



American Association of University Women AAUW Austin (Texas) Branch

Past AAUW Branch Presidents invite you to a holiday open house on Sunday afternoon, December 2nd, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Westminster Manor Fifth floor solarium 4100 Jackson Avenue

Free parking is available in the TxDOT lot adjacent to Westminster Manor.

AAUW's Mission

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW's Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.



Former Branch presidents celebrate the 89th birthday of the Austin Branch. Front row (l-r): Dale Willimack, Frances Tomlinson (former Amarillo Branch president), Kay Watson, Inés Garcia. Back row (l-r): Jerry Cassidy (former Charleston, SC Branch president), Veronica Johnson, Judy Reinhart, Elizabeth Newell.



**December Calendar
Branch Activities**

**December 2, 2-4 p.m.
Holiday Open House:**
Westminster Manor, 4100
Jackson Avenue.



**December 3, 7:15-8:30 p.m.
Contemporary Literature:**
Old Quarry BL, 7051 Village
Center Dr. *Unbroken: A World
War II Story of Survival,
Resilience, and Redemption.* (Laura
Hillenbrand). Discussion leader:
Beverly Locklin. Chair: Fern
Chester, 345.1102.

**December 5, 11 a.m.
Creative Stitchery:** Holiday
lunch at Chez Zee. Call Beverly
Locklin (343.0782) for more
information.

**December 7, 10 a.m.
Book Review:** Hyde Park
Church of Christ. Participants
bring a short Christmas story to
share around the table. Potluck
refreshments, bring whatever
you want. Everyone and guests
invited! Chair: Natalie Balden,
288.7748.

**December 8, Sundown
Hanukkah begins.**

**December 10, 10:30 a.m.
SW Books & Brunch.** *Baking
Cakes in Kigali* by Gaile Parkin.
Hostess, facilitator, & chair:
Marsha Endahl Kramer,
906.2033 (H), 906.6566 (C).

NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING



Co-founder (with her husband Turk Pipkin) Christy Pipkin describes the Nobevity Project and talks about its current projects, mostly in Africa but also in other parts of the world.

On November 13 almost fifty Branch members and guests gathered at Chez Zee American Bistro for a delicious luncheon, the Branch's 89th birthday celebration, and a presentation of the Nobevity Project by co-founder Christy Pipkin. Many attendees brought books for the Nobevity *1000 Books for Hope* campaign. Ruth Falck made all the arrangements for the meeting including the program and the excellent menu, and she provided the birthday cake! Everyone enjoyed the new venue and the opportunity to choose from a variety of entrées--much appreciation to Ruth for all her efforts!



Ramona Nance, Judy Reinhart, Beth Bennett (Judy's guest), and Jerry Cassidy are ready for the meeting to begin.

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December 10:
Human Rights Day.



December 12, 6:30 p.m.
Second Tuesday Night

Bridge. Contact: Elaine Penn, 970.5051.

December 11, 4 p.m.

Second Wednesday Bridge. Contact: Judy Reinhart, 345.5936.

December 13, 6:30 p.m.

Culture & Cuisine: Home of Veronica Johnson (7600 Cat Tail Cove, 78750). Veronica and co-hostess Gail Simpler will be serving a Scottish meal. Please RSVP to Veronica (338.1254 or veronicajj@aol.com) or to Gail (gsimpler@utexas.edu or 834.9481). Chair: Mary Owens, 454.9339.

December 15

AAUW PEARS: Christmas party; 7600 Cat Tail Cove. Veronica Johnson & Don Meyer (338.1254).

December 20

Third Tuesday Book Group: Holiday lunch at a restaurant. Contact: Ruth Falck, 550.6449.

December 25
Christmas Day

December 26
Kwanzaa begins

Every Thursday, 9:30 a.m.
Bridge at the Senior Center.

Call Dorothy Ramsey (442.3841) for more information.

MEMBERSHIP

The Branch meeting on November 13 was a real highlight for me. Not only were we the lucky beneficiaries of **Ruth Falck's** planning and generosity, but we were also in a lovely place and were enlightened by the stories and clips that Nobility Project's Christy Pipkin shared with us. Almost fifty participants, two of whom were our newest members, **Katie Jackson** and **Lila Igram**, celebrated our branch's 89th anniversary with an ooey-goey carrot cake. I saw Ruth snap a photo of six former Austin presidents in attendance, **Dale Willimack, Veronica Johnson, Judy Reinhart, Kay Watson, Elizabeth Newell,** and **Inés Garcia** plus **Frances Tomlinson**, former Amarillo Branch president, and our new dual member (with



Georgetown, **Jerry Cassidy**, who served as president of the Charleston, SC Branch.

Other highlights of the meeting included **Pat Bennett** receiving her honorary membership certificate for fifty years of loyalty to our common cause, seeing so many of this year's new members enjoying themselves, and the lovely eulogy that **Judy Reinhart** spoke in remembrance of recently deceased Branch member, **Annette Haslund**.

We have added three new members this month bringing the total to 173. Our new members include **Rebecca Grimaldi**,

who received the gift of membership from Jill Birdwhistell of Arlington, Virginia. Rebecca earned her B.A. at Muehlenberg College in Pennsylvania. She resides at 13415 Coletto Creek Trail, Austin, TX 78702, and her phone is 201.314.4837, and her e-mail is beccagrimaldi@gmail.com. I look forward to meeting Becca.

Katherine Jackson, a University of Texas Ph.D. candidate in education policy and planning, also joined us in recent weeks. Katie earned her B.A. at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, in 2005, graduating magna cum laude. She earned a



master's degree at Boston College in curriculum and instruction in 2008, and was accepted to UT's graduate program in 2010 where she continues to study. She has been named Honors College Scholar, and Donovan Urban Teaching Scholar. Her interests include Krav Maga Israeli Self Defense; CASA of Travis County where she volunteers as an advocate-in-training; and she is involved with UT Women's Resource Agency WRA, where she serves as a committee chair. We are so lucky to have Katie in our activist organization! Her email is katiejackson@utexas.edu.

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MORE MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Connecther's founder, **Lila Igram**, joined us almost simultaneously with Katie and came to her first meeting in November. Connecther's mission is *Helping Women Help Themselves* through networking. Lila is a 1991 graduate of the University of Iowa in economics; she founded Connecther; and she lives at 12301 Zeller Lane, Austin 78753. Her mobile number is 560.5608, and her email is lila@connether.org. We welcome Lila to our shared women's mission.



By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed the Thanksgiving weekend, some shopping, decorating, and perhaps a little--or a lot--of watching football. I hope that many of you will find the time to come to the annual holiday open house hosted by past Branch presidents on Sunday, December 2, and that you all have a wonderful holiday season, celebrating whatever traditions your family enjoys.

Diane Brewer
Membership Vice President

CHANGE IN CONTACT INFORMATION

Ann Wright: 500 Vaughan Cove, Austin, TX 78732.
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wrightintx1@gmail.com

ANNETTE HASLUND

1927-2012

Longtime AAUW (1956) and Austin Branch member, **Annette Haslund**, died at home in the company of her daughter on November 7. She will be greatly missed by those of us who knew her through our



AAUW study groups, Lifetime Learning classes, the Presbyterian Church, or any of the numerous other cultural institutions in Austin that she enjoyed and supported. Annette always experienced life richly wherever she was--from her well-traveled childhood as an army brat through her well-read final years in Austin. Although she lost most of her vision to macular degeneration at age eleven, Annette graduated with high honors from the University of Texas at Austin in 1950 with a degree in education with an emphasis in special education, and she later received a master's degree in education from SMU. Annette and husband Tom enjoyed a forty-four year marriage and raised three daughters together.

It was always a huge mistake to assume that her poor vision diminished Annette's ability to live life to the fullest, to continue learning, and to generously share her vast knowledge and experience with all! We were so fortunate to have her as a member of the Branch for many years!

FIFTY YEARS OF AAUW MEMBERSHIP!

At the November meeting, Membership V. P. **Diane Brewer** presented **Pat Bennett** with a certificate of honorary membership in recognition of her fifty years of AAUW membership.

After receiving her degrees in architecture from Cornell University, Pat put a career on hold for a time to be a "stay-at-home-

mom" to her son and daughter. She also joined AAUW and is a past president of the Bedford-Lexington (MA) Branch. In 1982 she joined the staff at MIT's Lincoln Laboratory as a computer systems analyst and worked there until her retirement in 1994. In 1995 Pat relocated to Austin, where she joined our AAUW Branch as well as the Austin LWV (Pat is also a 50-year member of the League). And she became a certified massage therapist but is now retired from that as well and says that much of her time is "spent with books, the Internet, and TV (DVDs)-- primarily for pleasure, but often that pleasure is enthusiastic study of some new, or favorite old, subject."



BRANCHING OUT

THE ANN RICHARDS FELLOWSHIP

This year when you contribute to the AAUW Funds through purchasing tickets and supporting our February fund raiser, Paradox Players' February 21st performance of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (abridged) you will be supporting the Ann Richards Fellowship.



AAUW-Texas established this new Education Foundation fellowship fund in honor of former Governor Ann Richards. In October, 2008, the AAUW Education Foundation Board approved the Ann Richards American Fellowship. Fund-raising continues in order to reach the endowment amount of \$200,000, which will establish this fellowship honoring Governor Richards.

AAUW American Fellowships support women doctoral candidates completing dissertations, and scholars seeking funds for post-doctoral research leave, or for preparing completed research for publication. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. One-year postdoctoral research leave fellowships, dissertation fellowships, and summer/short-term research publication grants are offered.

Dr. Mary Braunagel-Brown,
AAUW Funds Chair - 301.4568;
mbbsbb@earthlink.com

GIRLSTART

Join Girlstart for a free, frosty DeSTEMber Fest Extravaganza on December 1st! Explore snowflake chemistry, igloo engineering, gingerbread architecture and more hands-on fun. The whole family will discover the mysteries behind this magical time of year!

Volunteer opportunities with Girlstart abound for branch members!

★ **Girls in STEM Conference** at the University of Texas Teaching Center, April 6:

Girlstart will be implementing a new streamlined check-in for the conference and has asked for our help in preparing materials for it, as well as assisting in some of the new programs described below, two of which have won national awards from the "Change the Equation" consortium of Fortune 500 businesses for effective programming in STEM education for girls.

March 22, Friday, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. We will place address labels and stamps on the postcard reminders to the girls registered for the conference and also prepare presenter packets and sharpen pencils--and perhaps go for lunch afterward?

March 28, Thursday, 10

a.m. - 2 p.m. We will be stuffing the goodie bags for the conference and taking care of any other last minute tasks that emerge.

★ **Girlstart Community Day: November 29,**

Thursday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Girlstart to prepare the crystal decoration 'take home' for the DeSTEMber Fest. Call me if you would like to attend.

★ **Girlstart After School Program:** This fall seven

hundred girls are experiencing the Girlstart After School program each week. More will join this CTE award-winning program in the new year. I should have our dates for this by January.

Lilac Bauer

Girlstart Liaison & Women's Issues
Chair - 743.6338 (mobile);
la_aucena@hotmail.com