

AAUW  
Austin, Texas Branch

**Next Meeting**  
**Sat., May 14, 2016**  
**10:00 am**

**Norris Center**  
**Norcross Mall**

**RSVP by May 10th**



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News and Sharing

**Our Mission.** *Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.*

## May 14th Meeting: Annual Introduction of UT Fellows, Installation of Branch Officers

Thanks to the Nominating Committee (**Marina Rivers, Janie Maldonado, and Janet Widoff**), the following slate of Board Officers for 2016-18 was presented and elected at the April 13<sup>th</sup> branch meeting. They will be installed on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Co-President: **Marsha Endahl Kramer** (1 year)  
Secretary: **Resa Dunn**  
Treasurer: **Kathy Robertson**  
Program VP: **Lillian Reyes Gates**

Outgoing Program VP and nominating committee member **Janet Widoff** reminds us: *"At this time of transition, we owe the outgoing and incoming branch officers our appreciation and support. We are indebted to all of these women who fulfilled the slate of officers when asked. The reality of any AAUW group is this: No slate, no board, no branch. Without the branch those interest groups that engage our members (art tours, book groups, culture & cuisine, to name a few) will cease.*

*Board members are in partnership with all the members of the branch. They look forward to a necessary and productive interaction. They encourage members to serve on a committee (Funds, Hospitality/Membership, Program, Public Policy, etc.) or participate in an activity when approached. New and seasoned members have much to provide in interactive roles.*

*We encourage ideas that explore new and creative ways to address our branch goals: co-leaders, collaborative planners, innovative planning themes and venues.*

*There is a wealth of talent in this branch. Let us commit to our new officers that we will use this talent to serve them and the branch in 2016-2017."*

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**Joyce Pulich** and committee (**Jean Bessent, Ruth Rubio and Mary Ellen Scribner**) met last month. They quickly selected the following five awesome recipients of \$2400 each - using that "great minds" thing, according to Mary Ellen.

1. Kalli Doubleday from the Geography and Environment Department is researching tiger conservation in India.
2. Rebecca Macmillan from the English Department explores the work of contemporary North American women who are poets and scholars.
3. Emily Roehl from American Studies examines landscape and portrait photography concerned with the extraction of unconventional oil through hydraulic fracturing or "tough oil."
4. Rose Salseda from the Art & Art History Department is working on the visual art legacy of the 1992 Los Angeles riots.
5. Rachel Wright in Cell and Molecular Biology is researching climate change-related threats to coral reefs.

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**MENU:** Chicken Picatta with penne pasta tossed with basil, garlic and Parmesan served with a strawberry, pecan mixed field green salad with citrus vinaigrette. Cost is \$30 for lunch. RSVP to **Diane Brewer** by the end of the day Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at [zdramamom@austin.rr.com](mailto:zdramamom@austin.rr.com).

## MAY CALENDAR

**Contemporary Literature:**

**May 2** *Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism*  
 (7:15 PM) Author: Doris Kearns Goodwin  
 Leader: Fern Chester  
 Contact: Fern Chester, 512-345-1102  
 fernchester@aol.com

**Friday Morning Book Review:**

**May 6** *On Her Own Ground – The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker*  
 (10:00 AM) Author: A'Lelia Bundles  
 Reviewer: Gayle Smith  
 Host: Beverly Locklin

**Southwest Books:**

**May 9** *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania*  
 (10:30 AM) Author: Eric Larson  
 Hostess: Ruth Rubio  
 Facilitator: Anita Knight

**May 14** **May General Meeting**, 10-1:00  
 "Nowhere has the AAUW demonstrated its practical idealism and its educational power and promise more fully than in the establishment of fellowships to advance women who give promise of scholarly distinction."  
 — *AAUW Fellowships and Fellows, 1935*

**MORE things we are invited to do in MAY:**

**May 7** Austin Special Election Day

**May 8** GlobalAustin Scholarship Forum, 3-5:00  
 Yarborough Library  
 Come meet past and new winners of GlobalAustin Study Abroad and Joe Neal International Student Scholarships. Share experiences of living and studying abroad.

**May 23** **BIG** Communications Event  
 Free Networking Lunch and Job Fair  
 Austin Convention Center  
 AAUW Austin's members are invited to attend the day's activities free of charge. See info page 3.

**Out to Lunch:**

**May 17** Threadgill's  
 (11:00 AM) 6416 N. Lamar Blvd.  
 Contact: Lois Shaevel, 512-266-0273

**Creative Stitchery:**

**May 18** Field trip to Quilt Museum  
 (10:00 AM) Contact: Fern Chester, 512-345-1102  
 fernchester@aol.com

**Culture & Cuisine:**

**May 19** Planning Meeting & Country Potluck  
 (6:30 PM) Hostess: TBA  
 Contact: Barbara Houston, 512-633-9766  
 barbyhouston@gmail.com

**Art Tour:**

**May 25** Planning brunch meeting for 2016-17  
 (10:00 AM) Home of Mary Frances Rogerson  
 2022 Goodrich Avenue  
 Contact: Diane Brewer  
 zdramamom@austin.rr.com

**PEARS:**

**June 10** Pops concert - "Music of John Williams"  
 (8:00 PM) Palmer Event Center  
 Contact: Lilac Bauer, 512-743-6338  
 La\_azucena@hotmail.com

**WANTED:** YOUR article/editorial/  
 commentary for the branch monthly newsletter

Please send to **Anita Knight** at **dbasknight@aol.com**.  
 She also needs sub for October issue.

**New address for AAUW headquarters in D.C.\***  
**1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000**  
**Washington, D.C. 20005**

\*Just a few blocks away in a state-of-the-art and convenient place to continue our work and advance our mission, close to White House and Capitol Hill. Come visit!

## AAUW in ACTION

The Austin Public library has reported that in the past year the following books have been purchased in memory of our recently deceased members, and these will be placed on the shelves of various branches to enrich the library collection and thereby, the Austin community. This is a branch tradition, paid for by our budget.

Out of Orange, A Memoir, by Cleary Wolters, in memory of Kay Minter Watson

Because of Sex by Thomas Gillian, in memory of Dr. Dolores Suzanne Bissell Rodi

Meeting Community Needs, by Pamela H. MacKellar, in memory of Ethylwyn (Etta) M. Endahl

The Firebrand and the First Lady, by Patricia Bell-Scott, in memory of Ruth Epstein

How do we remember these women? By their special talents, careers, dedication to women's issues (e.g. teaching, AAUW positions, ACLU, Girl Scouts of USA). Books are chosen based on these characteristics and interests.

### CONGRATULATIONS

AAUW-Austin Branch is proud to announce the recipients

Of 50-year Honorary Memberships 1966-2016

**Myrtle Bell**

**Anita Knight**

**Mary Ellen Scribner**

**Gail Simpler**

When **Myrtle Bell** entered Hampton (Institute) University her oldest Aunt (Dr. Eva C. Mitchell), who was Chair of the Elementary Education Department, mentioned AAUW.

#### → READ MORE PERSONAL HISTORY ON PAGE 7 ←

**Anita Knight** was invited in 1996 by a friend to join the Contemporary Reading study group in Midland, MI. She joined for "lifetime learning", and one thing led to another

**Mary Ellen Scribner** thought she had joined right out of college in 1963 but her membership card shows July 1, 1966, as her joining date when she was living on a USAF base in Japan. She moved so many times and usually to places where AAUW didn't have a presence, but she maintained her AAUW MAL status until 1978 when she came to UT for grad school. Finally, she could join a branch and a very lively one it was!

**Gail Simpler** saw an announcement in the local newspaper about the Lake Forest Branch AAUW meeting at Lake Forest College in the evening. As her husband could take care of the children, it was the perfect opportunity for her to spend a couple of hours listening and participating in some "grown-up" conversation.

Women in Comms (WiC) is proud to present a first-of-its-kind conference on May 23, investigating the challenges and opportunities for women in the next-gen comms industry and providing direct access to jobs and new skills. Hosted by Women in Comms, and with support from Light Reading, Heavy Reading and the City of Austin, the day will feature a three-hour networking luncheon headlined by a keynote speaker and two interactive panel discussions amongst senior-level executives, a coding workshop, a women's job fair and a special awards presentation at the Leading Lights celebration.

The luncheon and job fair are open to all men and women in the communications field and related industries, as well as college students, recent graduates and those interested in science, technology, engineering, math (STEM), telecom, information and communications technologies (ICT), computer science and next-gen communications. At the job fair, around 20 qualified service providers and vendors in the industry (leading tech firms like Intel, Nokia, AT&T and SAP) will be available to meet with WiC attendees, discuss opportunities and network.

Are you considering a career in the communications industry or looking to advance your career with a new company? Then join **WOMEN IN COMMS** for a first-of-its-kind job fair, just for women! Admission is FREE. Register today and upload your resume to receive immediate access.

**Women interested in attending the job fair can register here: <http://events.lightreading.com/events/women-in-comms-job-fair/event-summary-a93213fba2c14b998f054e7d2311fc6.aspx>**



## AAUW in ACTION

**STEM News:** from Lilac Bauer 512-743-6338  
la\_azucena@hotmail.com

On Friday morning, April 8, at the Girlstart STEM Center we had a crew who stuffed the Goodie Bags for the Girls in STEM Conference. We filled over 600 bags! Thanks to volunteers **Larie Amsler, Resa Dunn, Tulis Escobar and her niece Mary Cantu, Ines Garcia, Barbara Houston, Maggie Kadlecek, Kay Keys, Anita Knight, Marsha Endahl Kramer, Soon Merz, Betty Owen, Marina Rivers, Judy Reinhart, Mary Frances Rogerson, Eugenie Whalen, Janet Widoff.**



On Saturday, April 16, we also assisted at registration for the Latinitas "Code Chica Conference" on Technology at the Austin Community College Eastview Campus. Thanks to volunteers **Larie Amsler, Mary Braunagel-Brown, Tulis Escobar, Ines Garcia, Sylvia Garcia, SueEllen Jeffers, Anita Knight, MaryEllen Scribner (and Lilac in spirit).**



Here's Laura Donnelly, (with AAUW apples), who co-founded Latinitas 13 years ago. Latinitas welcomes any alumni or volunteer support for its upcoming media & technology summer camps for any girl 9-14.

To volunteer with Latinitas, send email to [austin@latinitasmagazine.org](mailto:austin@latinitasmagazine.org) or call 512-861-0592.

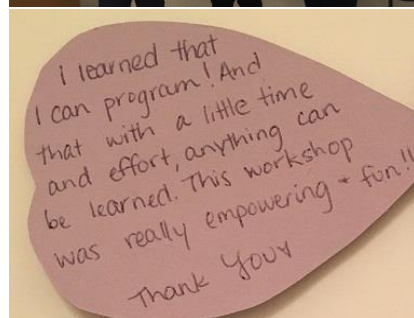


## EQUAL PAY??

Besides Lilly Ledbetter appealing for our help to fight pay discrimination,

**Vandana Nayak** writes:

"So proud of what AAUW stands for; my daughter **Neethi Nayak** worked with the AAUW Houston Branch and hosted an Equal Pay booth on Rice University campus. She was very thrilled to get an opportunity to involve other students too and build awareness. Thanks to the organization for standing up for these important issues."



AAUW table below with **Marsha Endahl Kramer, Anita Knight, and Melodia Guierrez;** and teen workshop "Row Row Row Your Bot: Making Space for Women in STEM" with Maanasa Nathan, Priya and Kavya Ramamoorthy, promoting women's empowerment - both at third annual WE CON by Women's Community Center of Central Texas.

You too can take the branch display when there is a public event at which we can share our mission and recruit!



## AAUW in ACTION



## leadHERship conversation

**theme of AAUW-TX  
47<sup>th</sup> biennial convention**

Women are not new to leadership; think of Cleopatra or Queen Elizabeth, and the women who led the civil rights and education reform movements. Today the tradition of volunteer female leadership continues to flourish, but women are still outnumbered by men in the most prestigious positions, from Capitol Hill to the board room. Why do men still vastly outnumber women in these positions?

**AAUW's newest research report**, "Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership", examines the causes of women's underrepresentation in leadership roles in business, politics, and education and provides recommendations for individuals and those in the education, corporate, and political sectors to contribute to an environment in which gender is no longer a barrier to leadership. National AAUW livestreamed a panel, moderated by journalist Cokie Roberts, which discussed what this new research means for women. You can watch it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcp23hetT78&feature=youtu.be>

April 30, 2016  
**NOON KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**47<sup>TH</sup> AAUW TX BIENNIAL CONVENTION**

Women are outnumbered by men in the most prestigious positions, from Capitol Hill to the board room and beyond. Nevertheless, there are women '*Stepping into Action*' and taking a seat at the leadership table....and '*Soaring into Action*' .... In the uncharted territory of space...

**Meet Ginger Kerrick,**  
 Flight Director and Assistant to the Chief for  
 International Space Station for the NASA  
 Johnson Space Center

- First non-astronaut Capsule Communicator
- First Female Flight Director
- Promoting the message "background doesn't determine your future."



NASA's Ginger Kerrick gave a fabulous speech, thanks to **Jeannie Best's** persistence in inviting her. She shared the following leadership takeaways: *Set Your Goal And Map Out A Plan (And A Backup Plan), Stand Up For Yourself, Trust Your Instincts, You Will Fail – Pick Yourself Back Up, Celebrate Life's Victories, Be Open To New Opportunities, And Challenge The Perceived Standards.*

Austin branch members attending the 47<sup>th</sup> biennial AAUW-TX state convention in San Antonio included: **Jean Bessent, Tulis Escobar, Ines Garcia, Sylvia Garcia, Anita Knight, Marsha Endahl Kramer, Janie Maldonado, Elizabeth Newell, Judy Reinhart, Marina Rivers, Brenda Scholin, Gail Simpler (lunch only), Pam Wolfe.**

Besides being recognized as #5 of top ten branch donors to AAUW Funds, Austin received a R.E.A.P. award (for our activities in Research, Education, Advocacy, and Philanthropy).



AAUW's CEO Linda Hallman shared her 7 P's for leadership: *Prior ProPer Planning Prevents Poor Performance*. She shared how AAUW is changing the climate for women and girls in the statehouse, courthouse, in the boardrooms, in classrooms, on campus, at work, in the Capitol, around the world!



## NEWS and Sharing

## FUNd-rai\$ing for AAUW!!

Back on the list for a fund-raiser is a **garage sale**, an idea suggested by **Ruth Faulk** in conjunction with the empty garage of **Rachel Flake**, who is willing to consider timing and logistics. Marsha has another idea too: special gift cards for donations to AAUW in honor or memory of a friend or relative. The committee wonders what is your pleasure? Do you have things to sell at a garage sale? Will you help? Call or email **Marsha Endahl Kramer** (512-906-6566, [hughmarsha@aol.com](mailto:hughmarsha@aol.com)) or **Anita Knight** (512-329-8575, [dbasknight@aol.com](mailto:dbasknight@aol.com)) with your ideas.

## National UT Fellow Caitlyn Collins writes:

*I am pleased to tell you that I got a tenure-track job as an Asst. Professor of Sociology at Washington University in St. Louis, and am deeply grateful for AAUW's support.*

## Rudi Andrus, ED of Mainspring Schools

reports: *We are growing from 75 children to 91 with the addition of two new infant rooms that will be opening soon. This is through a new Early Head Start partnership between Mainspring, the Housing Authority of the City of Austin, and Child, Inc.*



AAUW's free, members-only weekly public policy e-bulletin offers the latest policy news, resources for advocates, programming ideas, and updates from AAUW's Public Policy and Government Relations Department. If you're a new reader, you must proactively subscribe to receive Washington Update.

Or perhaps you would prefer staying in touch bi-monthly with updates on everything from research to legislation to discounts for members:



## WOW - WONDERFUL NEW MEMBERS:

Renewing members will see more info about them in the 2016-17 yearbook. Or we can profile them in the summer newsletter.....

**Mary Cantu**

**Jean Driscoll**

**Brenda Hahne** (renewing)

**Jolene Jacquart**

**Carol Midboe**

**Laurie Saurborn**

**Jennifer Swenson**

**Dr. Maria Wells**

## Interest Groups are INTERESTING:

Here is the largest, most active: Art Tours



At the April meeting, we learned about Cornerstone Mindfulness and how to "**Achieve the Power of a Focused Mind**". (see <http://cornerstonemindfulness.com/>) Thanks to these ladies: **Barbara Worley**, Erika Marcoux and Jenn Fairbank, **Janie Alonzo**, and **Marina Rivers**!



Looking forward to more great programs next year? Did you share your ideas on the program survey? Contact the new Program VP with ideas and offers to help: **Lillian Reyes Gates**, [312@austin.rr.com](mailto:312@austin.rr.com)

## SHARING HISTORY

**Myrtle Bell's** Aunt Eva lived within walking distance from campus. Myrtle made many trips to visit Aunt Eva and get welcome meals. Aunt Eva said that many years ago, even after she had received her PhD, it was difficult for her to join because AAUW was not as accepting to women of color back in the days when she wanted to join. She told Myrtle to join AAUW, which she did.

After joining AAUW while living in the Binghamton, NY area, Myrtle once Co-Chaired a Coretta Scott King Scholarship Fund. She later became a Life Member while still living in NY.

Since being active with the Austin Branch she has participated in the Program Planning Committee and was on the State Planning Committee when Austin last hosted the State meeting. Currently she is on the Program Planning Committee and a member of the Culture & Cuisine & PEARS Groups. She is also an active Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) – Austin Section, and the Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc. (WBCCI).

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No matter where **Gail Simpler** has lived she continued being involved in the nearest AAUW Branch. Her early AAUW mentor was Virginia "Ginnie" Fiester, a couturier dress designer.

Here's why.... Virginia received her B.A. from the University of Iowa (1938), had a fashion career from 1947 to 1979 (she designed and made the wedding wardrobe for Mrs. Nugent whose son, Patrick Nugent, married Luci Johnson, daughter of President Lyndon Johnson), was a member of the League of Women Voters and the American

Association of University Women from the 1950s, organized the Women's Cultural Exchange with China in 1973, was the first woman elected to the Lake Forest City Council, was sworn in as an Illinois legislator, received an honorary Doctor of laws degree from Lake Forest College (1994), earned her Masters of liberal studies degree from Lake Forest College (1999) and in 2001, Vantage Press published her book Moving On – My life through the 20th century and today. She died at 93.

We can see why she has been a very strong role model for Gail throughout her life. Gail has been a member in IL, VA, and after 1978 several branches in Texas, as well as two interbranch councils. She served as LAF Chair in Austin, and one year on the state board as Promoting Individual Liberties Chair.

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**Mary Ellen** recalls that "there was so much program potential in Austin — and still is!" Speakers she still remembers from her early days in the branch were Elspeth Rostow and Ruth Weingarten, both now deceased. Some of the first meetings she remembers attending were at Green Pastures. For a good while we met on the top floor of the Hyatt Regency on (then) Town Lake where the changing seasons and outdoorsy Austin unfolded below us. We met at the lovely but crowded Shoreline Grill for a time, at various hotels, and the Austin History Center.

In the 1980s we raised money with home tours a couple of years. One year Mary Ellen was a docent at **Jenny Lind Porter Scott's** home and the next year at the Umlauf Sculpture Garden—such fun and excitement. She was privileged to serve on **Kay Goodwin's** committee which launched what is now the Literacy Council of Travis County. Between 1997 and 2008 she spent the school-year months working in various countries overseas always missing the

AAUW meetings which followed the same calendar year. She came back to Austin to stay put just as Janie Patterson was ready to retire after many devoted years as newsletter editor, so she brought the branch into the digital age with the first emailed newsletters. Mary Ellen also chaired International Relations, a Travel study group, and a branch project survey.

Mary Ellen's parents did not provide her with a sister, but for fifty years she has "enjoyed the sisterhood of AAUW!"

***A sister is a gift to the heart, a friend to the spirit, a golden thread to the meaning of life.***

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**Anita Knight** remembers when the mission of AAUW was "equity for all women and girls, life-long education, and positive societal change."

Keynoter feminine feminist Gloria Steinem at the 1977 National Convention in Minneapolis, MN, (the largest in history at the time), made the point that there is no issue that is not a woman's issue! That's been Anita's life mantra! Biennial topics for study AND action gave us the tools to become "agents of change." Before *Elect-HER*, AAUW members persuaded and assisted Anita in being elected to the Midland Board of Education. After serving as a biennial Topic Chair, she was branch and state legislative chair, then eventually president in 3 branches in 3 states (MI, IL, TX). Moving from Michigan to S. Carolina, back to MI, then Illinois, and finally Texas, Anita has relished the interaction with like-minded women of all ages, many of whom now seem to be aging like she is, but are still purposeful and involved. She agrees with Mary Ellen that AAUW is a life-long *sisterhood* (even though men have been eligible for membership since 1987).