



**Empowering women since 1881  
in Austin since 1923**

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

Don't Miss

## AAUW Austin's Summer Social

Sunday, August 27, 2017 • 2 p.m.— 4 p.m.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
3525 Bee Cave Road, Austin, TX 78746

*Be part of the Bunch.*

**Getting Involved**

- National, State, and Local Advocacy
- Leadership Development
- Networking and Monthly Programs
- Public Policy
- Herstory
- Committee and Board Service

**Paying It Forward**

- STEM Education
  - ~Girlstart
  - ~Latinitas
- Early Childhood Education
  - ~Mainspring Schools
- UT Fellowships
- ACC Scholarships
- AAUW Funds

**Interest Groups**

- Book Groups
- Bridge
- Creative Stitchery
- PEARS
- Out to Lunch
- Culture and Cuisine
- Art Tours
- Hiking
- Other ???  
(Let Us Know)

*Bring a prospective member.  
Get a taste of all that AAUW offers  
...now and in the year ahead.*

After a long, hot Austin summer coming together to enjoy ice-cold pink lemonade and sweet treats is a welcomed respite. Gather to connect with friends and network with new folks who want to further our mission of empowering women and girls.

Invite a prospective member (or two or more!) to join us to learn all that AAUW has to offer. Interest groups will share their plans for the coming year. Learn what is new in public policy and advocacy. Find out how you can connect with our STEM or early childhood education partners to *Pay it Forward*. Create a new interest group with three members. A few of us are hoping to re-start our hiking group. Folks who sign up as members at the event will pay half-price for their national membership for the year.

**Please RSVP by August 25th**

**TO: Linda Welsh**

**Austin Membership VP**

**512-586-1575**

**lawelsh@gmail.com**

## FALL CALENDAR

**MORE details about Interest Groups to be in your new Yearbook, thanks to editor Carol Midboe!!!**

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**Empty Chair Town Hall to Save Healthcare**

**Aug. 3           Planned Parenthood**

**(7 - 8:30 pm)** IBEW 520, 4818 E Ben White Blvd.

Contact: Smrithi Mahadevan, 512-971-9592,  
smrithi.l.mahadevan@gmail.com



**Meeting of STEM/STEAM Committee**

**Aug. 10           Howson Public Library**

**(6:30 PM)**       Contact: Lilac Bauer,  
la\_azucena@hotmail.com

**Voter registrar training**

**Aug. 19           Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover Avenue**

**(10-11:30 AM)**       →See page 4 for more details

**Summer Board meeting & budget review**

**Aug. 25           North Village Branch Library**

**(12:30-3:00)** 2505 Steck Ave.

**First branch program meeting**

**Sept. 13          Dr. Collette Pierce Burnette**

**(10 AM)**          President of Huston-Tillotson  
University, on HTU campus

**GlobalAustin Regional Summit**

**Sept. 19          "Diplomacy Begins Here"**

**(9-5:00)**          Texas State Capitol Building  
Legislative Conference Center

→More info on page 7

**Branch program meeting**

**Oct. 13          R.B. Brenner**

**(10 AM)**          Journalism & Fake News  
Austin Woman's Club

**Second annual Georgetown AAUW DUCK RACE**

**Oct. 14          San Gabriel Park, Georgetown**

**(11:00 AM)** A \$10 tax deductible donation buys a duck, and Race Prizes will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place duck winners overall. Buy a duck at the August Membership Social.



**Girlstart Game Changers Annual Luncheon**

**Oct. 18          JW Marriott Hotel**

**(11-1:00)**       Women in STEM awards

*This year's Game Changers Annual Luncheon is a special 20th Anniversary celebration honoring women who have made a significant impact locally and nationally in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education, with all proceeds benefiting Girlstart. A limited number of individual tickets will be released in August.*

Featured Keynoter: Martha Rook, Head of Gene Editing & Novel Modalities Business of MilliporeSigma, the North American life science brand of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany – a leading science and technology company.

**Kendra Scott shopping night for AAUW Fund**

**Nov. 6          N. Lamar**

**(6-8 PM)**       Contact: **Eugenie Whalen**

**Ten Thousand Villages shopping day for AAUW Fund**

**Dec. 6          Burnet Road**

**(6-8 PM)**       Contact: **Debbie Starr**

## AAUW in ACTION

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

**Debbie Starr** at [dbbstrr@gmail.com](mailto:dbbstrr@gmail.com), 512-771-4497

The Funds Committee has been working to set up a proposed calendar of fun fundraising activities to benefit the mission of AAUW. We hope that many of you will either volunteer to give of your time for efforts like Christmas gift wrapping or that you will give of your treasure by attending fun events. We will be bringing back favorites like **card sales\***, Kendra Scott and Ten Thousand Villages shopping, and year-round purchase of scrumptious cake/pie/dessert options from Collin Street Bakery. But we also will be adding a few events like High Tea and wine or olive oil tasting.



Of course, if you just prefer to donate cash,

it is always welcome!! For those of you with interest in just helping our wonderful committee for an event, please contact **Debbie Starr** at [dbbstrr@gmail.com](mailto:dbbstrr@gmail.com) or 512-771-4497 or **Anita Knight** at [dbasknight@aol.com](mailto:dbasknight@aol.com). Or sign up to help at the Open House in August. We would be so grateful!!

Thanks to the current committee: **Anita Knight, Eugenie Whalen, Jean Bessent, Jennifer Swenson, Lilac Bauer, Susan James, Elizabeth Newell and Mary Kate Frederiksen.**

\* We have a **new set of cards** featuring gorgeous photographs for a \$25 donation to AAUW. These beautiful cards can be personalized with messages indicating a donation made to AAUW 'in honor of', 'in memory of', and 'in celebration of'. They are perfect for upcoming holidays or your special occasion. Our kickoff at the April general meeting was super successful with \$325 in cards sold. We will have lots of one-of-a-kind cards available to peruse at the August meeting, so come early to pick your favorites!

**STEM News:** from **Lilac Bauer** 512-743-6338  
[la\\_azucena@hotmail.com](mailto:la_azucena@hotmail.com)

Thanks to all who helped with STEM events in past year. Welcome to our new STEM/STEAM (Science Technology Engineering and Math ) Committee members : **Jackie Hardee, Janani Janakiraman, Anita Knight, Carol Midboe, Judy Reinhart, Katherine Staples, and Ginny Tannebring.**

Our first meeting is August 10th, Wednesday, 6:30 -8:30 pm at the Howson Library on Exposition Blvd. to plan AAUW involvement and activities supporting girls in STEM.

Look for our booth and sign-up sheets at the Summer Social! And let's fill a table at the Girlstart Game Changers Annual Luncheon on October 18!

**GIRLSTART Grant Assistance**

In April, Girlstart asked for AAUW Austin to help in securing a grant from Reliant Gives!, an NRG Company, that has made it its mission to help "charitable giving" become a contagious act in Texas. Through nominations by Reliant employees and votes from the public at large, worthy organizations have an opportunity to win financial grants of varying amounts. Girlstart hoped to secure a \$100,000 grant to use in expanding its program in Houston. Many Austin AAUW members rallied to the cause, voting for Girlstart over and over. Here is a "thank you" email received from Casey Hatfield, Development Assistant at Girlstart.

*THANK YOU! Because of your support, Girlstart secured second place and a \$10,000 donation from Reliant Gives for Girlstart programs in Houston. Reliant Gives said that this was the closest contest to date, and your dedication to voting made that possible. This was truly a team effort, and we are so grateful for each minute you spent voting for Girlstart.*

*This \$10,000 donation from Reliant Gives will provide critical support to ensure Girlstart sustains and expands our programs in Houston – we can't wait to update you on our work you made possible as we grow in this community. Thank you for your continued dedication to our mission and advancing STEM opportunities for girls!*



## AAUW in ACTION

**African American Book Festival**

The AAUW table at the African American Book Festival, which was held at the George Washington Carver Museum and Library on June 24, caught the attention of a number of women attending the festival. **Mary Ellen Scribner** and **Ginny Tannebring**, joined by **Anita Knight** in the morning, were kept busy answering questions about AAUW and conversing about a variety of topics of concern to the women who stopped at the table. A surprising number spoke about the student debt crisis, telling personal stories and saying that black women are the most severely impacted. The fate of Title IX was another concern because as one woman said, "Guess it is going to go away now." Equal pay and education in general were on the minds of everyone. 24 names and emails have been passed to Linda Welsh, membership vice president, and all will be invited to the summer social. We also talked to women from California, Kansas City, Georgetown, and Killeen and told them how to find a branch near their homes.



**Mary Ellen Scribner** and **Ginny Tannebring** with branch display for AAUW. NOTE: The table-top display is available and informative to take along for any public outreach.

Look who is enjoying the COOL Barton Springs pool mornings! Good for **Lynn Cooksey** & friends!



**PUBLIC POLICY:** **Sylvia Garcia** at 512-826-1371 Sylvia hoping to have a new co-chair – call her for special activities and advocacy! Meanwhile we are in this **GET OUT THE VOTE CAMPAIGN**.....

Our branch is continuing a major policy initiative to get voters registered to vote for the upcoming elections. Members are encouraged to be trained as voter registrars and then to participate in various activities upon request. Once trained, contact **Sylvia Garcia** at 512-826-1371 or email at [gar04317@yahoo.com](mailto:gar04317@yahoo.com).

Training is offered at two places, the Travis County Clerk's Office and the Unitarian Church. For Travis County, the training is offered on the first Tuesday of every month at one of these times: 10:30, 12:30, and 6:30 p.m. Contact Gretchen Nagy at 512-854-7987. The training is held at the Travis County Clerk's Office, 5501 Airport Blvd.

Training at the Unitarian Church will be held only one time on August 19, 2017 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at 4700 Grover Avenue. Please email your request to Mary Patrick at [map@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:map@mail.utexas.edu) or call 512-452-6168.

The last day to register to vote for the upcoming election is Tuesday, October 10, 2017 and the general election will be held Tuesday, November 7, 2017. There are other local elections of importance that impact our community.

**Happy Birthday, Title IX!**

On June 23, 2017, Title IX turned 45! **Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972** was the first comprehensive federal law to prohibit sex discrimination in education, and covers women, men, girls, boys, staff, and students in any educational institution or program that receives federal funding.

We've made a lot of progress in gender equity since Title IX was instated, but there's still work to do. Sexual harassment still impedes students from a safe and fair education. Women are still overrepresented in lower-paying "**pink-collar**" jobs and underrepresented in tech and academia. Women's athletic teams still receive a smaller percentage of recruiting and athletic operating dollars. Pregnant and parenting students are often steered toward less rigorous schools.



### Branch BUZZzzzzzz

#### National AAUW Convention

**June 14-17** AAUW Biennial National Convention  
Washington, D.C.

Austin members who attended: **Delia Quintanilla, Pat Rehm, Linda Anderson Welsh, Pam Wolfe**

Hope y'all VOTED! Results at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).  
Over the course of four days at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C., members from across the country gathered to **mobilize** on critical policy issues for women and girls, engage and enhance their **leadership and professional skills**, and remind each other of how urgent AAUW's mission is today.



See **Linda Welsh's** convention report → to the right and continued on page 6.

Thanks to **Dr. Melinda Townsel** for our May issue!

**Diane Brewer** reports that she has changed her email address to: [zdramamom@gmail.com](mailto:zdramamom@gmail.com)

**Geneva Fagg Davis**, age 73, of Elgin, passed away peacefully at home Saturday, May 27, 2017. She was born in 1944, in Lee County, Texas. She worked for several state agencies as a librarian as well as a librarian for Thrall ISD. Geneva really loved doing her job. She was passionate about everything she did. Geneva was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She joined the Austin Branch in 1999.

Condolences to **Juanita Painter**, who lost her beloved companion, David Ralph Myers, in July.

AAUW Austin was well represented as AAUW advocates convened on Washington D.C. for the 2017 National Convention. State President, Pam Wolfe, new Austin VP Membership, Dr. Linda Welsh, Dr. Delia Quintanilla, and Austin/Georgetown Dual member Pat Rehm joined the 700 plus advocates who converged on Capitol Hill to visit our senators and representatives.

The Texas delegation met with George Leonardo of Senator Cornyn's office and Ariel Gordon in Senator Cruz's office. The group then split up and went to various representatives' offices for scheduled meetings. The two issues that were shared with the government officials were:

- 1) The need to continue to support enforcement of Title IX with funding for the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights -  
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>
- 2) Proposed ways to address student debt (\$1.3 trillion) and its disproportional impact on women (2/3rds of the debt). We shared the new report, *Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans* -  
<http://www.aauw.org/research/deeper-in-debt/>

My biggest highlight of the convention was shaking the hand of the Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor! (<https://www.biography.com/people/sonia-sotomayor-453906>) Justice Sotomayor roamed the hall while being interviewed by our new AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches as a part of the Friday night banquet. (<http://www.aauw.org/article/introducing-kimberly-churches/>)

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Continued..... **National AAUW Convention Report** – thanks to Linda Welsh, *et al.*

The opening session with Judy Woodruff (<http://convention.aauw.org/2017/02/01/judy-woodruff-not-deterred-but-determined/>) kicked off the conference, sharing her experience and perspective of a journalist in this post-fact age.

The 2017 AAUW Alumnae Recognition award went to Tererai Trent, Ph.D., who was an international fellow in 2001-02: <http://convention.aauw.org/2017/02/14/2017-aauw-alumnae-recognition-awardee-tererai-trent/>. She shared her inspiring story of commitment to education against all odds.

Two pollsters and political strategists shared their perspectives on polling and the current political climate at another session - one Republican, Linda DiVall (<http://convention.aauw.org/2017/05/02/the-woman-behind-big-gop-names-linda-divall/>) and one Democrat, Celinda Lake (<http://convention.aauw.org/2017/02/10/a-womans-place-is-in-the-house-and-senate-thanks-to-celinda-lake/>). Two big issues this past election were the economy and student debt. People are concerned with careers with potential for the future, not jobs. Another area of interest was research to give women the confidence to vote differently than their spouses. They both emphasized that the language we use is so important; for example, “debt-free college” does not play well, but “college without debt” is viewed positively. Go figure! The recommendation from the two pollsters was to work at the state and local level to promote change.

At the 45th anniversary of Title IX, it was fitting that the 2017 Eleanor Roosevelt award winner, SurvJustice, Inc.’s CEO and Founder Laura L. Dunn, J.D. (<http://convention.aauw.org/2017/04/06/2017-eleanor-roosevelt-fund-awardee-survjustice/>) exemplified why it is so needed. As a survivor of sexual violence, she shared her story of seeking justice for her rape at the University of Wisconsin when she was a sophomore and the lack of justice in all avenues she pursued. This experience changed the course of her life; she went to law school and then immediately upon graduation founded SurvJustice, a national not-for-profit that provides legal services to victims of sexual violence.

As VP for Membership, I attended 4 workshops: 1) *Using the Identity Wheel to Build Welcoming and Inclusive Spaces*, which focused on creating a welcoming environment by becoming aware of the identities in one’s branch – this includes both personal identity (e.g. critical life experiences, hobbies, personality traits) and social identity (e.g. health and ability, age, SES, gender); 2) *The AAUW Recruitment Cook-off: What are the Ingredients for Success*, which focused on recruiting new members. The number one motivation for joining AAUW is support for the mission; 3) *Exposing Your Hidden Superpowers: Engagement and Retention* – One idea that I want to explore from this workshop is gathering at local watering holes for open discussions on current topics; and 4) *Inside Look: Programs that Work* – One-key take-away was how to frame the AAUW elevator speech:

***AAUW is changing the climate for women and girls.***

**Pat Rehm** reports: *The highlights of the convention in D. C. for me included all the keynote speakers, but especially Judy Woodruff from the PBS Newshour and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor - both of whom I admire tremendously. Also, Lobby Day was well organized, even down to group T-shirts, which provided an inclusiveness for our pre-arranged visit to our state legislators on Capitol Hill. I gleaned many helpful ideas and information in the workshops and daily dialogues that I attended, and I'm enthusiastic about sharing them.*

And **Delia Quintanilla** exclaimed: *It was great fun!!!*

## Get INFORMED, Get INVOLVED

**"Texas Two-Stepping to a Better World: A Celebration of Citizen Diplomacy"**

GlobalAustin, with partners across Texas, is excited to announce the ***Diplomacy Begins Here*** regional summit on September 19, 2017. The summit will focus on how international issues affect Texas and how local citizens effectively represent Texas and the United States as they engage in business, culture and sports. Come to exchange ideas and perspectives, one handshake at a time!

The partners include the San Antonio Council for International Visitors, the Dallas World Affairs Council, Global North Texas, and the El Paso Council for International Visitors. The summit is partially funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of State and will be held in the Legislative Conference Center in the Texas State Capitol.

In addition to attracting an audience of political, community and business leaders interested in global issues, we will be making a special effort to include youth through **"Diplomacy Simulation"** sessions designed to expand not only their knowledge of international affairs and international careers, but also basic skills in negotiation, conflict mitigation, communication and teamwork.

Dr. William Charles Inboden, Executive Director, Clements Center for National Security, at The University of Texas at Austin, will be the summit's keynote speaker. Congressman Joaquin Castro will open the summit. Panel discussions focus on trade diplomacy: A Case Study on NAFTA; Immigration in the Age of Innovation; Citizen Diplomacy in the Age of Global Business; Sports Diplomacy: Compassion & Understanding on and off the Field; Tweets, Trolls & Trade: A Citizen Diplomat in the Information Age; and Youth Voices in the Global Community.

The summit concludes with a celebration of citizen diplomacy, at an iconic Austin venue, featuring Cultural Ambassadors Gina Chavez and Greg Engle!

Registration and more information: <https://www.globalaustin.org/summit-2017>

Early registration is encouraged as space is limited.

Partnership and support is welcome for this event. *Donations to GlobalAustin are tax deductible.*

We all volunteer and even have favorite charities. Here is a new idea to consider.

More coming in future months.....

**Donations for Art Camp in Africa:** Linda Wells, Lakeway/Austin artist will travel to the village of Lenjani, Tanzania to paint the halls and walls of the first primary school to be built for the Maasai in the 22 village area. Linda will engage the children in art activities as she works. The children will take part filling in basic outlines of her work so that they will experience ownership of the school. As none of the children has ever attended school, Linda plans to include building literacy among the children by incorporating both English and Swahili into the murals. Our AAUW Art Tour Group, led by **Diane Brewer**, has visited Linda Wells home/studio in Lakeway as well as The Bunkhouse in Spicewood where Linda and other local artists exhibit and work. She is asking for donations of acrylic paints, paint brushes, art tablets, other art supplies you may have on hand and no longer use, perhaps colorful children's books as well.

If you'd like to support this project with supplies or a check for \$20 (made out to Africa's Promise Village), call **Margaret Kadlecsek**, 512-261-0627. Collecting now until December.