



Breaking through Barriers

for Women and Girls

American Association of University Women – Austin Branch

September 2009

Volume LXXVII Number 7

September Activities

Sept. 1 – Evening Book Review at North Village BL 7 p.m. *Julie and Julia* by Julie Powell reviewed by Janie Patterson.

Sept. 8 – Classic Book Study Group at Ralph Yarborough BL 7 p.m. *Barchester Towers*. Discussion leader: Sharon Duboise.

Sept. 8 – Mah-Jongg. 7 p.m. 7920 Mesa Trails Cove. Ann Berasley (837-2250) or Janie Patterson (343-3058).

Sept. 9 – Second Wednesday Bridge. 7 p.m. Call Judy Reinhart (345-5936) for more information.

Sept. 10 - Mystery Study Group at Luby's (MOPAC & Steck). 6:30 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. discussion. Light summer reading.

Sept. 12 - Branch meeting & lunch at Wyndham Hotel, 3401 IH 35 & Woodward St. 10 a.m. Speaker: Geneva Sanchez.

Sept. 14 – Contemporary Literature at Old Quarry BL 7 p.m. – *The Zanzibar Chest*. Discussion leader: Mary Ellen Scribner.

MEMBERSHIP OPEN HOUSE A SUCCESS



Thanks to the 57+ members and guests who attended the Open House Sunday, August 16th making it a success. Our twelve study groups were well visited by guests and members alike, and a new book group for members in South Austin has been generated with no name at the current time. Thanks to the twenty-two members who brought the delicious food that was attractively displayed and kept refilled by Elizabeth Newell, Betty Owen, Juanita Painter and others. Gayle Smith, Mary Ellen Scribner, Elizabeth Newell and others helped Judy Reinhart rearrange the furniture to fit our study groups' needs and then helped to put the furniture back the way it was originally at the end of our open house.

Welcome to these six ladies who joined our ranks Sunday: Nancy Alliegro, Susan Breeding, Karen Cross, Gale Green, Maria Vaso, and Antonia Warren, and these new members who have joined us recently: Penny Barnett, Maria Riva, Dorothy Vance, Vann Anthrop, Liz Peterson, Fran Pedro, Cherrie Wilson, and Tom Watson.

We are off to a good beginning, and I hope to see all of you and each of these new members at our first meeting Saturday, September 12th at the Wyndham Garden Hotel at 3401 S. IH 35.

Judy Reinhart, Membership VP

September Activities (continued)

Sept. 15 – Light Cuisine. 11 a.m. Hostess: Veronica Johnson, 7600 Cat Tail Cove (338-1254); co-hostess: Mary Owens (454-0330).

Sept. 16 - Creative Stitchery. Hostess: Nancy Ellison 264-6404; Co-Hostess: Raemar Shown 258-1069.

Sept. 17 – Culture & Cuisine with Lynn Cooksey, 2208 Matthews Drive (477-2774).

Sept. 22 – Mah-Jongg. 7 p.m. 7920 Mesa Trails Cove. Ann Berasley (837-2250) or Janie Patterson (343-3058).

Sept 23 – Art Tour Group. East Austin Experience: Visit St. Julia's Catholic Church to see beautifully restored old stained glass windows. (10 a.m.) 3010 Lyons Road. Host, Betty Owen; guide, Jan Weiser.

Sept. 23 – 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.

BRANCH MEETING SEPTEMBER 12 AT THE WYNDHAM HOTEL

Geneva Sanchez, President of the Tejano Genealogy Society of Austin, as well as President of the Hispanic Genealogy Societies of Texas, will be the speaker for our first meeting of the year. In a salute to Hispanic Heritage Month arranged by Sylvia Garcia, Ms. Sanchez will speak on the topic "Research to Preserve."

Fellowship and networking begin at 10 a.m. 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 lunch, no reservation needed.

The September lunch menu includes grilled tilapia filet topped with mango chutney with couscous and seasonal fresh vegetables, a house or Caesar salad, rolls & butter, chef's choice of dessert with iced tea, regular or decaffeinated coffee, or hot tea.

The cost of the lunch is \$20 (a check is preferred or bring exact change), and a reservation is needed. Dorothea must receive lunch reservations or cancellations by 6 p.m., September 9. Call her at 343-0370 or e-mail her at aauw-austin@sbcglobal.net. When making lunch reservations, 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.

The Wyndham Hotel, 3401 IH 35 and Woodward St. north of Ben White Blvd., is located across IH 35 from St. Edward's University. Adequate parking is available in front of the hotel on IH 35.

Hispanic Heritage Month



A time for celebrating the culture, art, and achievements of Hispanic people, September 15 – October 15 has been designated as Hispanic Heritage Month. September 15 also marks the independence days of five Hispanic countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico achieved independence on September 16, and Chile on September 18.

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Contacts & Communication

Telecommunications Coordinator: Dorothea Berasley - (512 343-0370); aauw-austin@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor: Mary Ellen Scribner - (512 255-8428); mscribner@austin.rr.com {Newsletter deadline is 9 a.m. on the 20th of the month}

AAUW Austin Branch: www.main.org/aauw

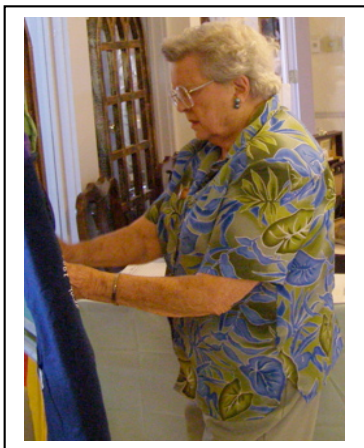
Looking Ahead

**Nov. 18 - SHOP EARLY
THIS YEAR AND SUPPORT
LAF**



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

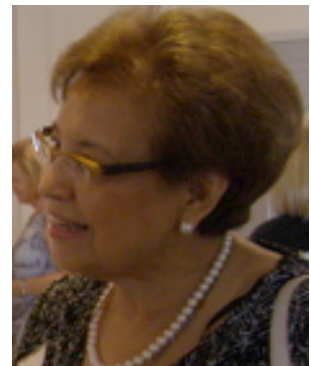
**April 17-18 - REQUESTED
DATES FOR 2010 EYH
CONFERENCE**



Members of the Austin Branch of AAUW have been

Inés says:

The Austin Branch is off to a great start! With the Membership Open House beginning the activities for the year, we give kudos to Judy Reinhart for planning the entire event. Our thanks go to her wonderful committee and all members who contributed to the beautiful table. The most significant feature, of course, was the number of new members who signed up and the large turnout of current members. According to our Financial Officer, we had more new members join at this event than last year. Let me ask all members to embrace the women who are coming to our Branch with high expectations that they will be welcomed and that they will share in our pursuit of the AAUW mission--advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.



Our first business/program meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2009, at the Austin Wyndham Garden Hotel. This is the same location where we met last year. New members will enjoy this facility and the wonderful menus that it offers. The highlight of the occasion is the first of the programs planned by Linda Leff, Program Vice President, and her committee. We are celebrating Hispanic Month in September, and our program will reflect this particular theme, as well as the larger theme for the year, Living in a Global Society.

We will take the opportunity at the September meeting to honor our outgoing newsletter editor, Janie Patterson. Janie has been a member of AAUW since 1978. She has made countless contributions to our Branch and until recently, she has kept us informed and current through the monthly newsletter. We thank Janie for her deep commitment to our Branch, and we wish her well in her many interests. Mary Ellen Scribner will succeed Janie as our Newsletter editor.

I personally invite all members, especially study group participants, to join us for a business/program meeting or two. Your active participation in the business of the Branch is important. In September, for example, we are voting on the budget for this year. Every member should exercise her duty and vote for this crucial aspect of our Branch operation. Finally, let me encourage you to bring a guest to our events. We need to give our Branch outreach visibility, and we can do this by showcasing our projects.

working with the Expanding Your Horizons program since it began in Austin in 1990. It's a great opportunity to encourage girls in 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th grades to explore ways to be involved in math, science, and technology in the future. On the day of the conference, at least twenty-four women will be needed to help with on-site registration and floor monitoring. The day will be a long one, beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m. Some will be able to leave a bit earlier, depending on their responsibilities. EYH liaison Raemar Shown (258-1089) will have a sign-up sheet available at Branch meetings closer to the event.

Take Action!



Join the AAUW Action Network! Anyone with an e-mail address can subscribe to the AAUW Action Network, a group of AAUW members and supporters committed to mobilizing citizens on issues affecting women. Discover what's happening in Washington and what you can do to influence the outcome. Using Two-Minute Activist, it takes just two minutes to make your voice heard – one minute to read, one minute to act. AAUW members and supporters can also find detailed information on legislation currently under consideration in Congress and write letters to the editor of their local paper. <http://capwiz.com/aauw/mlm/signup/>

Membership News

Welcome our newest members:

- Alliegro, Nancy C. – University of Minnesota (Political Science) 1972 - (512) 924-1750
- Breeding, Susan M. – University of St. Thomas - (512) 243-5412
- Cross, Karen W. – Sam Houston State (BFA Drama – 1976); University of Houston (MS Education-Curriculum & Instruction – 1977) – (512) 835-9538
- Greenleaf, Gale – University of Dallas 1971; University of Texas at Austin (Art Education/Special Education) – (512) 266-0039
- Vaso, Maria – University of Murcia (Spain) English and Spanish Language Arts 1988 - juaha.garcia_vaso@austinisd.org
- Warren, Antonia – University of Murcia (Spain) Philology 1991 – (512) 288-0103

Welcome home, Carol!

We were delighted to see Carol Fritz at the membership tea and learn that she had finally been able to return to her home on August 14 after months of hospitalization and rehabilitation therapy. Friends had given her house a bit of a makeover during her absence, and she reported that she couldn't "find a darn thing" but was thrilled to be home.



Rachel Muir Takes Over As Head of Mothers' Milk Bank

Branch member and Girlstart founder Rachel Muir is featured in the August edition of *austinwoman* as she assumes leadership of Mothers' Milk Bank in Austin at the same time as the Milk Bank celebrates its 10th anniversary. Austin's Milk Bank is the second largest in the country and serves over 1,000 babies a year. Volunteers are needed in all areas: office work, pasteurization, milk donors. To learn more about helping: www.milkbank.org or (512) 494-0800.

AAUW IN THE POLITICAL ARENA

Recent fraudulent letters sent to Congressional representatives and Internet communications about health care may have you wondering about AAUW's political activities. The Association's positions were not reflected in those activities.

The **AAUW Action Fund, Inc.** was approved by the 2009 Association Convention as the political action arm of the Association. It supports and advocates for legislation and policies related to women's equity and education.

The **AAUW Public Policy Program** guides the work of the national staff. This policy is adopted every two years at the national convention and establishes the federal action priorities that will be the focus for branches as well as the Association. The biennial action priorities are 1) to support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity; 2) to achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women; 3) to guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society. Specific action items in each of these areas can be found on the AAUW website and/or in the Spring/Summer issue of the *Outlook*.

How can we stay informed and evaluate whether what we read, hear, or receive in our email boxes reflects AAUW public policy? Anyone with email can receive legislative updates and alerts from the Association by subscribing to the **AAUW Action Network**. Simply go to www.aauw.org and find the "Take Action" link. An additional feature of this network is the "Two Second Activist" which allows you to send emails to your representatives in the U.S. House and Senate as well as to find detailed information for writing letters to the editor. If you do not have email, just visit www.aauw.org periodically and read the postings. No computer? Ask one of your member friends to share!

Elizabeth Newell, Association Program VP

NEW BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP IN SOUTH AUSTIN

Members living in South Austin are forming a new daytime book group in that area for those with flexible work and volunteer schedules. The

first planning meeting will be September 14 (second Monday) at 1 p.m. in the home of Marsha Endahl Kramer to choose books for the year, an administrative leader, and a meeting time (may change to mid-morning). The responsibilities for facilitating the discussion and providing reviews will be rotated. Both fiction and non-fiction works will be considered, and the meeting location may be in homes and/or at a library. To join, RSVP, or get more information, please contact Marsha at (512) 906-2033 or HughMarsha@aol.com.

CALL FOR NOMINEES TO SERVE ON AAUW TEXAS STATE BOARD 2010-2012

Information, a list of positions, and nomination forms can be found at www.aauwtexas.org or from Elizabeth Newell, Nominating Committee member (enewell4@austin.rr.com or 345-1686). President Inés García also has nomination forms. Nominations are due by October 1.

BRANCH THEME 2009-2010 - LIVING IN A GLOBAL WORLD

On September 15 Austin Area Interfaith Ministries is unveiling a new interfaith dialogue program for Central Texas: the Red Bench Conversations.

The new program was inspired by an idea Dr. Betty



The Red Bench
Interfaith Conversations that Matter

Sue Flowers put forth several years ago that by putting red benches in their public spaces, organizations and corporations could provide both space and motivation for meaningful conversation. The Red Bench Conversations for the fall of 2009 will focus on the "virtues"--aspects of human goodness that all of the world's great faith traditions try to instill. The first three programs will focus respectively on forgiveness, compassion, and gratitude. The conversations will be framed in an unusual way, one that hopefully leads people to the heart of their own life-experience. To learn more about the program or to register to participate in this unique opportunity, go to

<http://www.aaimaustin.org/redbench.html>.

Mary Ellen Scribner, International Relations

Austin Branch AAUW Proposed 2009-2010 Budget
**Please review the budget proposed for 2009-2010 and be prepared to
vote on it at the September Branch meeting.**

INCOME	
Dues	\$2,112.00
Interest - Checking	\$0.84
Interest - Money Mkt	\$11.00
Miscellaneous	\$100.00
Reserves	\$2,782.20
TOTAL INCOME	\$5,006.04
EXPENSE	
President	\$35.00
President-elect	\$35.00
Program VP	\$75.00
Membership VP	\$100.00
Open House	\$150.00
Association Program VP	\$75.00
Education Fdn. VP	\$100.00
Legal Advocacy VP	\$150.00
Secretary	\$25.00
Treasurer	\$25.00
Past Pres.: Holiday Tea	\$75.00
Subtotal: OFFICERS	\$845.00
Awards	\$25.00
Bank Charges	\$0.00
Bylaws	\$100.00
Correspondent	\$40.00
Data Base Administrator	\$40.00
Diversity	\$25.00
Expanding Your Horizons	\$50.00
EYH/Girlstart Donation	\$100.00
Historian	\$15.00
International Relations	\$25.00
Local Scholarships	\$0.00
Newsletter Postage	\$300.00
Newsletter Printing	\$300.00
P.O. Box Rental	\$60.00
Post Office Permit	\$180.00

Public Policy	\$50.00
Public Relations	\$15.00
Study Group	\$25.00
UT Fellowships	\$50.00
Women's Issues	\$25.00
Yearbook	\$1,500.00
Yearbook Postage	\$80.00
Subtotal: COMMITTEES	\$3,005.00
Liability Insurance	\$330.00
Seminars & Conferences	\$1,200.00
Subtotal: OTHER EXPENSES	\$1,530.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$5,380.00</u>
BALANCE	<u>-\$373.96</u>

Lunch (Not Budgeted)

ASSETS

Checking Account-est.*	\$1,831.21
Money Market Account	\$2,782.20
Subtotal: General Assets	\$4,613.41
CD - supports Mainspring	\$12,417.43
Total Assets	\$17,030.84

*excludes Association & State dues
collected but not yet forwarded

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- 473 – lleff@earthlink.net
Judy Reinhart – Membership Vice President – 345-5936 – Reinhart.p@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.rr.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

INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY – SEPTEMBER 21



The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly. The first Peace Day was celebrated in September 1982.

In 2002 the General Assembly officially declared September 21 as the permanent date for the International Day of Peace.

By creating the International Day of Peace, the UN devoted itself to worldwide peace and encouraged all of mankind to work in cooperation for this goal. During the discussion of the U.N. Resolution that established the International Day of Peace, it was suggested that:

"Peace Day should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples...This day will serve as a reminder to all peoples that our organization, with all its limitations, is a living instrument in the service of peace and should serve all of us here within the organization as a constantly pealing bell reminding us that our permanent commitment, above all interests or differences of any kind, is to peace."

Since its inception, Peace Day has marked our personal and planetary progress toward peace. It has grown to include millions of people in all parts of the world, and each year events are organized to commemorate and celebrate this day. Events range in scale from private gatherings to public concerts and forums where hundreds of thousands of people participate.

Anyone, anywhere can celebrate Peace Day. It can be as simple as lighting a candle at noon, or just sitting in silent meditation. Or it can involve getting your co-workers, organization, community or government engaged in a large event. The impact if millions of people in all parts of the world, coming together for one day of peace, is immense.

International Day of Peace is also a Day of Ceasefire – personal or political. Take this opportunity to make peace in your own relationships as well as impact the larger conflicts of our time. Imagine what a whole Day of Ceasefire would mean to humankind.

<http://internationaldayofpeace.org/>