

AAUW
Austin, Texas Branch

Next Meeting
Tuesday, November 15,
2016

10:00 am

Westwood Country Club

RSVP ASAP to Diane at
zdramamom@austin.rr.com



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Brewer's *BUZZ*, & News

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

Tuesday, November 15th Meeting

“Peggy Guggenheim, an American Woman and Her Art Collection”

Dr. Karen Pope (back by popular demand)

Westwood Country Club, 35th Street

10:00 AM Registration

10:30 AM Program

12 Noon Lunch

\$30 per person

Contact Diane Brewer at zdramamom@austin.rr.com for your spot.

Noted Art Historian and Lecturer, Dr. Karen Pope, will present a program based on her Famous Collectors Series. Peggy Guggenheim 1898-1979, was very much ahead of her time and generation. At only 14 years old, she lost her father, Benjamin Guggenheim, in the 1912 sinking of the RMS Titanic.

As a young woman, Peggy moved to London and opened an art gallery in 1938, but was forced to leave London with the outbreak of WW II. She returned to New York, and in 1949, purchased the *Palazzo Venier dei Leoni* on the Grand Canal in Venice. Peggy would become famous as a collector of 20th century art and vowed to “buy a picture a day”. She had the “eye” and the resources from the Guggenheim fortune to accomplish this goal. She continued to live in the palazzo for 30 years and exhibit art until her death in 1979. Today, the museum continues to grow and exhibit the major movements of modern art.



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Out to Lunch:

Nov. 1 TITAYA'S THAI CUISINE
(11:00 AM) 5501 N. Lamar Blvd.
Contact: Diane Brewer, 512-328-0474
zdramamom@austin.rr.com

Friday AM Book Review: Hyde Park Church of Christ

Nov. 4 Deep Down Dark
(10:00 AM) Author: Hector Tobar
Reviewer: Evelyn Boyer
Hostess: Gayle Smith

PEARS:

Nov. 6 Wurstfest, New Braunfels
(5:00 PM) Coordinator: Maggie Kadlecsek

Contemporary Literature, Old Quarry Library

Nov. 7 Lafayette in the Somewhat U.S.
(7:15 PM) Author: Sarah Vowell
Leader: Beverly Locklin

Southwest Books:

Nov. 14 The Dream Lover:
(10:30 AM) A Novel of George Sand
Author: Elizabeth Berg
Hostess: Ruth Rubio & Sue Ellen Jeffers
Facilitator: Connie Levy

Nov. 15 November General Meeting, 10-1:00
➔ See page 1

Culture & Cuisine:

Nov. 17 Thanksgiving theme POTLUCK
(6:30 PM) Hostesses: Elaine Penn
Contact: Barbara Houston, 512-633-9766; barbyhouston@gmail.com

Creative Stitchery:

Nov. 18 Hostess: Elaine Penn
(10:00 AM) Co-Hostess: Nancy Ellison
Contact: Fern Chester, 512-345-1102
fernchester@aol.com

Art Tour:

Nov. 30 5th Wednesday Day Trip to Georgetown
(10:00 AM) Artist Burkle Studio & Town Square
Planners: Sally Scott, Judy Reinhart, & Dixie Schurle
Contact: Diane Brewer
zdramamom@austin.rr.com

BRIDGE or new ideas anyone? See yearbook, or contact **Brenda Hahne**, Interest Group Coordinator (832-233-4254, bwahne@gmail.com)

YEARBOOK CORRECTIONS:

If you have not received your yearbook/directory, let **Elaine Penn** (epenn9915@gmail.com) know.

Please note the following corrections:

Diane Brewer - zdramamom@austin.rr.com

Anne Marie Ellis - 40 North Interstate 35, 8A1, Austin, TX 78747; phone 512-282-9637

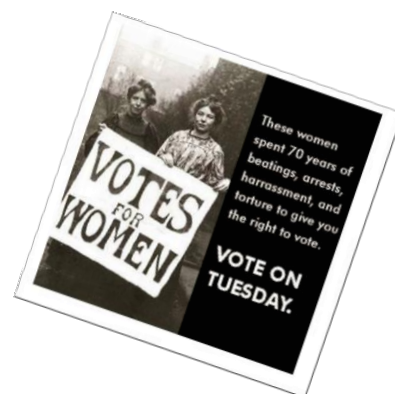
National AAUW - 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20005

Nov. 2 (1-2:00 PM) **Webinar from National Girls Collaborative: Celebrating Dia de los Muertos with Smithsonian Latino Center**

Register at <http://ngcproject.org/smithsonian-latino-center-slc-webinar-celebrating-d%C3%ADa-de-los-muertos-day-of-the-dead>

WOMEN WEREN'T GIVEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE, THEY FOUGHT FOR IT. REMEMBER THAT IN NOVEMBER.

Nov. 8 **National Election Day**



AAUW in ACTION



CO-PRESIDENT Marina's MESSAGE

Greetings to all of you! I hope you are enjoying this fall weather and a drop in the temperature.

*The September program (see **BUZZ**) on China was a wonderful kick-off for the new year! October was stellar with the panel of the League of Women voters, and the efforts bolstered our Branch efforts with the State Grant to GET OUT THE VOTE. The Austin Branch is lucky to have such dedicated members and a wealth of programs and speakers to select. November promises to be equally exciting with Dr. Karen Pope at the Westwood Country Club. Contact Diane Brewer now as we need 55 lunches to meet the minimum requirement. Bring a friend.*

Thanks to Elaine Penn and Diane Brewer for all their hard work this fall. Our membership has climbed to 174 members at the end of October. My wish for all of you, new members or "seasoned" members, is to get involved and support the Branch programs and special interest groups.

A nominating committee will be working on candidates for the new Board positions coming up at the end of FY 2016-2017. The positions to be filled will be (Co-)President(s), Membership VP, Program VP, Yearbook Editor, and Newsletter Editor. The Branch needs new blood, new ideas, and new leaders. Think about your interests and skill set and be willing to serve on the Board; your talents are in demand.

I wish that all of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Holiday season!



STEM News: from Lilac Bauer 512-743-6338 la_azucena@hotmail.com

Five branch members supported the annual Girlstart GAME-CHANGERS luncheon. See photo on page 5.

Latinitas hosted "START UP CHICA" at ACC Eastview on October 22, with help from Austin Branch AAUW members **Lilac Bauer, Resa Dunn, Sylvia Garcia, Sue Ellen Jeffers, Kay Keys, Anita Knight, Elizabeth Newell, Mary Ellen Scribner, and Katherine Staples**. Girls 9-18 worked in teams to create entrepreneur venture ideas from start to pitch.



Laura Donnelly, COO, empowering Latina youth

Ruben Cantu, CEO at LevelUp Institute, was one of the keynote speakers. LevelUp Institute empowers the next generation of diverse entrepreneurs. It focuses on training students who are first in their family to attend college and come from low-income backgrounds to become social impact entrepreneurs.

FUNd-rai\$ing for AAUW!!

Sign up for **holiday gift-wrapping** (for tips) at Barnes & Noble stores with either **Mary Kate Fredriksen** (512-366-5214, mary.katef47@gmail.com) or **Lilac Bauer** (512-743-6338, la_azucena@hotmail.com) at a meeting or via a phone call/email. More help is needed for Nov. 26 and Dec. 15, 9-1:00 for 2 hour shifts.

When you donate to the Fund Raising Committee's **new greeting card project** you may choose either the Ann Richards American Fellowship or the unrestricted AAUW Fund that supports national projects such as Tech Trek summer camps for middle school girls, Legal Advocacy Fund, Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Research, etc. Donate to AAUW in honor or in memory of someone, like **Nancy Myers** did for her late mother, Harriet B. Van Ness. Contact **Marsha Endahl Kramer** at 512-906-6566 or hughmarsha@aol.com for your cards.

Brewer's BUZZzzzzzz

The **September 9th AAUW Austin Branch Meeting** was the first meeting of member year 2016-17, and **Co-President Marina Rivers' husband, CPA Wendell Harwell**, presented a captivating portrait of *Living in China* from a savvy American point of view. The PowerPoint presentation moved briskly to Harwell's confident and organized talk of living in Shanghai and traveling extensively in the East. His photos compared the way Americans in Shanghai are able to live *vis-à-vis* the way ordinary Chinese citizens live. He showed high regard for the daily challenges met by the Chinese to provide the best possible education for their one child. An interesting side note on the changing one-child law in China was the realization of the burden of family responsibilities on that single grown child to house, feed, and clothe the older generations who, by custom, continue to live with the young. Therefore, in a new marriage, a couple would provide for both sets of parents, plus the older sets of parents. Another eye-opener for us was the extreme challenge Chinese parents face in gaining access to higher education for their children. The Chinese child does no sports or play, just study study study. The competition is fierce. He concluded that all people want the same basic things: enough food, peace, security, and a life free of fear.

The Harwells especially loved learning from brilliant Chinese tutors, travel, their spacious apartment, and the FOOD. These foodies love to adventure-dine and never became ill (except via a Chinese KFC). The program was enlightening and highly entertaining. The 54 members and multiple guests in attendance loved the presentation and the very nice lunch. **Membership VP Elaine Penn** welcomed new member **Suellen Myers** to our branch and recognized seven other NEW members in attendance: **Roberta Coffin, Brenda Hahne, Sylvia Huntsman, Lana Kempff, Jennifer Swenson,** and **sisters Jan and Pam Watson.** **Co-President Marsha Endahl Kramer** introduced our three brand new Honorary members who were in attendance: **Myrtle Bell, Anita Knight, and Mary Ellen Scribner.** Longtime Honoraries **Jerry Cassidy** and **Nancy Myers** were also introduced. **Sunshine chair Larie Amsler** gave a touching tribute on the passing of Honorary member **Dr. Janice May.**

On **October 12, 2016**, AAUW Austin met on the very timely topic of *Texas Voters, Trends, and Issues*. Program planner **Sylvia Garcia** introduced our two speakers, **Cinde Weatherby, President of the Austin League of Women Voters,** and **Grace Chimene, of the State Board of the League of Women Voters.** Both came prepared to inform us of the sorry state of voter participation in most of Texas. The Central Texas area is the exception; Travis County's Tax Assessor/Collector Bruce Elfant has registered 90% of eligible voters! Weatherby said surrounding counties Bastrop and Williamson also have good percentages. Ease of registration plus the many voting stations in our area result in many Central Texans showing up at the polls. In other parts of Texas, registering and voting are intimidating for many would-be voters and difficult to accomplish due to fewer places to cast one's vote. Weatherby lauded the success of Bruce Elfant and his staff. The League's next goal is to enable voters to register online. This would be more accurate and doable.

They showed graphs of the disparity of voting among the well-to-do and the poor from year to year, and the inevitable spike in voter participation during presidential elections. Weatherby also said numbers improve when peers simply encourage a friend or relative to vote. We were all very interested in what they had to say; many members participated in the question and answer period. It is frustrating that this citizen's right and responsibility is not taken more seriously; on the other hand, pols have made it very challenging for many sectors of our population to manage this important constitutional right. This past week *The Statesman* exposed how gerrymandering has made the large Hispanic population in South Texas almost voiceless.

Co-President **Marina Rivers** then presented the budget and shared her excitement about our **November 15th** meeting on a TUESDAY, at Westwood Country Club with the inimitable **Dr. Karen Pope** discussing the vast contributions to the art world made by philanthropist and bohemian collector Peggy Guggenheim. Dr. Pope is a nationally recognized authority and art historian who conducts *ArtinSight* lectures and tours to happy devotees on a regular basis. Co-President and Funds co-chair **Marsha Endahl Kramer** proudly announced that branch contributions to FUNDS had reached over \$4000 for fiscal year 2016. She collected quite a few checks. Latinitas liaison **Lilac Bauer** gave us an update about volunteer needs coming up. **Inés Garcia** was on hand to distribute more yearbooks, and she and sister **Tulis Escobar** will soon take off for Israel. Membership VP **Elaine Penn** welcomed guest and new Austinite **Gail Rusk, CPA,** and Georgetown member **Pat Rehm**, both of whom joined our branch at the meeting! She also recognized Honorary members **Jerry Cassidy** and **Nancy Myers** in attendance. The buffet which followed was delicious!

The meeting was attended by 48 members and guests, plus many of our newest members, such as **Pam Watson, Roberta Coffin,** soon to graduate **Sara Huff, Katherine Staples, Lea Masiello, Mary Humke,** and **Brenda Hahne.** **Ginny Tannebring** came from Wimberly, and many of our members enabled others to attend by car-sharing.

At meeting's end, in **Larie Amsler's** absence, **State President Pam Wolfe** went from table to table greeting friends and collecting name tags. We adjourned, armed with great information and plans to attend **Tuesday, November 15th**.

PS: The branch is also happy to welcome back **Vandana Nayak**, who works so well with website guru **Janani Janakiraman**, and new members **Marjorie Blackstock** and **Deby Bell**.
- THANKS, Diane!



Rachel Flake has moved to her daughter's home with Hospice care.

Cards may be sent to: **Rachel Flake**,
c/o Leslie Currens, 6404 Wood Hollow Lane, Austin, TX 78750.



Barbara Worley has had a year of chemo, travel, and fractured pelvis, but she keeps on doing what is out there to do. Like partying above with **PEARS** at the Zach Theatre production of "Priscilla, the Queen of the Desert".

Incredible!!



Above are **Marsha Endahl Kramer, Nancy Myers, Lilac Bauer, and Mary Ellen Scribner** at annual **girlstart** GameChangers luncheon. Next year let's aim for a FULL AAUW table!

On Saturday, September 10, the Georgetown branch of AAUW held their "first ever" duck race fundraiser. It was a beautiful day for duck races and the races went off successfully, raising over \$4,000 for their AAUW mission. **Nancy Andren** and **Elizabeth Newell**, both Austin branch members, won the first and second prizes. Nancy was there to accept her \$500 Visa gift card. Here she is with fundraiser chair, Marsi Liddell.

MEMBER NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HISTORY

FIRST IN THEIR CLASS

UT honoring first black undergraduates 60 years later

Peggy Holland and her husband Col. Leon Holland, ret., were the focus of an article in the *Statesman* discussing the University of Texas and its racist past; they were pioneers in enrolling - he in 1956, she in 1958. Much has changed in the past 60 years at UT, but the problem of racism is still lingering in this country. Peggy is a longtime member of AAUW Austin, a past Membership VP, awesome bridge player, lovely friend, and member of the art tour group, PEARS, Culture & Cuisine, and others.



LEON HOLLAND: Enrolled in 1956, he says life at UT was 90 percent unwelcoming but he now proudly bleeds orange.



PEGGY DRAKE HOLLAND: Enrolled in 1958 and now married to Leon Holland, she had more trouble with professors than students.



The Austin Branch of AAUW has been privileged to watch our favorite twins **Kavya** and **Priya Ramamoorthy** grow from being part of an 8th grade team of girls, including Maanasa Nathan and Smrithi Mahadevan, who were recognized National Endowment for the Humanities Scholars in 2012 in the National History Competition, to achieve numerous other honors before graduation from high school in Round Rock ISD.

(2012 Photo from our branch website.)

Their lives were deeply affected by the knowledge that Title IX guarantees gender equality to all students and that the VOTE empowers women to achieve their goals. They went on to compete in the National History Competition each year they were in school. During their high school years they also conducted STEM robotics/code workshops with Latinitas, participated in debate competitions, presented their views to a branch meeting of the Austin AAUW, won the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award, created a website, **teenempower.com**, and presented at two Women's Empowerment Conferences. They are passionate about using the laws in place to break down barriers and encourage girls to reach higher. Kavya and Priya have been named International Baccalaureate Diploma holders.

Moving on to the University of Texas this fall, these twin daughters of AAUW's website manager **Janani Janakiraman**, and sisters of UT Plan II graduate and AAUW member **Divya Ramamoorthy**, became student e-affiliates and then joined the Austin Branch. Priya is pursuing a degree in Public Health and Kavya is focusing on Computer Science. Now they are putting their tireless energy and talents into growing the AAUW Student Organization here, working with National AAUW and C/U Partner and UT Dean, **Dr. Soncia Reagins-Lilly** to get the organization fully registered and viable. Among the goals of these FRESHMAN students are increasing the e-affiliate membership and interest in AAUW, promoting student awareness of AAUW resources, and ultimately hosting a conference like StartSmart for women student leaders in Central Texas colleges.

Girls like Priya and Kavya are the future of AAUW, our means of remaining relevant and forceful in the years ahead. It is AAUW Austin's privilege to count them both as our own. They feel lucky that they were able to have the support of local AAUW branches in all their empowerment and advocacy endeavors. Kavya said it has truly been a blessing to be part of such a welcoming and supportive community, and they are so excited to bring this to UT. Kavya even applied for the AAUW National Student Advisory Council, and we expect she will represent us there someday soon. We hope they keep up the good fight!

MORE NEWS

Frances Malmberg Endowed Scholarship Awarded

Frances Malmberg supported education her entire life, and this endowment honors her commitment to women in education. Emily Rejack and Tashala Thompkins received the scholarship for the 2016-2017 academic year at the Austin Community College.

The strong investment year provided an increase in interest (4%) and some remaining funds in the account provided for \$2250 given to each student. Their personal statements are included below.....

**Emily Rejack's personal statement:**

I am a non-traditional engineering student attending Austin Community College with plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from a four-year university. In addition to being a student, I am also the mother of a rambunctious and clever little boy. I am fiercely dedicated to both my education and parenting and spend my days balancing these two incredibly important responsibilities. My hard work and determination have earned me a spot in ACC's honor society as well as a competitive GPA. My ultimate goal is to one day send my little boy to college and teach him to love

math and science in the same way I do. In the little spare time I have, I enjoy strolling through museums, a hot cup of coffee, and going on long distance runs.

Emily is enrolled in 11 hours this fall and has a 3.18 GPA.

**Tashala Thompkins' personal statement:**

I am a mother working full time pursuing a general human services degree with hopes to transfer to Texas State to pursue my bachelor's through their OWL program. I would like to find a job in social work or probation. When I was in high school I would always say that I would want to be one of the people who helped others in the system get their second chance. There are so many men in my family, including my brothers that have been in and out of the system along with many of their friends. I have this idea that I would be the person that could help.

Tashala is registered for 12 hours this fall and has a 4.00 GPA.

Do you know a male who is taking a stand to prevent violence / assault against women?

Stand Up Men Award

**Athletes and Artists against assault of women. Winner will receive \$2,500 and film distribution opportunities.
Submission Deadline: January 20, 2017.**

Forward this to a teacher or student you know who would like to create an original 3 - 6 minute film on any male they know who is taking a stand to prevent violence against women.

See award details and all guidelines for submission here: <http://www.connecther.org/gitw/guidelines>.

Encourage young men in the locker room and on the music scene to talk about their concerns, their experiences. They have an opportunity to become leaders on this issue and positive role models in their communities.