Study Group. The cost will be between \$15 and \$20 plus whatever you want to spend for lunch.



Friends and spouses of AAUW members are welcome to participate in this particular event—perhaps we can use this opportunity as a recruiting tool—invite a prospective member to go along! Wildflowers should be an added attraction by this late March date. Contact Raemar Shown (258-1069) for more information or to make a reservation.

You can learn more about the churches on the KLRU website:
<http://www.klrutexas.org/paintedchurches/index.html>

March 26, 2011 – Girls in STEM Conference (Girlstart’s unique Expanding Your Horizons conference) at the UT Teaching Center. Contact Adrian McCulloch to volunteer (820.1917 – adrian.mcculloch@gmail.com).

April 2, 2011 – “Global-Local Partnerships for the 21st Century: A UN Collaborative,” sponsored by The Committee on Teaching About the United Nations and The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Contact Elizabeth Newell to volunteer (345.1686 – enewell4@austin.rr.com).

June 16-19, 2011 – 2011 Annual AAUW National Conference. Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C. Learn more at www.aauw.org.

EXPAND YOUR “COMFORT ZONE” WITH SOME VARIETY

Our Branch is approaching a membership of 170. Here in a capital city which also boasts several universities and museums, we are able to provide outstanding programs on relevant topics approximately eight times a year—with a disappointing average attendance of thirty to forty members. We have about a dozen study groups focusing on a range of topics and taking advantage of the plethora of resources available in our community.



And we have gracious hostesses who regularly open their homes to us for social get-togethers. At these meetings and events, I frequently find myself wondering, “Where is everybody?” Ten times a year I put this newsletter together, and I always spot names of study group participants that I don’t know—that seems odd to someone who has been an Austin Branch member since 1978!

More than two hundred years have passed since William Cowper launched his much quoted, “Variety’s the very spice of life, that gives it all its flavor,” observation into the English language. We quote the phrase all the time, but how many of us actually venture outside our own “comfort zones” with any frequency? Is your Branch “comfort zone” a single study group that you never miss—and the only Branch activity in which you are involved? I challenge you to make 2011 the year you enlarge your AAUW zone by:

- Attending several monthly program meetings. Start with some that particularly address your interests and concerns.
- Volunteering your time or money to Mainspring Schools (Betty Owens, 444-6015) or Girlstart (Adrian McCulloch 820-1917).
- Occasionally participating in the activities of study groups other than your own. Study groups are open to all Branch members; I am assured that includes PEARS even if you aren’t part of a pair—you might want to bring a friend though!



For starters, this month the art tour group is visiting the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum—a great opportunity to be shared by any and all Branch members. In March, the travel group is planning a day trip to Schulenburg to tour the painted churches, and any and all Branch members are invited! And those PEARS obviously hold true to a “variety is the spice of life” philosophy going from a classical guitar concert one month and to a roller derby the next!

The remaining programs for this year will be back at the Wyndham. In March and April we look at our international connections and are reminded that “it’s a small world after all.” In May we hear from our fellowship recipients; I’m still dazzled by the significance and brilliance of the efforts of last year’s group of young women! See you... everywhere! [Mary Ellen Scribner]

BRANCH BULLETIN BOARD

NEW MEMBER

Dr. Kate Cadenhead joined the Austin Branch at the January meeting. Kate has recently returned to Austin from Ft. Dodge, Iowa, where she was on the faculty of Iowa Central College. She is currently employed by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs as a training officer. Kate has a PhD in community college administration and is interested in the study of gender and power in leadership.



A runner and an animal lover, she has plenty of space for both as she lives in Luling in a house she inherited from her grandmother. Kate also enjoys reading and music. Her contact information is 940 South Pecan, Luling, TX 78648; (H) (830) 875-2862; (Cell) (512) 936-7807; (W) (512) 936-7807;

kate.cadenhead@tdhca.state.tx.us.

CONDOLENCES

We extend condolences to Mary Owens on the death of her husband on January 10. Dave Owens was well known in Austin as he served as meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service in Austin for many years prior to his retirement some years ago. Mary is known to many in the Branch as she is very active in study several groups, a regular at Branch meetings, and on a number of volunteer lists.

CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES

New address for Ann Patricia Dooley (Pat):
Ann Patricia Dooley
900 E. Stanley Blvd., Apt. 310
Livermore, CA 94550
(925) 290-1571

New e-mail address for Pat Rehm:
roosterrock2@gmail.com

APOLOGIES

In the January newsletter, the names of Carol Fritz and Tom Watson were inadvertently omitted from the list of members assisting with the gift-wrapping at B&N during the holidays. Whether Tom actually did any wrapping is unknown, but he effectively steered customers toward the somewhat hidden wrapping table!

POSITIVE NEWS FROM NATIONAL

Since the change in 2009 from a delegate voting to a "One Member One Vote" process, AAUW voting members were able to propose changes to the bylaws online from August 1 through November 17, with comments submitted through November 22, 2010. Members were notified of this via email last August, again in the every member September issue of *Mission and Action*, and via direct mail in the Fall 2010 issue of the *Outlook* magazine. From that time through December 1, 2010, the AAUW Governance Committee reconciled the proposed amendments and made recommendations to the board that will be balloted. The amendments proposed will be posted on the website mid-January under http://www.aauw.org/member_center/1member1vote/index.cfm and additionally in the January issue of *Outlook* which will mail late in January.

We have been informed by the national office that there have been **no changes proposed to the membership requirement**. Thus for now we are keeping the "U" in AAUW! The results of the Every Member Survey, which asked opinions about membership criteria, will also be available in the near future. [Anita Knight]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, April 2, 2011
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

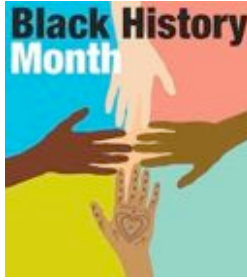
The Committee on Teaching About the United Nations and
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
invite you to attend
"Global-Local Partnerships for the 21st Century:
A UN Collaborative"

Guest speakers from the United Nations will join with local experts in content-rich presentations--keynote addresses, panel discussions, workshops--on the topics of social justice, sustainability, and current educational trends. An Info Fair will have resource material which will help you make practical and relevant connections to the curriculum.

Join your fellow educators and concerned citizens at the LBJ Auditorium at the University of Texas at Austin for this day of professional and personal challenges to the way you think.

Registration has begun. More details:
www.teachun.org

Contact Elizabeth Newell to volunteer (345.1686 – enewell4@austin.rr.com).



February Is Black History Month in the United States and Canada. Since 1976 this month has been designated as a special time to remember important people and events in the history of the African Diaspora. Our own Peggy Holland shares some memories of her time at the University of Texas.



In 1957--one year after the University of Texas at Austin desegregated on the undergraduate level--a gifted and talented young African-American student was cast by the music department in a leading role in its production of the opera *Dido and Aeneas* by English composer Henry Purcell. The student was Barbara Smith Conrad and the role was Dido, Queen of Carthage and love interest of Aeneas--the Trojan hero who was to be played by a young Anglo male student.

When a Texas legislator learned of the casting of an African-American opposite an Anglo, he was angered and threatened to cut-off the funds of this state-supported institution if the casting remained as announced. [Ironically, Legislator Joe Chapman represented Barbara's home district of Center Point in the East Texas Piney Woods.] As a result, University President Logan Wilson had Barbara removed from the production.

The news of this occurrence traveled far and wide over the nation. Journalists called and followed Barbara to the point of her having to seek refuge from her campus-connected domicile. An American Association of University Women member, Dr. Inez Jeffery, offered solace and shelter in her home. Dr. Jeffery also wrote articles concerning the matter that appeared in the Austin newspaper.

In March 2010 a documentary entitled *When I Rise*, made and directed by local filmmaker Mat Hames, was featured by South By Southwest in a showing at the Paramount Theater. In preparing the documentary, Mat interviewed a number of persons who knew Barbara and was part of her life before, during, and after that tumultuous time. Barbara was my first roommate at the University, and I also have cameos in the movie. One of the articles with Dr. Jeffrey's byline also appears in the documentary. *When I Rise* traces Barbara's journey from childhood in Center Point to her success as an international opera star living and working in New York City. [Peggy Drake Holland]

WHEN I RISE

An object lesson on living life with dignity and grace, *When I Rise* will premiere on the Emmy® Award-winning PBS series Independent Lens, hosted by America Ferrera, on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 10 PM ET (check local listings).

When I Rise is the uplifting story of Barbara Smith Conrad, a gifted University of Texas music student who finds herself at the epicenter of racial controversy, struggling against the odds and ultimately ascending to the heights of international opera. The film is a production of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History and was directed by Mat Hames, produced by James Moll and Michael Rosen, executive produced by Don Carleton, and made possible in part by AT&T.

In 1957, Barbara Smith Conrad, who was part of the first racially integrated undergraduate class at the University of Texas, became the central figure in a civil rights storm that changed her life forever. Cast in an opera as the romantic lead opposite a white male student, Conrad became embroiled in a bitter controversy that made its way to the halls of the Texas legislature, where segregationist representatives applied pressure on the university. When Conrad was expelled from the opera the incident escalated to the national stage, prompting singer Harry Belafonte — then at the height of his fame — to offer to underwrite her studies at the institution of her choice.

Rather than flee, Conrad chose to stay at the University of Texas and complete her degree, graduating in 1959. This small-town girl, whose voice and spirit stem from her roots in East Texas, emerged from the incident to become an internationally celebrated mezzo-soprano and headliner on stages around the world. http://www.cah.utexas.edu/news/press_release.php?press=press_wir_pbs

MESSAGE FROM AAUW TEXAS PRESIDENT MARGARET BENTLEY



Happy New Year to all! Now that the yearend festivities have wound down, it's time to get back to AAUW business, including registering for the National AAUW convention in June in Washington, DC. I want to see Texas well represented. The best registration fee can be had by registering before January 21st at www.aauw.org/convention.

The AAUW-TX Board's last meeting was held in Kerrville, an absolutely delightful town with a terrific Branch. They are extremely active in many areas of the AAUW mission, including working with the university there. The Branch generously hosted dinner for the board on Friday evening at the home of Past President Anita Crane. It was a wonderful time to chat with Branch members about various AAUW matters. Board members are looking forward to sharing new ideas with other Branches they gained from Kerrville. Branch officers should be receiving periodic AAUW-TX eLink emails from board officers with this and other pertinent information.

We spent a great deal of the board meeting finalizing the budget and updating the State policies and procedures and job descriptions. All these are available on the AAUW-TX website at www.aauwtexas.org. The other major topic of discussion was planning for the 2011 leadership conference/officer training. Two years ago it was held in Dallas and Houston to enable more members to attend while holding down their expenses. I am exploring the possibility of producing a video of the officer training to be available on the AAUW-TX website for individual or branch viewing, reviewing and discussion. This would save individual as well as board travel expenses. Questions could be submitted by email and answers published on the website. Plans for the Training will be finalized at the March board meeting.

At that meeting, we will also be determining where and in what format the Biennial Texas Convention

will be held in spring 2012. We are continuing to seek an educational institution planning to hold an AAUW mission related conference or seminar with which to partner. If any branch is planning such an event, please let me know.

While chatting with several branches over the last several months about how they fulfill the AAUW mission, I have been surprised to be told that they don't do much at all. Questioned further, I hear of the wonderful work they are doing in their respective communities. In fact, they are carrying out the mission to a great extent, but were under the impression that they had to do things on a national basis to qualify as carrying out the mission. Obviously, local branches can't do much on a national basis, but should rest assured that they are doing great work locally. If you think about it, National can't very well work at the local level any more than we can work at the national level. So, carrying out the mission in our own communities is living up to the AAUW mission.

I will close with a New Year's note from Jacque Lytle to her branch, "Wishing all a very wonderful 2011 and AAUW Plano Collin County a great program year as well! Let's all do our part and a little more to make sure we are as good as we can be next year—membership, programming, fundraising for women's educational opportunities, and even more great pursuits of literary and other interests together!" A great sentiment for all our Branches. Great success to all in 2011!

In equity, Margaret Bentley

Visit AAUW Texas on FaceBook and be sure to click on 'like.' See you there.

Branch Communications Contacts

Communications & Reservations Coordinator: **Sylvia Gregory** – (345.3420 - aauw.satgreg@yahoo.com)

Communications Advisor: **Dorothea Berasley** – (343.0370 - aauw-austin@sbcglobal.net)

Webmaster: **Melinda Townsel** - 388.0105 (H); 619.5216 (C) – mtownsel@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: **Mary Ellen Scribner** – (255.8428) – mescribner@alumni.utexas.net - The newsletter deadline is 9 a.m. on the 20th of the month.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

CONVENTION: Registration for the 2011 National Convention that will be held in Washington DC June 16-19 is now online with early bird discounts in place. See aauw.org for full details of program, presenters, keynote speakers, special events, and hotel and transportation information. Do come join several of us from Austin who will be there for sharing, learning, connecting with other bright, educated enlightened women who like you, believe in “Breaking Barriers.”

Several delegates are looking for roommates, so let Marsha Endahl Kramer know if you plan to attend. As Marsha announced at the general meeting she knows of several members who would make great delegates but who need some financial assistance to pay for registration (\$400+), hotels, meals, special events and transportation. If you would like to underwrite some expenses, please contact Marsha who along with the Executive Board would help distribute those funds. (Requests for financial assistance will be kept in confidence!) [Marsha Endahl Kramer, Membership VP]

AAUW Election Materials Online Visit the [One Member, One Vote](#) section of AAUW's website for complete details on this year's historic AAUW election. For the first time ever, all current AAUW members in good standing will be able to vote in the election. The website features information on the proposed [amendments to the AAUW Bylaws](#), the proposed [Public Policy Program](#), and the initial slate of [candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors](#). The final slate of candidates will be posted in March. The website also includes links to discussion sites on the AAUW Facebook page for each of the proposed bylaws amendments and Public Policy Program proposals. Online voting begins May 1; a paper ballot will also be mailed to all members in mid-April.

Austin Area Interreligious Ministries (AAIM) is now known as Interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT). The new web address will be InterfaithTexas.org. Reminder: Lu Zaidan, director of the iACT Refugee School is one of our April presenters.

AUSTIN BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2010-2011

*Kay Watson – President – 447.2883 – kwatson03@austin.rr.com
*Linda Leff – Program Vice President – 302.4373 – lindaleff@gmail.com
*Marsha Endahl Kramer – Membership Vice President – at 906.2033 (H); 906.6566 (C) - HughMarsha@aol.com
*Dorothy Vance – Secretary – 373.3612 (H); 673.9696 (C) – arnoff321@cs.com
*Inés Garcia – Treasurer & Yearbook Chair – 444.5643 – mig43@sbcglobal.net
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Larayne Dallas – Archivist – 346.6830 or 495.4503 – ldallas@austin.utexas.edu
Tom Watson – Hospitality Chair – 447.2883 – kwatson03@austin.rr.com
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Natalie Balden – Women’s Issues Chair – 288.7748 – nbalden@sbcglobal.net
Dale Willimack – Diversity – 288.0913 – dwillimack@austin.rr.com
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Betty Owen – Mainspring Schools Advocacy Chair – 444.6015 – wrigleyac@gmail.com
Adrian McCulloch – Girlstart Liaison – 820.1917 – adrian.mcculloch@gmail.com
Carol Fritz – Public Policy – 837.6835 – carolfritz@ymail.com

*Indicates elected officers; all others are appointed.