



# Breaking through Barriers

for Women and Girls

American Association of University Women – Austin Branch

November 2009

Volume LXXVII Number 9

## November Activities

**Nov. 2** – Contemporary Literature at Old Quarry BL 7 p.m. – *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation*. Discussion leader: Karen Jordahl. Fern Chester (345-1102) or Dorothea Berasley (343-0370).

**Nov. 3** – Evening Book Review at Yarborough BL 7 p.m. *Same Kind of Different As Me* reviewed by Judy Reinhart. Evelyn Boyer (836-1492).

**Nov. 6** – First Friday Book Review at Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43<sup>rd</sup> & Ave. B. 10 a.m. – *The Girl from Ames*. Reviewed by Natalie Balden. Hostesses: Annette Haslund & Larie Amsler. Kay Watson (447-2883) or Natalie Balden (288-7748).

**Nov. 9** - Southwest Austin Book Group with hostess & facilitator Anita Knight, 10:30 a.m. *Three Cups of Tea*. RSVP or for more information: Marsha Endahl Kramer (906-2033).

**Nov. 10** – Classic Book Study Group at Ralph Yarborough BL 7 p.m. *Little Dorrit* by Charles Dickens. Discussion leader: Annette Haslund. (Evelyn Boyer, 836-1492).

## NOVEMBER MEETING CELEBRATES THANKSGIVING AND THE FOUNDING OF OUR BRANCH

You are invited to a fun birthday celebration with a Thanksgiving menu! Membership Vice President Judy Reinhart has planned just such a celebration for our November 14 Branch meeting. “Six Bits & More: a Visual History of the Austin Branch” will provide a focus for the celebration of the many accomplishments and contributions of the Branch and its members since its organization on November 15, 1923, at the Driskill Hotel. Among the fifteen women present for that organizational meeting were some of the most outstanding leaders of Austin’s religious, civic, and cultural life. The establishment of Austin’s first public library (1926), the opening of the first Austin Community Nursery Schools (now Mainspring School) for needy families (1941), and the establishment of what is now Literacy Austin (1983) are just three of the many contributions of the Branch to the Austin community. If you still have last year’s yearbook, you may want to brush up on “Her Story of the Austin Branch, 1923-2007” because some of the planned activities are sure to be interactive!

The meeting will be at the Wyndham Hotel located at 3401 IH 35 and Woodward St. north of Ben White Blvd. Fellowship and networking begin at 10 a.m. in the Lady Bird Lake Room with the business meeting starting at 10:30 and the program at 11 a.m. Lunch will follow the program, and members may attend the meeting and program without staying for the luncheon, no reservation needed.

A Thanksgiving menu of house garden salad, turkey with gravy, stuffing, creamy mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, and cranberry sauce will be served with rolls & butter, dessert, iced tea, regular and decaffeinated coffee or hot tea.

The cost of the luncheon is \$20 (a check is preferred or bring exact change), and a reservation is needed. Please contact Dorothea for reservations or cancellations at [aauw-austin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aauw-austin@sbcglobal.net) or call 512-343-0370. Reservations or cancellations must be received by 6 p.m. on the Wednesday before Saturday's meeting. Because we must pay for all reservations made, a member who does not keep her reservation will be asked to send the Branch treasurer a check for the full cost of the luncheon. When making your luncheon reservation, please indicate any

special dietary needs, including a vegetarian meal. Also, please let Dorothea know if you will only be attending the meeting so that there will be enough chairs.



## November Activities (continued)

**Nov. 10** - Mah-Jongg. 7 p.m. 7920 Mesa Trails Cove. Ann Berasley (837-2250) or Janie Patterson (343-3058).

**Nov. 12** - Mystery Study Group at Luby's (MOPAC & Steck). 6:30 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. discussion: Horror/Suspense (James M. Cain, Laurell K. Hamilton, Charlene Harris, Stephen King). Pat Bennett (342-1744).

**Nov. 14 - Branch meeting & lunch at Wyndham Hotel, 3401 IH 35 & Woodward St. 10 a.m. Six Bits & More: a Visual History of the Austin Branch.**

**Nov. 17** - Light Cuisine. 11 a.m. Dimassi's Mediterranean Buffet. Hostess: Betty Owen, RSVP 444-6015. (Veronica Johnson, 338-1254).

**Nov. 18** - Creative Stitchery. Hostess: Kay Goodwin, 467-8255; co-hostess: Frances Tomlinson, 899-9244. (Dorothea Berasley, 343-0370).

**Nov. 18** - Art Tour Group. Blanton Museum of Art. 10 a.m. Host: Christine Berkland. Admission: \$5 seniors, members free, others \$7. Parking Garage, \$3 with stamped ticket.

**Nov. 19** - Culture & Cuisine with Adrian McCulloch, 2607 Humming Bird Circle, Cedar Park. 6:30 p.m. RSVP 250-2235. (Mary Owens, 454-9339).

## YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING WILL BENEFIT GLOBAL AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES—AND ESPECIALLY OUR LAF!

At Ten Thousand Villages, we work with over 130 artisan groups in more than 38 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to bring you fair trade jewelry, home decor, gifts and more. As one of the world's oldest and largest fair trade organizations, we build long-term relationships with artisans that are based on mutual understanding and respect. Fair trade enables artisans to earn a fair wage and provides the opportunity for a better quality of life.



AAUW **Ten Thousand Villages** shopping night is Nov. 18 from 5 to 9 p.m. The Fair Trade store at **1317 South Congress** sells handcrafted jewelry, pottery, cards, ornaments, purses, coffee, chocolate, tea, and many, many more fun items. We will get a percentage of the sales for our AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, and we will have refreshments while we shop! With a number of important holidays approaching, this is an excellent opportunity to do holiday shopping and at the same time, support men, women, and children around the world in their struggle for a better quality of life.



Please invite family and friends to join us and do their shopping too! For more information, call Veronica Johnson at 338-1254.

### LAF – A Matter of Justice – From Gail Simpler, Legal Advocacy VP

**The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides financial and moral support for sex discrimination cases in both academia and the workplace. This support includes offsetting legal fees and court-related costs, signing amicus briefs, and writing statements of support.**

At their October 2009 meeting, the AAUW board approved \$4,000 in funding for each of these Legal Advocacy Fund-supported cases:

- *Jaureguito v. Feather River Community College (CA)*
- *Mansourian, et al. v. Regents of the University of California, et al.*
- *Potera-Haskins v. Gamble, Montana State University, et al.*
- *Schuster v. Berea College (KY)*
- *Thein v. Feather River Community College (CA)*
- *Wartluft. v. Feather River Community College (CA)*

### AAUW-Supported Plaintiff Wins Latest Legal Battle Claire Schuster Continues Fight for Pay Equity at Berea College

View the full case summary of *Schuster v. Berea College* at [www.aauw.org/advocacy/laf/cases/schuster.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/laf/cases/schuster.cfm)

## November Activities (continued)

**Nov. 24** – Mah-Jongg. 7 p.m.  
7920 Mesa Trails Cove. Ann  
Berasley (837-2250) or Janie  
Patterson (343-3058).

**Nov. 25** – 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



**Dec. 13 (Sunday)** –  
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE.  
A celebration for our Branch  
at Westminster Manor ( 4100  
Jackson Avenue) hosted by  
Past Presidents. 2-4 p.m.

**Dec. 14** – Southwest Austin  
Book Group. Lunch at Green  
Pastures. RSVP to Marsha  
Endahl Kramer 906-2033 or  
[HughMarsha@aol.com](mailto:HughMarsha@aol.com).

**December PEARS Date  
Change** – Holiday Party at  
home of Veronica & Don  
(7600 Cat Tail Cove) is Dec.  
19, 6:30 p.m. RSVP to  
Veronica (338-1254).

## Inés says:

Austin Branch AAUW members remain committed to breaking down barriers for women in their pursuit of educational goals. AAUW has a long and distinguished history of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe. One of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women, AAUW is providing more than \$3 million in funding for more than 200 fellowships and grants to outstanding women and nonprofit organizations in the 2009-10 academic year. Due to the long-standing, generous contributions of AAUW members, a broader community of women continues to gain access to educational and economic opportunities. The silent auction, held after the October meeting, was a tremendous success and the funds raised were targeted to the Ann Richards Fund. Many thanks go to all of the providers of auction items and to the bidders.



The October business meeting was short so as to allow for the planned silent auction. The program provided by Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza was outstanding. Dr. Richmond-Garza was really gracious to acknowledge the benefits of the University of Texas Fellowships provided by our Branch. She cited the work of particular students that were awarded fellowships and she thanked the Branch for its work. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the November 14th meeting.

## NEWEST BRANCH MEMBERS

**Viva Jones** – 6636 W. William Cannon Drive – Austin, TX 78735 -  
512-608-4635 – [vivajones@olypen.com](mailto:vivajones@olypen.com)

**Dr. Judy Page** – 2705 Island Ledge Cove - Austin, TX 78746 – 908-  
723-4365 – [judypage@att.net](mailto:judy@att.net)

## NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Karen Jordahl – [karenj@sent.com](mailto:karenj@sent.com)

Jan Roberts – [jgroberts3@att.net](mailto:jgroberts3@att.net)



## Looking Ahead to EYH

The date for Expanding Your Horizons has been determined by the University of Texas; it will be **Saturday, April 17, 2010.**

GirlStart has confirmed the day, so now we are able to make plans for our AAUW responsibilities.

We will need fourteen registrars and twelve floor monitors for the conference, and it is better to get them signed up early so that vacations and weekend trips can be planned ahead also. Even though you are being asked to sign up this far in advance, you will be called at least one week ahead of the conference to make sure you are still available.

Although the following members signed up at the membership tea in August, we still need additional volunteers: Dorothea Berasley, Annot Littlepage, Gayle Smith, Juanita Painter, Janie Patterson, Fern Chester, Maria Riva, Vanna Lathrop, Evelyn Boyer, Elizabeth Newell, Brenda Scholin, Judy Reinhart, Betty Owen, and Veronica Johnson.

The conference day will be a long one beginning at 7 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m. Some volunteers will be able to leave a bit earlier depending on their responsibilities. Registrars will be able to leave as soon as the registrations are complete and turned in to me. Floor monitors will need to stay until the final assembly is over and all classrooms have been checked for lost and found items.

Thank you for your support of this conference.

Raemar Shown  
AAUW/EYH Liaison  
(258-1069)

## OCTOBER SPEAKER CAST A MAGIC SPELL

We knew we were in for a treat when Professor Elizabeth Richmond-Garza set forth the focus of her presentation by saying, "Centuries ago Scheherazade managed to quiet an angry king and save lives by telling a new story every evening and leaving it incomplete as each new day dawned. . . . I hope to suggest that Scheherazade's project of curing the world through stories continues." However, we had no idea that she would absolutely dazzle us with a panoramic view of storytelling from the days of *The Arabian Nights* to stories of modern life in such locales as Istanbul, Moscow, and Tokyo. Drawing on her vast knowledge of language and literature and employing an array of multimedia, Professor Richmond-Garza gave dynamic voice to the power of storytelling throughout time and place. As representative contemporary global authors and works, she chose Istanbul's Orhan Pamuk [*The Black Book*], Tokyo's Haruki Murakami [*After Dark*], and Moscow's Boris Akunin (pen name of Georgian-born Grigory Chkhartishvili) [*The Winter Queen*]. We also appreciated Professor Richmond-Garza's expression of gratitude to the Branch for awarding fellowships to two women who were her students in the UT English Department, Rebecca Lorins and Amal Chagumoum.



Members eagerly posed questions to Professor Richmond-Garza after she finished her presentation and throughout lunch.

Some members present asked Dr. Richmond-Garza about her own writings and learned that they are very scholarly!

- "The Canon of Theory: Report on an Institutional Case," with Katherine Arens. *Comparative Literature Studies* 34 (4) (1997). 392-413.
- "Concentrating on and in Literature." *PMLA* 117(3) (May 2002). 506- 509.
- *Forgotten Cites/Sights: Interpretation and the Power of Classical Citation in Renaissance English Tragedy* (New York: Peter Lang, 1994).
- "Like a Woman Rising from a Tomb': Salome, Cleopatra and Victorian Egypt," *The Globalization of Shakespeare in the Nineteenth Century Shakespeare*. Ed. Krystyna Kujawska and John Mercer. (Mellen, 2003). 217-34.
- "'She Never Recovered Her Senses': Roxana and Dramatic Representations of Women at Oxbridge in the Elizabethan Age." *Sex and Gender in Medieval and Renaissance Texts: The Latin Tradition*. Ed. Barbara K. Gold, Paul Allen Miller and Charles Platter. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1997. 223- 46.
- "The Vampire's Gaze: Gothic Performance in Theory and Practice." *The Comparatist*. 22(1998). 91-109.

## SPOTLIGHT ON CREATIVE STITCHERY STUDY GROUP

From mythology, history, and legend come many stories of women using their needlework and stitchery skills in clever and resourceful ways. During the twenty years that Penelope waited for the return of Odysseus from the Trojan War, she kept her many suitors at bay by telling them she would marry one of them when she had finished her weaving, a shroud for her father-in-law. She wove during the day only to unravel her work at night. George Washington was a frequent visitor to the home of Betsy Ross before receiving command of the army. She embroidered his shirt ruffles and did other needlework for him. As he knew her skill with a needle, it was no surprise when he appeared on her doorstep around the first of June 1776, asking that she make a flag according to a rough drawing he carried with him. At Betsy's suggestion, Washington redrew the flag design in pencil in her back parlor to employ stars of five points instead of six. Some historians say African American slaves may have used a quilt code to navigate the Underground Railroad. Quilts with patterns named "wagon wheel," "tumbling blocks," and "bear's paw" appear to have contained secret messages that could have helped direct slaves to freedom. A plantation seamstress would sew a sampler quilt containing different quilt patterns. Slaves would use the sampler to memorize the code. The seamstress then sewed ten quilts, each composed of one of the code's patterns. The seamstress would hang the quilts in full view one at a time, allowing the slaves to reinforce their memory of the pattern and its associated meaning. When slaves made their escape, they used their memory of the quilts as a mnemonic device to guide them safely along their journey.

Our Stitchery Group "needle women" also use their skills for good cause and have lots of fun together in the process!

The Creative Stitchery Study Group was started in the early 1970s by a group of ladies interested in needlework. Some of the early members were Kay Goodwin, Doris Lindsey, Evelyn Presley, Doris VandenBelt, Hildegard Everett and Ruth Rahn; I am told that Hildegard kept the ladies busy even to having them knit dishcloths!

When I joined the group in 1991, Kay Goodwin, Ruth Rahn, and Doris VandenBelt were members of the group; Kay is still one of our members. In the past eighteen years, the group has explored many types of needlework including needle lace, needle and shuttle tatting, black work, needle-point, counted cross stitch, stump embroidery, hardanger embroidery, candle wicking, crazy quilt pillows, and Hawaiian quilting. We have made bunnies and sock dolls for the children of Mainspring School.

We have made three quilts; the first one was a friendship quilt. The second was a red and white throw, and the funds earned were given to support Mainspring School and local scholarships. Each member embroidered one or two squares, and it was hand-quilted by Ruth Rahn. The third one was a Christmas wall hanging, and

the money earned was given to Mainspring School to purchase tricycles for the children. Each member participated in the project with Martise Cooper as our guide.

We meet in the homes of members on the third Wednesday at 10 a.m., and any AAUW member is welcome to join our group.

Dorothea Berasley





## AAUW Policy Recommendations for A Woman's Nation

AAUW takes the lead on policy recommendations in response to *The Shriver Report* — *A Woman's Nation Changes Everything* <<http://awomansnation.com/>>. The report highlights the rise of women in the work-force while emphasizing that working women and their families lack critical supports. AAUW provides detailed recommendations that cover a variety of subject areas including pay equity, work-life balance, and education:

- **The New Breadwinners** - Women now account for half of all jobs, with sweeping consequences for our nation's economy, society, and future prosperity.
- **Family-Friendly for All Families** - Workers and caregivers need government policies that reflect today's realities
- **Sick and Tired** - Working women and their health
- **Better Educating Our New Breadwinners** - Creating opportunities for all women to succeed in the workforce
- **Got Talent? It Isn't Hard to Find** - Recognizing and rewarding the value women create in the workplace

<[http://aauw.org/advocacy/issue\\_advocacy/womansnation.cfm](http://aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/womansnation.cfm)>

Marsha Endahl Kramer, Women's Issues

## AAUW MEMBER WINS NOBEL PRIZE

### Carol Greider Shares Prestigious Award for Physiology or Medicine

WASHINGTON, D.C. – AAUW celebrates Carol Greider, AAUW member-at-large and winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine along with her two colleagues, Elizabeth Blackburn and Jack Szostak. Greider has been a member of AAUW since 2002. Greider, Blackburn, and Szostak “discovered that telomeres are made up of simple, repeating blocks of DNA building blocks and are found in all organisms,” according to a Johns Hopkins University announcement. Understanding this biological process has paved the way to deeper knowledge of cancer and cellular aging.

“AAUW has a long history of supporting women in the sciences, and we are thrilled to count another Nobel Prize winner among our ranks,” said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. In 1920, AAUW awarded two-time Nobel Prize recipient Marie Curie a grant to assist with her groundbreaking research on radium. AAUW member Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea*, was nominated for the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize for his work supporting education for girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Read the entire press release at:

<[http://aauw.org/About/newsroom/pressreleases/Nobel\\_102209.cfm](http://aauw.org/About/newsroom/pressreleases/Nobel_102209.cfm)>

Submitted by Dorothea Berasley

#### AUSTIN BRANCH OFFICERS 2009-2010 (Executive Committee)

Inés García – President – 251-7212 – [garines@sbcglobal.net](mailto:garines@sbcglobal.net)  
Kay Watson – President-Elect – 447-2883 – [kwatson@austin.rr.com](mailto:kwatson@austin.rr.com)  
Linda Leff – Program Vice President – 302- 473 – [lkleff@earthlink.net](mailto:lkleff@earthlink.net)  
Judy Reinhart – Membership Vice President – 345-5936 – [jareinhart@att.net](mailto:jareinhart@att.net)  
Juanita Painter – Secretary – 345-2713 – [jgpainter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jgpainter@sbcglobal.net)  
Evelyn Boyer – Treasurer – 836-1492 – [Evelyn.boyer@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:Evelyn.boyer@dshs.state.tx.us)  
Elizabeth Newell – Association Vice President – 345-1686 – [Enewell4@austin.rr.com](mailto:Enewell4@austin.rr.com)  
Gail Simpler – Legal Advocacy Vice President – 834-9481 – [gsimpler@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:gsimpler@mail.utexas.edu)  
Rosemary Morrow – Past President – 251-7212 – [rmorr5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rmorr5@sbcglobal.net)  
Mary Ellen Scribner – Newsletter Editor – 255-8428 – [mscribner@austin.rr.com](mailto:mscribner@austin.rr.com)  
Note: Educational Foundation Vice President - Vacant

#### CONTACTS & COMMUNICATIONS

**Telecommunications Coordinator:** Dorothea Berasley - (343-0370) - [aauw-austin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aauw-austin@sbcglobal.net)

**Newsletter Editor:** Mary Ellen Scribner - (255-8428); [mscribner@austin.rr.com](mailto:mscribner@austin.rr.com) {Newsletter deadline is 9 a.m. on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.}

#### 2010 Program Dates:

January 9  
February 13  
March 13  
April 10  
May 8