



American Association of University Women AAUW Austin (Texas) Branch

Texas KIDS COUNT Director to Speak at September 21st Program

“We stand for telling the truth. Respectfully but with courage. And we mean the whole truth based on hard facts and rigorous analysis,” is the policy and the practice of the Center for Public Policy Priorities <<http://www.cppp.org/>>. In the area of child well-being, Frances Deviney, Ph.D., is responsible for finding the hard facts and applying rigorous analysis to them. She joined the center in 2005. As KIDS COUNT Director, she tracks the status of child well-being in Texas by collecting and analyzing state and county-level data. She also helps coordinate the center's family economic security work. Before coming to the center, she was a research specialist at the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, a legislative director in the Texas House of Representatives, and a research analyst at the Families and Schools Together (FAST Track) Project. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Vanderbilt University in 1993 and a doctorate in developmental psychology from The University of Utah in 2002.



Dr. Deviney will provide a brief overview of the work of the CPPP and then go into more detail about the Texas KIDS COUNT initiative which provides data on more than seventy measures of child well-being and is a resource to help create, implement, and encourage good policy and effective services to better the lives of Texas children.

This meeting will be at the LCRA's beautiful Redbud Center located at 3601 Lake Austin Blvd. It is easily reached traveling on MOPAC from the north or south (exit Lake Austin Blvd.), and there is ample parking. We will gather at 9:45 a.m. to sign in and pick up name tags; the program begins at 10 a.m. followed by a short business meeting (2013-2014 Branch budget to be adopted) and lunch (depending on the weather, those who wish may enjoy their lunch at outdoor tables on the terrace).



Corner Bakery will cater the box lunch which will cost \$15.00. The box lunches include a Specialty Sandwich, bakery chips, fresh seasonal fruit, and a freshly baked cookie. Choose Specialty Sandwich from one of the following: (1) Tomato mozzarella on ciabatta ficelle; (2) Mom's roast beef on sourdough; (3) Tuna salad on whole grain harvest; or (4) Turkey Swiss on sesame roll. Ice tea will be the beverage. The deadline for ordering the box luncheon is Tuesday, September 17.

Please make your reservation online at austinaauw@gmail.com or call Sylvia Garcia at 512.221.2863 and leave a message; indicate whether you will be attending the meeting only or will be staying for lunch. If you are staying for lunch, please indicate your choice of Specialty Sandwich for your lunch box--by September 17!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS with Diane Brewer

Our summer social on August 18 was just wonderful for so many reasons! It was a grand kick-start for our ninetieth anniversary year! First, there was the participation of **Etta Endahl**, in her 71st year of membership, and **Kay Goodwin**, sharing her 95th year on this earth with us; then add our newest and youngest members, **Divya Ramamoorthy** and **Tiffany Ardisana**, who attended and visited. Divya accompanied proud mom/member **Janani Janakiraman**, who also brought two fellow engineers—and now AAUW Austin members—**Seetha Mahadevan** and **Ranjani Vaidyanathan**. I have nicknamed this friendly trio *STEM in Action*, as they are role models not only for their daughters, recent national history contest prizewinners **Priya** and **Kavya Ramamoorthy**, **Smrithi Mahadevan**, and **Maanasa Nathan**, but also to other young women with whom they plan to volunteer in the future. Women, this is what we are about—the youngest and newest members standing alongside the seasoned beauty and experience of our oldest members!

Working to make the day lively, fun, and smooth as silk were **Judy Reinhart**, **Beverly Locklin**, **Marina Rivers**, **Betty Owen**, **Sylvia Garcia**, **Inés Garcia**, **Elaine Penn**, **Larie Amsler**, **Maggie Kadlecek**, **Lilac Bauer**, **Carol Fritz**, **Dorothy Ramsey**, **Mary Frances Rogerson**, **Sally Scott**, **Anneliese Ellerton**, **Rachel Flake**, **Dorothea Berasley**, **Ann Berasley**, **Eugenie Whalen**, **Fern Chester**, **Gayle Smith**, **Elizabeth Newell**, **Anita Knight**, **Charles Brewer**, **Don Knight**, and especially, **Gail Simpler**, who once again served as liaison with the church and made sure everything went smoothly in every way. Our wonderful Gail has signed a lease on her new digs in Boerne, Texas, where she has found a marvelous situation closer to her daughter. Boerne is not very far away, so we hope she will continue to participate when she can. Her steady presence and expert hand will be sorely missed!

Since our last newsletter we have signed up twelve new members to AAUW Austin, and there are still others who are in the process of joining. In late July, we completed the transfer of AAUW member (Jackson MI) **Karen Wood**, who moved from Michigan to Round Rock in late August. Karen

is a retired second-grade schoolteacher who calls herself an “on-call grandma” and who also enjoys the computer, art, and other AAUW activities in general. She is ready to get involved!



In early August, the lovely **Tiffany Ardisana** completed her transfer and membership. Tiffany is following in the footsteps of her grandmother (Jane Cooley, AAUW Sacramento CA) and who was a member there herself before going to Texas A&M where she earned her master’s degree in public service and administration. She received her B.A. in communications from Sonoma State University. Tiffany’s recent move to Austin found her spending time in the Capitol Gallery watching the action of the legislature in session; her boyfriend is a legislative aide, so this pair is really in the know about the political process! She is now employed with Easter Seals Central Texas on the development team. She enjoys playing guitar, travel, soccer, and reading. She will be a marvelous asset to the Branch!



L-R: Peggy Kelsey, author of *Gathering Strength: Conversations with Afghan Women*; Branch President Anita Knight; MOB Laurel O’Neill.

Keller Williams Southwest real estate agent **Anne Lindeman Wheat** is a friend of Lynn Cooksey and Inés Garcia. Anne is the daughter of Susie Lindeman Snyder who was on the ground floor in developing our Mainspring Schools. Anne is a graduate of Austin High, studied design at Mount Vernon College, and earned her B.S. in interior design in 1979 from UT Austin. Anne has an active past and present in the community having been involved with the Boy Scouts of America, the Women’s Symphony League, and she works with Global Austin doing photography, PR, and

(continued next page)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS with Diane Brewer

communications marketing. She did the photography for the Angelina Eberly Luncheon at the Austin History Center Association and is a supporter of Austin Alliance. She has a presence on *Facebook* and *Linked In*.

Working mom and Embedded Systems Programmer/Engineer **Ranjani Vaidyanathan** earned her B.S. in telecommunications engineering in 1992 from BMS School of Engineering in Bangalore, India; she earned her master's in computer science at Texas State University in 1996. She is the mother of two children, ages thirteen and fifteen, one of whom is Maanasa Nathan. She is excited to have joined AAUW as she plans to promote girls in STEM careers.

Her friend and fellow engineer **Seetha Mahadevan**, is a senior project manager at Dell, Inc. Seetha earned her B.S. in technical and civil engineering in 1991, at Engineering Tumkur; she then earned her master's in agricultural engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is the mother of one daughter, Smrithi, age fifteen. Like Ranjani and Janani, this mom is passionate about Girls in STEM.



Etta Endahl, AAUW member for an amazing seventy-one years, poses with national history contest winners and future AAUW members.

Newsletter maven **Mary Ellen Scribner** had the opportunity to meet lovely **Michelle Martin** earlier this year. She thought Michelle would enjoy starting her retirement in Austin as a member of AAUW; Michelle agreed and attended the social. She is recently retired from the U.S. Army, having

been director of training with the U.S. Army Civil Affairs Command. Michelle earned her B.A. from Excelsior College in 1987, in English literature and sociology. She has a grown son and loves photography and motorcycles! Michelle plans to enroll in the School of Social Work's graduate program at UT Austin later this year.

Dr. Ann Marie Ellis, former dean of the College of Liberal Arts and a professor of sociology at Texas State University, attended the University of Florida and earned her B.A.E. in social science education in 1963. She earned her M.A. at the U. of Florida in 1966 and her Ph.D. in higher education administration in 1984 at the University of North Texas. Ann Marie and another new member, **Mary Lou Bell**, are good friends. Mary Lou earned her B.A. in history from Bucknell University in 1965; her master's in sociology from the University of Houston in 1979; and an M.B.A. from U of H in 1983. We hope to learn more about Ann Marie and Mary Lou and their interests as the year unfolds.

Brigitte Benquet is in financial management and works as an on-demand CFO – controller and profitability strategist. She is fluent in English, French, and Spanish. She obtained her baccalaureate degree from Lycée la Bruyère, Versailles, and studied at the prestigious French business school, ESSEC, earning her M.B.A. in finance and economics in 1980. She is involved with Rotary of Northwest Austin, and she is interested in both culinary and fine arts and enjoys hiking. I bet she is a candidate for Culture and Cuisine!

While **Martha Van Sickle** is visiting her son this fall in Washington State, she still encouraged daughter **Sally Van Sickle** to attend our summer social and go to the event with Nancy Pelosi on August 26. Sally shares her life with husband Neil Crump and mom Martha. She is a graduate of UT Austin, with B.S. and M.E. degrees in 1993, and she works as a program manager with Applied Materials, Inc. Sally's energy and time are also spent in the community where she is a board member with Capital City Village, involved with the 2013 Leadership Austin Essentials Class, is on the board of Old Enfield HOA, and at Applied Materials, serves on the Community Leadership Involvement Committee. Somehow, she still finds time to run and cycle!

(membership news concludes on next page)

September Calendar of Branch Activities

September 9 (Rescheduled from first to second Monday due to Labor Day holiday), 7:15-8:30

p.m. Contemporary Literature: Home of Fern Chester. *Ghana Must Go* (Taiye Selasi). Discussion leader: Elaine Penn. Chair: Fern Chester, 512.345.1102.

September 9, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. SW Book Group. *The Lost Wife* by Alyson Richman. Facilitator is Lilac Bauer; hostess is Anita Knight. Chair: Inés García, 512.444.5643.

September 11, 4 p.m. Second Wednesday Bridge. Contact: Judy Reinhart, 512.345.5936.

September 11 (Rescheduled from first to second Wednesday due to Jewish holiday), 2:30-4:30 p.m. Movie & Dinner: Call Lois Shaevel at 512.266.0273 for specific details.

September 16, 11 a.m. Out to Lunch: Brio Arboretum (Venue changed from earlier published one; separate checks will be given), 10000 Research Blvd., (512.794.1234). Hostess: Diane Brewer, (RSVP: zdramamom@austin.rr.com). Chair: Ruth Falck (512.550.6449).

September 18, 10 a.m. Creative Stitchery with hostess Elaine Penn (512.328.3100) and co-hostess Kay Goodwin (512.467.8255).

September 19, 6:30 p.m. Culture & Cuisine: Hostess: Anneliese Ellerton. Meet at The Russia House, 307 E. 5th Street, 512.428.5442. Chair: Anneliese Ellerton (512.241.8425).

MEMBERSHIP NEWS with Diane Brewer concludes

Elaine Leggett, longtime librarian at Hill Country Middle School and Westlake High School, later library coordinator for Eanes ISD, and my friend, decided to join AAUW after visiting and mingling at the social. Elaine is a graduate of Southwestern University in 1968, where she earned her B.A. in English. She earned her M.E. at the University of Hawaii (and came back to Texas!) in technology and library science in 1977. At our school Elaine was always the one who knew how to work all the equipment with grace and confidence! This gentle lady shares her life with Ron Gray and is looking forward to getting involved with AAUW Austin!

Finally, special friend **Sherry Crickmer**, onetime teacher at Hill Country Middle School, later restaurateur, always a gourmet cook, Girl Scout leader, community organizer, travel buff, mom and grandmother, is now exercising her top skills in organization and efficient management at Texas Research International, Inc. as both property manager and executive administrative assistant. She is also devoted to the Westbank Community Library and volunteers there. Sherry and husband Todd share a love of travel and great food.

We are off to a great start with our exciting and accomplished new members! We have lost a few members due to a variety of life changes, but we look forward to building our community of involvement to a whole new level. It is my honor to serve as membership vice president with a group like you!

Diane Brewer
Membership Vice President 2012-2014

Are you receiving information from AAUW Texas?

State officers and committee chairmen distribute information using an email system called AWeber. If you are not receiving any information from AAUW Texas, you are probably not in this email system. It requires that you register by going to the AAUW Texas website and following the link just below the logo on the home page. You will find "Sign up Here for the AAUW Texas newsletter." Click on the link and you will be guided through the registration process. After registering you will receive a confirmation email. You MUST reply to this email to complete the registration process. Remember that this is your direct line of communication for state convention information and the *University Woman Texas*.

If you have any difficulty with this process, contact Elizabeth Newell at enewell4@austin.rr.com or 512-345-1686.

Sept. Calendar of Branch Activities

(continued from preceding page)

September 21, 9:45 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Branch meeting. Speaker is Frances Deviney, director of Texas KIDS COUNT project. LCRA Redbud Center, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., 78703. Make reservation by Tuesday, September 17.

September 25, 10 a.m. Art Tour: Hostess/planner: Judy Reinhart. **(Change of venue from one published earlier.)** The pen and ink art of Sherry Steele; 5335 Magdalena Drive 78745. Lunch: Olive Garden, 3940 South Lamar, Brodie Oaks. Chair: Diane Brewer; RSVP zdramamom@austin.rr.com.

September 25, 4 p.m. Fourth Wednesday Bridge. Contact Sara Ezell (512.343.8494).

Every Thursday, 9:30 a.m. Bridge at the Senior Center. Call Dorothy Ramsey (512.442.3841) for more information.

AAUW PEARS: Date & time to be determined. St. Edwards' Theater & Dinner. Contact: Lilac & Tom Bauer, 512.291.9032.

Interest Groups Not Meeting in September

First Friday Book Review. Chair: Gayle Smith (512.345.5585). Next meeting scheduled for October 4.

Hiking Group. Contacts: Ginny Tannebring (512.477.3579 or ginnyz@sbcglobal.net) & Beverly Locklin (512.343.0782 or blocklin@austin.rr.com). Next scheduled hike is October 25.

FROM THE PRESIDENT Anita Knight

Dear Members of the Austin Branch,

I've been asked to tell more about the National Convention in June in NOLA, for which the board approved a \$500 reimbursement, and I thank y'all for that. I shared some highlights and new AAUW initiatives last month, and lots of convention information is available on the www.aauw.org website, including links to the presentations, worksheets, and other materials from some of our thirty-eight workshops. Current and prospective Branch officers should check out <http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-convention-presentations/>. Great technology!

But forgive me for losing count! I omitted including our public policy chair **Carol Fritz** in my August message as one of the six branch members who attended the national convention, "Breaking through Barriers: Leading across Generations," in New Orleans. Carol arrived in New Orleans following a trip, and she was my great roommate--getting an IBM discount and having a similar biological clock! She brought back lots of public policy enthusiasm, and she signed up a bunch of activist members at the summer social to join her in AAUW alerts, actions, and advocacy!

The Austin Public Library sent formal letters documenting the recent book purchases in memory of our deceased members. Books will be placed in the library noted in parentheses:

- ★ *Real Talk for Real Teachers* (John Henry Faulk) in memory of **Rose G. Ehrlich**
- ★ *The House of Redgrave* (John Henry Faulk) in memory of **Annette Haslund**
- ★ *Kafka* (Howson) in memory of **Norma Julian**
- ★ *Quiet Beauty* (John Henry Faulk) in memory of **Janie K. Patterson**
- ★ *Friend of the Court*. (John Henry Faulk) in memory of **Miriam K. Tormollan**
- ★ *Through the Perilous Fight*. (Howson) in memory of **Frances Wheless**
- ★ Book in memory of **Natalie Balden** pending

Many thanks AGAIN to **Nancy Myers**, one of our honorary members and a former Branch president, who is a retired CPA and who has performed our Branch audit for several years in a row. She concluded that "the financial statements fairly represent the results of the financial activities on a cash basis."

Anita Knight
Branch President 2012-2014

THE BRANCH IN ACTION

Funds Report - September, 2013

Hooray! We're a four-star charity — again! Congratulations to all of us! Only ten percent of charities evaluated by Charity Navigator, America's largest and most-utilized rating agency, have been given the coveted four-star rating for the past three years in a row. AAUW is one of these few! That means that AAUW efficiently applies your generous donations to efforts that achieve our mission — advancing equity for women and girls.

Who Will Be the Next Melissa Harris-Perry or Judith Resnik? The 125th class of AAUW fellows and grantees are just getting started with their research and study plans for this academic year. Find out more about them on the updated directory of recipients and contact fellowships@aauw.org to get in touch with current and former fellows and grantees in your area. Invite them to a Branch meeting, learn about their work, and engage them in your upcoming programs!

Fund Raising for the Fall:

- ★ Barnes and Noble gift wrapping - Arboretum Store - Proposed Schedule
Monday, December 9, 5 - 9 PM
Sunday, December 22, 1 - 6 PM
Barnes and Noble South TBD
- ★ Collin Street Bakery - Fruit Cake Sales

Elaine Diefenderfer
Funds Chair

**Latinitas Chica College Conference
October 5, 2013**

Latinitas Austin is hosting a College Chica Conference on Saturday, October 5, and the AAUW advisory board (**Lilac Bauer, Inés Garcia, Sylvia Garcia, Anita Knight, Mary Ellen Scribner**) has identified several ways that the Branch can assist with the conference. Lilac is now seeking volunteers to help with these tasks:

- ★ Tote bags
 - Solicit a variety of goodies (list available) to fill bags for each girl registered for the conference.
 - Work day to fill totes and prepare them for distribution
- ★ Send letters of invitation to local colleges to host an info table - Lilac
- ★ Collect letters of invitation/bios of professionals to host a lunch table - Lilac (Inés & Sylvia are asked to host a lunch table)
- ★ Day of Conference (2 hr. - 2+ hr. shifts)
 - Help with check-in
 - Help with handing out t-shirts
 - Help with handing out totes
 - Help as hall monitor

All volunteers must attend an orientation:

October 3 or 4 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Latinitas (or at another time if needed).

Lilac Bauer

Branch Member Is President of National Women's Political Caucus; Brings National Meeting to Austin



The National Women's Political Caucus held its 21st Biennial Convention in Austin August 9-11. Caucus President Linda Young invited fellow Austin Branch members to participate in several events. L-r: Lilac Bauer, Marsha Endahl-Kramer, Linda Young, Anita Knight, Elaine Diefenderfer, Carol Fritz.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

AAUW Texas, Austin & Georgetown Branches Host “When Women Succeed, America Succeeds” with Nancy Pelosi

When AAUW National asked if AAUW Texas and the Austin and Georgetown Branches could host congressional leader Nancy Pelosi in Austin on Women's Equality Day (August 26), AAUW Texas President **Jeanne Best** and Austin Branch President **Anita Knight** got busy. Branch member **Linda Young** who is also president of the National Women's Political Caucus and an ACC staff member joined the effort, and it was quickly decided to hold the event at the ACC Eastview Campus.

“When Women Succeed, America Succeeds,” a women's economic agenda discussion with Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi was an appropriate and successful way to mark the day which recognizes when the nineteenth amendment was added to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote. The crowd of about two hundred attending the event included many AAUW Austin Branch members, an equal number of ACC personnel, local political leaders and activists, plus a generous media representation.



AAUW Texas President Jeanne Best listens as Congresswoman Pelosi speaks.



Branch members Sylvia Garcia and Ines Garcia listen intently as a question is put to Nancy Pelosi.



Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole & Branch President Anita Knight with proclamation from Austin's Mayor Lee Leffingwell.

The Austin *American-Statesman* said of the event, “U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., was in town to headline a forum on women and the economy at a meeting of the American Association of University Women of Texas. Pelosi, now the minority leader in the House, focused most of her attention on promoting equal pay for women, a better balance between work and family, and access to affordable child care.”

After her remarks, the ever gracious Pelosi took a few questions from audience members and then mingled with the crowd for some one-on-one conversation and photos.



L-R: Linda Young (Branch member & National Women's Political Caucus President); Anita Knight (Branch President); Nancy Pelosi; MOB Marsha Endahl-Kramer.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVOCACY & PHILANTHROPY



An Invitation from Rice University Student Zack Kopplin

“All students deserve a high-quality science education that prepares them to succeed in college and the jobs of the 21st century. But they will not get one if the State Board of Education (SBOE) approves new textbooks that include junk science. That’s why I’m proud to be attending the Texas Freedom Network’s Stand Up for Science rally. Can you join me at the rally at noon on September 17 in Austin? Keeping creationism, climate-change denial and other junk science out of public schools is personal for me. Louisiana, where I grew up, actually has a law promoting creationism. And I’ve been fighting to keep that kind of anti-science propaganda out of textbooks since I was in high school. Now as a student at Rice University in Houston, I’m furious that the same extremists are trying to insert their ideological agenda and their religious and unscientific views into science classrooms and textbooks in Texas. We must show people that there is an impending crisis in our schools. If we can show up in force and Stand Up for Science, we will get not only the attention of the SBOE, but also the media and general public. If we do that, our story can break through and shine a light on how some SBOE members are trying to set Texas students up to fail in the 21st century. Please register to join me in standing up for science: http://www.tfn.org/site/PageServer?pagename=science_2013adoption_petition_testimony_rally>

Brunch with Edna Adan from "Half the Sky" on Saturday, October 19!

Connecther is SO excited to be hosting Edna Adan in Austin!



Featured on Half the Sky, Edna Adan is an internationally renowned speaker who runs Edna’s Hospital in Somaliland. Somaliland has the second highest rates of infant and maternal mortality in the world. Edna’s Hospital has been very successful in training midwives and reducing the maternal and infant mortality rates in the communities where they operate. We just couldn’t be happier to have her! Here is more information about Edna <http://www.halftheskymovement.org/pages/edna-adan>

Date and Time

October 19th, 2013 10:30 am – 2:00 pm

Location: Four Seasons Hotel, Downtown Austin

10:30 am - Registration, Networking

11:00 am - Program Starts at 11:00 am sharp!

Parking available at Four Seasons parking garage for \$8.00 (for entire event).

This is our first annual Connecther fund raising event that will be a “Brunch with Edna” happening from 11 am to 2 pm on Saturday, October 19, 2013 at the Four Seasons Hotel. Edna will keynote. Would love if you can make it. We also have table sponsorships available. For more information on table sponsorships, contact Lila at lila@connecther.org.

We look forward to seeing you there!
The fair market value of your donation is \$50.00 (you can deduct \$50.00). Connecther is a US registered 501c3 nonprofit organization. EIN #: 26-4235366

Purchase tickets at following link.

A limited amount of early bird tickets are available! <https://connecther.ticketbud.com/brunch-with-edna-adan>

Connecther.org

@connecther and facebook - www.facebook.com/connecther

<<https://connecther.ticketbud.com/brunch-with-edna-adan>>

CONNECTHER HOSTING EDNA ADAN IN AUSTIN

Connecther, founded by MOB **Lila Igram**, is hosting a fundraiser brunch with Edna Adan from *Half the Sky* on October 19. Lila writes, “We have added a special rate of \$75.00 for AAUW members. Please spread the word; there are limited tickets at that price available.”

Learn more about Connecther: *Helping women help themselves* at <<http://www.connecther.org/>>

Editor’s note: I have purchased a ticket for this event and plan to ride the MetroRail. If you live anywhere north near a rail station, I recommend riding the train to avoid driving and parking downtown. The train goes to the Austin Convention Center just across the street from the Four Seasons.