



Breaking through Barriers for Women and Girls

American Association of University Women – Austin Branch

March 2010

Volume LXXVIII

March Activities

March 1 – Contemporary Literature at Old Quarry BL. 7:15 p.m. *People of the Book*. Discussion leader: Adrian McCulloch. Fern Chester (345-1102) or Dorothea Berasley (343-0370).

March 5 – First Friday Book Review at Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43rd & Ave. B. 10 a.m. *More than Petticoats*. Reviewed by Annette Haslund. Hostesses: Larie Amsler & Judy Reinhart. Kay Watson (447-2883) or Natalie Balden (288-7748).

March 8 – International Women’s Day. <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/default.asp>

March 8 – Southwest Austin Book Group with hostess & facilitator Marsh Endahl Kramer, 6907 Telluride Trail. 10:30 a.m. *Committed* by Elizabeth Gilbert. RSVP: Marsha Endahl Kramer (906-2033 [h] and/or 906-6566).

March 9 – Classic Book Study Group at Ralph Yarborough BL. 7 p.m. *My Cousin Rachel*. Discussion leader: Sharon Duboise. (Evelyn Boyer, 836-1492).

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

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

March 11 – Mystery Study Group at Luby’s (MOPAC & Steck). 6:30 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. discussion: Authors in Translation (From Other Cultures). *The Kiss Murder*, Mehmet Murat Somer, translated by Kenneth James Dakan; *Black Seconds*, Karin Fossum; *The Spoke Fever*, Friedrich Glauser; *Dekok and the Mask of Death*, A. C. Baantjer.

March 13 – Branch meeting & lunch at Wyndham Hotel, 3401 IH35 & Woodward St. 10 a.m. Speaker: Melissa Simpler, CEO and co-founder of Affinegy, Inc.

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH/INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY SPEAKER IS MELISSA SIMPLER



Melissa Simpler, the co-founder and CEO of Affinegy, Inc., is the perfect choice for a Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day speaker. She is a successful engineer and businesswoman, a wife (husband is Jeff Simpler) and mother of two sons (nine-year-old Clark and four-year-old Graham), and our own **Gail Simpler’s** daughter-in-law. She has a BSEE, cum laude, and MBA from the University of Texas and is a frequent guest speaker for the UT College of Engineering and Girlstart, an NPO devoted to motivating girls to pursue and enjoy math and science.

She co-founded Affinegy in March of 2003, and as CEO, has provided the vision for ease-of-use that is the foundation for Affinegy’s Digital Lifestyle solutions. Melissa also led the company’s initial customer acquisition and business development initiatives, establishing relationships with some of the world’s largest broadband service providers, and setting the stage for the company’s expansion into channel relationships across the Digital Lifestyle market ecosystem. She has also served as Member Renewal Chair of the Austin Wireless Alliance and on the board of UT’s Executive Alumni Association. Melissa is grateful for the family and friends that surround and support her family in the Austin area and for her wonderful extended church family at Good Shepherd Episcopal.

For the focus of her presentation on March 13, Melissa will expand on Dolly Parton’s statement, “If you want the rainbow, you’ve got to put up with the rain.” She will talk about the importance of having a dream, doing what fuels your passion, the importance of persistence in reaching your goals, and sometimes having patience also. Her topic dovetails nicely with AAUW’s 2010-2011 *Position on Balancing Work and Life: Family Friendly Workplace Policies*. Despite the relative wealth of the United States, family oriented workplace policies in this country lag dramatically behind those in much of the rest of the world, including all high-income countries and many middle- and low-income countries as well. While American workplace policies have lagged, the past fifty years have seen substantial changes in the composition of the American workforce. Two-thirds (64 percent) of women with children under six are in the labor force. Nationwide, 22.9 million families

March Activities (continued)

March 16 – Light Cuisine. Meet at Roaring Fork, 10050 Stonelake Blvd. for lunch at 11 a.m. RSVP to hostess, Marilyn Arrigona, (342-8312). Chair: Veronica Johnson (338-1254).

March 17 – Creative Stitchery. Hostess: Angie Clark (258-5668) & Beverly Locklin, co-hostess. (Dorothea Berasley, 343-0370.)

March 18 – Culture & Cuisine with Jan Roberts, 5942 Highland Hills Dr. (371-0762). Co-hostess: Natalie Balden. (Mary Owens, 454-0339).

March 20 - PEARS: We are going to the races at Manor around noon. RSVP to hosts Anita & Don Knight, 329-8575. (Veronica Johnson, 338-1254).

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

March 24 – Art Tour Group. 11 a.m. AMOA, 823 Congress Ave., Ste. 100. Parking is often available on the street, or in nearby parking garages. Admission is \$4. The group will enjoy a docent-led tour of "American Letterpress: The Art of the Hatch Show Print." Hostess: Natalie Balden. (Chair: Diane Brewer, 328-0474 & phone liaison: Fern Chester, 345-1102).

March 24 – Fourth Wednesday Bridge. 7 p.m. Call Sarah Ezell (343-8394) for more information.

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

Looking Ahead

April 15 - Income Tax Day. Elizabeth Newall reminds us that \$46 of our Association dues are tax deductible.

April 17 – 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 - AAUW Texas State Convention. Houston (Marriott Westchase, 1900 Briarpark Dr.). The Winter 2010 issue of *University Woman Texas!* contains complete information and registration forms for attending the convention. If you have not received your copy, you can download the complete issue in PDF format from the AAUW Texas homepage: <http://www.aauwtexas.org/>

provide care for an adult family member or friend, and nearly 80 percent of those care recipients are over the age of fifty.

Make your reservation today for this “don’t miss” program and luncheon!



Austin Councilwoman Sheryl Cole, February speaker, chats with Inés

RESERVATIONS, DIRECTIONS, LUNCHEON MENU

Reservation reminders are sent electronically by **Dorothy Berasley** one week before the meeting; you can simply reply to her e-mail or you can telephone her at 343-0370 to make your reservation. Whichever method you choose, she must receive reservations or cancellations by 7 p.m. on the Wednesday before the Saturday meeting.

The menu for the luncheon this month includes lasagna, seasonal fresh vegetables, a salad, bread, dessert, and tea and/or coffee. The cost is \$20 for a timely reservation with payment to be made the day of the luncheon; a check is preferred or you need to have the correct change. The Branch must pay for all reservations made, so a member who does not keep a reservation or make a timely cancellation will be billed for the full cost of the luncheon. If a member arrives without a reservation and expects to eat lunch, the cost of the meal is \$30. In this situation, please check in with Dorothea (reservations) and **Evelyn Boyer** (treasurer) at the registration table to determine availability and to make payment; do not approach hotel staff directly as 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 member attending only the meeting/program is in chairs set up separately for those at the luncheon tables, so it is important to let Dorothea know that you will be attending the program even if you are not staying for the luncheon. The March 13 meeting will be at the Wyndham Hotel as all our meetings are this year. Remaining program dates are April 10 and May 8.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE LIGHT CUISINE GROUP

The Light Cuisine Group had fun discussing its origins at our January meeting. We looked through old AAUW directories and found that light cuisine was called International Light Cuisine in 1988 and met at the home of Hildegard Everett with everyone cooking. It took more time to get through the lunch, including clean up, with everyone participating! They also had a theme for each year. One member used the words “extreme” and “intense” when describing the focus on non-fat and low calorie because in the 80s there were not as many products available that fit that description. Recipes had to be modified and did not always yield great taste. In 1990 the Light Cuisine Group cooked low calorie, healthy food from different parts of the United States; i.e. Cajun, New England, North East Texas, etc., and started meeting in the homes of different members each month. The 1992 directory defined Light Cuisine as using recipes “that meet the concerns of today’s weight conscious, health-minded cooks” and also used a theme for the year. The description of the group remained the same; however, it made us smile when the theme for 1993 was simply “Not Chicken Again!” The theme for 1994 was “Surprise” and then a “Quick & Easy” theme for 1995. For 1996 to 1999 the theme was “Adventurous (Remarkable, Exciting Experiences) Dining.” In 1999 the group added going out to restaurants some months, as well as meeting in members’ homes, with a suggestion that menus be “light.”



Our current group has lots of fun, as well as eating healthy meals together once a month. We have a hostess and a

co-hostess for each month and make the “light” recipes available to the group’s members. We do not have themes, but we always have fun, laughter, and great conversations. It is much easier to cook healthy with the products available today. Here is one of our favorite recipes:

Easy Cranberry Orange Fat Free High Fiber Muffins

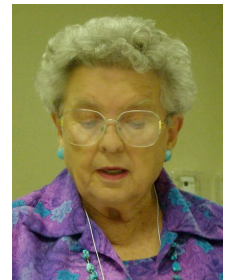
1 package Krusteaz (brand) Fat Free Cranberry Orange Muffin Mix
2 cups All Bran cereal and 2 ¼ cups water
5 packets Equal or Splenda

Mix together All Bran cereal and water; let soak for ½ hour. Then add the dry muffin mix, the can of fruit--including juice--from the mix, and the sweetener. Spray muffin pans with no-calorie fat free cooking spray and fill ½ full to make 24 muffins. Bake at 400 degrees for 15-20 minutes. -- 50 calories each

(Compiled by **Veronica Johnson**)

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR EYH

Expanding Your Horizons is April 17 at the University Teaching Center (UTC) on 21st Street, between University Drive and Speedway. This year girls in grades four and five will be included as junior explorers of cool careers that use science and math while explorers, girls in grades six through eight, will explore how engineering, science, math and technology change their world every day. The addition of the girls in grades four and five requires more volunteers this year to serve as registrars and floor monitors.



Volunteers will need to be at the UTC by 8:30 a.m. There will be coffee, juice, and sweet rolls after signing in and getting nametags in the Volunteers’ Auditorium Room (Room 2.102A). Volunteer registrars may leave at 10:30 when the girls report to the opening session. The conference ends at 3:30 p.m. after a twenty-minute closing session.

If you have questions before you decide or are ready to volunteer either as a registrar, floor monitor, or general assistant, please call **Raemar Shown**, AAUW/EYH Liaison at 258-1069.

BRANCH NEWS

Frances Reynolds, the recipient for the 2009-1010 AAUW-Frances Malmberg Scholarship, has completed the fall semester at Austin Community College with a 4.0 GPA. Frances is pursuing a Pre-Pharmacy Associate Degree and hopes to transfer to The University of Texas at Austin on completion of her degree. She is currently enrolled for 15 hours in the spring semester.

★★★★★

Reena Patel, who received an Austin Branch Fellowship at UT Austin in 2006-07, has e-mailed with news of the publication of her book. Reena writes:

“To update, I completed the Ph.D. in 2008 and my book on women’s employment in the call center industry book was picked up by Stanford University Press. Below is one of the endorsements for the book: *Call centers have become the flash point for debates about globalization. However, within India the social impacts of call centers are immense and largely uncharted. Patel makes an important contribution towards understanding this phenomenon through a rigorous focus on gender. Her lively prose makes this book accessible to all audiences but will be especially appealing to students of sociology, geography, women's studies, and anthropology.*” - Akhil Gupta, University of California, Los Angeles

Currently, I live in DC and I’d been working as Foreign Service Officer (FSO) for USAID (first post was to be El Salvador). However, I recently resigned because I was offered an FSO position with State Department as a Public Diplomacy Officer. I’m thrilled because this job will provide me the opportunity to combine my academic interests (such as serving on Fulbright boards) with my desire to live/work in various embassies throughout my career.”

Reena’s book is titled *Working the Night Shift: Women in India’s Call Center Industry* and is available for pre-order from Amazon for \$19.75 in paperback. The book will be released on March 24, 2010.

(Thanks to **Gayle Smith** for the update on Reena.)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Amy Weldon is the newest member of the Austin Branch, joining at the February meeting. She is the Director of Maintenance Marketing & Sales for the landscaping company Clean Scapes (www.cleanscapes.net). Amy has a BA in journalism from the University of Houston and

is interested in writing, reading, crafts, and travel. **Amy Weldon**; 211 The Hills Drive; The Hills, TX 78738. 488-1094 ext. 209 (W); 261-3098 (H). amy.weldon@att.net.

★★★★★

Sylvia Gregory had surgery on February 17 and would appreciate receiving cards from Branch members. Please send cards to her home address which is 4111 Burney Dr., Austin, TX 78731-1349.

★★★★★

Mother-daughter members, **Aurea Reyes** and **Lillian Reyes Gates**, who joined the Austin Branch in



January attended the February program and luncheon together. **Aurea** and **Lillian** live a few houses apart in Elgin.

★★★★★

BRANCH COMMUNICATIONS CONTACTS

Telecommunications Coordinator: **Dorothea Berasley** – auuw-austin@abcglobal.net - (343-0370)

Newsletter Editor: **Mary Ellen Scribner** – (255-8428) – mscribner@austin.rr.com - The newsletter deadline is 9 a.m. on the 20th of the month.

44th BIENNIAL AAUW TEXAS CONVENTION HOUSTON, APRIL 23-25

The Winter 2010 issue of *University Woman Texas!* contains everything you need or want to know about what promises to be an outstanding convention in Houston on April 23, 24, 25. If your copy got “lost in the mail,” log on to the AAUW Texas website www.aauwtexas.org to register, choose workshops, read speaker and candidate biographies, study proposed bylaws changes, and even sign up for a tour of Bayou Bend, the former home of Miss Ima Hogg (1882-1975) and now a museum housing an amazing collection of Americana.



As I turn through the pages of the convention issue, I note that **Ann Berasley** is the current Texas AAUW President, and that candidates on the slate for 2010-2012 include **Rosemary Morrow** (Secretary/ Historian) and **Elizabeth Newell** (Central District Representative). **Jan Roberts** is pictured with the Texas Star quilt she made for an EF raffle to benefit the new Ann Richards American Fellowship Fund. AAUW-TX EF VP **Anita Knight** has the raffle tickets available for sale at \$1 each or six for \$5. If you too want to be a part of this exciting convention weekend, get registered ASAP! If you are interested in room sharing and car-pooling to Houston, call **Inés Garcia** (251-7212) ASAP also!

Oh, one more ASAP for you! Go to <http://www.aauwtexas.org/emailoptin.html> and **sign up to receive AAUW Texas e-mail news, timely updates on convention, *University Woman Texas!* and more, all spam and hassle-free!**

MARCH 13TH WOMEN'S HISTORY QUIZ Are you ready?

In addition to questions about well-known women in history for our contest at the March Branch meeting, extra credit will be given for answers to the following questions:

1. What is the full name of the AAUW member who was awarded a 2009 Nobel Prize in Medicine?
2. What Nobel prize-winning scientist received \$156,413 from AAUW members toward the purchase of one gram of radium?
3. What is the name of the first women to receive an AAUW fellowship in 1888? (Hint: She is a University of Michigan alumna.)

I encourage you to search the AAUW Women's History Museum for answers to some of the questions:

<https://svc.aauw.org/museum/welcome/index.cfm>



<http://www.nwhp.org/whm/index.php>

2010 will be the 30th anniversary of the National Women's History Project. When we began mobilizing the lobbying effort that resulted in President Carter issuing a Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980 as the first National Women's History Week, we had no idea what the future would bring. And then, in 1987, another of our successful lobbying efforts resulted in Congress expanding the week into a month, and March is now National Women's History Month.

The overarching theme for 2010 and our 30th Anniversary celebration is Writing Women Back into History. It often seems that the history of women is written in invisible ink. Even when recognized in their own times, women are frequently left out of the history books. To honor our 2010 theme, we are highlighting pivotal themes from previous years. Each of these past themes recognizes a different aspect of women's achievements, from ecology to art, and from sports to politics.

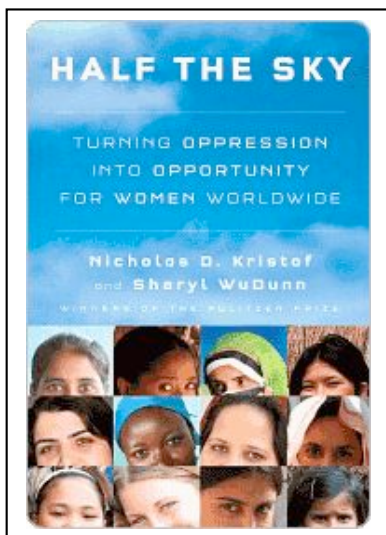
Best of Luck!

(**Marsha Engdahl Kramer**, Women's Issues)

AAUW'S INTERNATIONAL CORNER

Celebrate International Women's Day 2010 with CARE! Building on the success of the 2009 International Women's Day event, *A Powerful Noise LIVE*, CARE and partner organizations are planning to bring together thousands of people in theaters across the country to celebrate, learn and take action to empower women and girls in the fight against global poverty in 2010.

On Thursday, March 4th, 2010 at 7:30pm, CARE will present *Half the Sky LIVE* in movie theaters nationwide. Inspired by the best-selling book from Pulitzer-prize winning journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, *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. As featured on Oprah, CNN, and Dateline NBC, *Half the Sky* remains a New York Times bestseller and a critical favorite across the globe. With *Half the Sky LIVE*, you can watch the pages of *Half the Sky* come to life onscreen as *Woineshet* chronicles the struggles of a young Ethiopian woman who ultimately triumphs over sexual violence and discrimination.



Broadcast to theaters across the country, this one-night-only event – featuring the authors of *Half the Sky*, Dr. Helene Gayle of CARE, other experts, celebrities and musical performances – will motivate you to participate in the growing movement to empower women and girls in the fight against global poverty. *Half the Sky LIVE* is the perfect way for AAUW members and branches to celebrate International Women's Day together and stand in solidarity with women and girls all over the world. CARE will provide a discussion guide and other tools to help you make the most of the event.

Visit halftheskylive.com for more information and to watch the film trailer. Starting February 5th, you will find a full list of participating theaters and be able to purchase tickets (which will range from \$10-12) on the site. Also, **e-mail groups@care.org to let CARE know about your plans to participate** and learn about special engagement opportunities for AAUW members!

Three theaters in the Austin area are participating. Southpark Meadows and Metropolitan 14 are in Austin, and in Pflugerville Tinseltown USA is participating. I will be attending the showing at Tinseltown because it is the closest to where I live, and I encourage you to honor women everywhere by attending the March 4 program at the theater of your choice.

(Mary Ellen Scribner, International Relations)

AUSTIN BRANCH OFFICERS 2009-2010 (Executive Committee)

Inés Garcia – President – 251.7212 – garines@sbcglobal.net
Kay Watson – President-Elect – 447.2883 – kwatson@austin.rr.com
Linda Leff – Program Vice President – 302.4373 – kleff@earthlink.net
Judy Reinhart – Membership Vice President – 345.5936 – jareinhart@att.net
Juanita Painter – Secretary – 345.2713 – jgpainter@sbcglobal.net
Evelyn Boyer – Treasurer – 836.1492 – evelyn.boyer@dshs.state.tx.us
Elizabeth Newell – Association Vice President – 345.1686 – enewell4@austin.com
Gail Simpler – Legal Advocacy Vice President – 834.9481 – gsimpler@mail.utexas.edu
Rosemary Morrow – Past President – 251.7212 – rmorr5@sbcglobal.net
Mary Ellen Scribner – Newsletter Editor – 255.8428 – mscribner@austin.rr.com
Note: Educational Foundation Vice President - Vacant