



American Association of University Women AAUW Austin (Texas) Branch

AAUW AUSTIN ANNUAL SUMMER MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL



WHEN:
Sunday, August 17 at 3:00 PM

HOST:
AAUW Austin Branch
512-550-6449

WHERE:
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
2128 Barton Hills Drive Austin, TX 78704

The big news for AAUW Austin is the upcoming
Membership Social on Sunday, August 17th from 3 to 5 p.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, located at 2128 Barton Hills Drive and Barton Skyway, has agreed to let us use its parish hall, and we are very appreciative. We depend on area churches, as they are gracious in sharing facilities with community groups. The church has easy access and plenty of parking. Look for our signs!

The church can be reached from South MoPac and the Bee Cave Road exit, which will take you to Barton Springs Road through Zilker Park. Turn **RIGHT** onto Robert E. Lee, and **RIGHT** again onto Barton Hills Drive. Travel about a mile and a half until you reach the church. Alternatively, one can travel to South Lamar and turn onto Barton Skyway. The church is at the intersection of Barton Hills Drive and Barton Skyway.

Watch your inbox for an evite and share it with your friends, neighbors, and colleagues!

Diane Brewer, Membership Vice President
zdramamom@austin.rr.com

FROM BRANCH PRESIDENT ANITA KNIGHT

The following Austin branch members joined over 100 other AAUW members at the 46th biennial AAUW-TX Convention in Hurst in April: **Dr. Carol Fritz, Inés Garcia, Anita Knight, Soon Merz, Elizabeth Newell, Judy Reinhart, and Pam Wolfe.** The Austin Branch received recognition as one of the top ten contributing branches to national AAUW Funds, as well as a REAP award for reaping the benefits of membership through Research, Education, Advocacy and Philanthropy. The theme of the convention was POSITIVITY, and lots of positive information was shared (although the movie about the TX State Board of Education *The Revisionaries* and some topics like cuts in women's health care access were hardly positive). A memorable quote from Mark Hopkins, new chief strategy officer of AAUW, was that AAUW is the "Procter & Gamble of the Women's Movement," meaning to me that we have been and continue to be a big and basic player. So should we also be a household name? Attending AAUW meetings at state, regional, and/or national levels is always instructive and inspiring! The summer issue of *UWT* (University Woman Texas) newsletter has more highlights and lots of photos from this convention. You can download or read this colorful publication online at aauw-tx.aauw.net.

The screening of the movie *Yoga Woman* in April was a successful fundraiser to benefit the Ann Richards American Fellowship Fund with just over \$1000 submitted to this national fund. We sold 80 tickets; and about 60 attended, enjoyed the yoga stretch, the film and the panel discussion (with **Lila Igram**, Jaclyn, our yoga instructor; and **Marsha Endahl Kramer**). Several people decided to come at the last minute after seeing the great publicity in the Sunday paper.

Our TUGG committee included **Lilac Bauer, Jean Bessent, Bergan Casey, Elaine Diefenderfer, Dr. Sylvia Garcia, Lila Igram, Marsha Endahl Kramer, Shiprah Meditz, Mary Ellen Scribner, Dr. Janet Widoff and Anita Knight.** Special thanks go to Marsha and **Soon Merz** for the film event's "reception desk" for name tags and MONEY handling!!!!

Mary Ellen Scribner commented that there were "very positive outcomes including the opportunity for us to work together and get to know each other better. And it was a learning experience that will pay off in future fundraising efforts. We made some good choices—the movie was excellent, and the spirit of the evening was so enthusiastic." She "loved seeing people from thirty-something to over eighty enthusiastically participating in the yoga exercises!"

Anita Knight, Branch President

dbasknight@aol.com

512.329.8575



Top l-r: Pam Wolfe, Anita Knight at the convention. Next: Elizabeth Newell, Judy Reinhart also busy at the convention.

Lower: Yoga stretch before viewing *Yoga Woman*; committee members l-r: Anita Knight, Bergan Casey, Soon Merz.



August Calendar of Branch Activities

August 4, 2-4 p.m. Board meeting. Yarborough BL.
Contact: Anita Knight
512.329.8575.

August 17, 3-5 p.m. Membership Open House & Summer Social. St. Mark's Episcopal Church Parish Hall (2128 Barton Hills Dr.). Contact: 512.328.0474 or zdramamom@austin.rr.com (Diane Brewer).

Looking Ahead to September

September 8, 2-4 p.m. Board meeting. Yarborough BL.
Contact: Anita Knight
512.329.8575.

September 13, 10 a.m. Branch Meeting & Program. Norris Conference Center, North Cross Mall (2525 W Anderson Ln #365, Austin, TX 78757). Contact: Diane Brewer @ zdramamom@austin.rr.com or 512.328.0474.

September 24, 10:00 a.m. Fourth Wednesday Art Tour. Planner: Ruth Rubio. A visit to Studio 10 Art Gallery with sculptor/painter Augusto Brocca. (1011 West Lynn Street). Lunch at Cipollina West Austin Bistro (1213 West Lynn St.) www.cipollina-austin.com
Contact: Diane Brewer, zdramamom@austin.rr.com.

All interest groups begin meeting in September. Look for the complete schedule in the September newsletter.

BRANCH PROGRAMS & EVENTS SCHEDULE FOR 2014-2015

August 17 (Sunday) 3-5 p.m.	Membership Open House St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2128 Barton Hills Drive Contact: Diane Brewer
September 13 (Saturday) 10 a.m.	"Carole Keeton's Perspective on Austin" - Carole Keeton Norris Center, Northcross Mall Contact: Lynn Cooksey
October 8 (Wednesday) 10 a.m.	"Public Policy & Women's Power" - Dr. Shirley Franklin Austin Woman's Club Contact: Dr. Carol Fritz
November 8 (Saturday) 10 a.m.	"A Conversation with Don Toner at the Austin Playhouse" - Don Toner, Director Austin Playhouse, Highland Mall Contact: Diane Brewer
December 14 (Sunday) 3-5 p.m.	Holiday Open House Place: TBA Contact: Judy Reinhart
January 10 (Saturday) 10 a.m.	"Challenges, Strengths in Austin Public Schools Today" - Dr. Michael O'Malley, Jennifer Griffis, Sylvia Flannery GirlStart Contact: Freda Bryson
February 14 (Saturday) 10 a.m.	"Role of Tejanas in Spanish and Mexican Texas" - Dr. Frank de la Teja Norris Center, Northcross Mall Contact: Dr. Sylvia Garcia
March 11 (Wednesday) 10 a.m.	"Human Trafficking in Austin and Beyond" - Dr. Noel Busch Armendariz Norris Center, Northcross Mall Contact: Ruth Rubio
April 8 (Wednesday) 10 a.m.	"Where Has All the Water Gone?" - Laura Huffman Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Contact: Larie Amsler
May 9 (Saturday) 10 a.m.	The University of Texas Fellowships, Officer Installation, & Memorials Norris Center, Northcross Mall Contact: Joyce Pulich

MEMBERSHIP NEWS FROM DIANE BREWER

Once again, the August 17th social will highlight our missions and funds, our many interest groups, and voter registration. This is an important election year—especially since so many women are running for statewide office. Refreshments will be served, and there will be door prizes! Please plan on dropping by for a visit, bringing a friend, if possible, and helping us jumpstart our 2014-2015 year of activities. We have terrific branch meetings lined up all year, and you can learn more about them. **Prez Anita** will be off celebrating her 50th anniversary with husband Don, but Co-Prez **Inés García** will be on hand to make you feel welcome. Look at the back of the evite for a list of small items (see list on page 7) you might bring to support Mainspring Schools and Girlstart.

The social is also a great place for those of you who have not yet renewed your dues, to do so. Those of you who have submitted them already are very appreciated. Brand new members signing up on August 17th will be able to benefit from national's Shape the Future campaign and get a year's membership for only \$50.50. We can offer half price on national dues at special events. So, encourage your friends to come and give us a try. Austin AAUW gets better and bigger every year!

We are delighted to welcome new member **Vandana Nayak**, a friend and neighbor of **Janani Janakiraman** and daughters, Student Affiliate **Divia Ramamoorthy**, and the awesome twins Priya and Kavya Ramamoorthy, who with Maanasa Nathan and Smrithi Mahadevan have been winners in the National History contest. Vandana, husband Najit, and their two children, Neethi, a sophomore at Rice University, and 8th grader Eesha, live at 9512 Aire Libre Drive, Austin, TX 78726-2455. Vandana earned her M.S. in engineering from Michigan Technological University in 1993 and specializes in eCommerce product management, website usability, and user experience. She has already expressed an interest in working on our growing web presence, social media, and ease of use! She is the director of product management, at Bankrate, Inc. Her phone is 512.825.6675, and her email is nayakvandana@gmail.com. Welcome Vandana! We hope to have your influence present in our technological growth.

In other member news, we have some good news/bad news announcements: **Veronica Johnson** and **Dorothy Vance**, both valued members for years, moved away last year, while keeping their Austin memberships. The good news is that both Veronica and Dorothy have become very active in their new states with local AAUW branches and are very

happy. Veronica loves being back in Minnesota, and Dorothy has joined not one, but two branches in Colorado. Dorothy also wants everyone to know they have finally settled in a permanent home, and she would like for you to have her new address: 8540 East Bellewood Place; Denver, CO, 80237. Phone is still the same, as is her email address. The bad news is that they will no longer affiliate with Austin. We have missed them all year, but are very happy they have found new relationships in new branches.

Longtime member **Theresa Robbins** recently came back to us after a year's hiatus, and we are certainly glad! **Martha Van Sickle** is no longer able to participate and has withdrawn her membership. We will miss her! We have several other members who have decided not to renew, but we appreciate knowing their wishes. We hate to lose anyone, but our membership is a growing, changing group, as it must be, today.

Those of us who play in AAUW's bridge groups are concerned about a wonderful bridge player of many years in AAUW, **Joyce Wallace**, who is ailing. She would appreciate cards wishing her well.

Good news came our way recently when we learned that member **Monica Benoit-Beatty** was recognized by the YWCA Greater Austin on June 20 with a 2014 Woman of the Year—Lifetime Achievement Award. [see page 6 for more information] She is among five honorees whose presence in the community inspires, leads, and helps others. Congratulations, Monica!

Most of the membership has been traveling a LOT this summer. We hope you come back to us with great stories and terrific experiences to share. In the meantime, get excited—2014-2015 is going to be a GREAT year in AAUW Austin!

Diane Brewer

Membership Vice President

zdramamom@austin.rr.com or 512.328.0474

CLASSIFIED

Looking for a chair for the AAUW Austin Funds Committee. Do you have strong organizational, planning & leadership skills? Phone branch president Anita Knight for more details and a full job description. (512.329.8575)

FOLLOW UP from 2013 BRANCH FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

At the May branch meeting, members learned about the research objectives of the women awarded fellowships for the 2014-2015 academic year. As a requirement associated with accepting fellowships, the 2012-2013 AAUW fellowship recipients reported on their progress and use of the funds during the past academic year. Some excerpts from those reports follow:

Brittany Needham reported that the fellowship allowed her to purchase a new laptop with the capability to process and analyze large amounts of data. This helped her to understand how the lipids in bacterial samples are remodeled in changing surroundings. She hopes to use this information to design better vaccines. She used the remaining funds to attend the Kadner Institute in San Jose, California. The institute prepares graduate students for careers in microbiology through development of grant writing and scientific presentation. Next year she will be a postdoctoral fellow at Caltech. Brittany believes having the AAUW fellowship on her resume helped her get that prestigious position.

Katherine Bannar-Martin wrote that the AAUW fellowship covered her tuition for the last academic year, reducing her financial stress. She is working full-time as a Research Coordinator in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta doing health research and data analysis, while finishing up the last two chapters of her dissertation. One chapter of her dissertation has been accepted for publication. She received an award from the Department of Anthropology and an honorable mention presentation award at the Annual Association of Physical Anthropologists meeting.

Molly Polk appreciates the honor of being an AAUW fellow. The fellowship funds allowed her to focus on her dissertation research with some financial stress alleviated. She attended the Association of American Geographers annual meeting in April organizing a session called "Mountain Landscapes and Communities in a Changing World." The meeting organizers asked her to hold the session again in 2015. She was elected to serve as the graduate student representative for the Association's Landscape Specialty Group. She submitted a manuscript to Geography Compass that reviews all published proglacial wetland research and suggests future research opportunities. Molly finished her data collection in Peru in July. She is currently analyzing satellite imagery and working to complete social survey interviews in collaboration with a Peruvian female student. She says that local collaboration providing opportunities for women to participate in scientific research is a mission she shares with the AAUW.

Viktoriya Rybalko used the fellowship funds to pay for tuition, software needed for her dissertation research, and costs associated with attending a professional conference. She has one paper that is currently being reviewed for publication and another one that is getting ready to be published. Both papers deal with potential therapies to enhance muscle regeneration, one using macrophage-mediated cell therapy, the other using degradable bio matrix with special chemokine/growth factor attached to it. She has started another project to look at the effects of stem cell delivery on regeneration after tourniquet-induced ischemia/reperfusion injury. She hopes to publish one or two more papers on the stem cell topic before graduation next year.

Summer Harlow reported that the AAUW fellowship paid for transcriptions of interviews and coding of Facebook content. The funds supported writing her dissertation that focused on how alternative and grassroots media projects in El Salvador are incorporating digital technologies, and the resultant impact on citizen access to and participation in the media process. Her larger objective was understanding alternative media's role in enabling citizen participation in technology and through technology when access to, and understanding of, that technology is limited by the digital divide. Thanks to the AAUW fellowship she was able to complete her dissertation and graduate in May 2014. This fall she will join the faculty of Florida State University's College of Communication and Information as an assistant professor, where she will teach social media and international communication.



Summer Harlow in Peru

Joyce Pulich, UT Fellowships Chair
joycepulich@sbcglobal.net

PUBLIC POLICY

On April 24, 2014, AAUW-TX President Jeannie Best and members from San Antonio, Harlingen, Abilene, Lubbock, and San Marcos joined members of the Austin Branch on the steps of the Capitol to stand up for Texas Women. We were pleased to have Malinda Gaul, AAUW National Representative; **Inés Garcia**, AAUW-TX State Financial Officer; Rosemarie Herrmann, AAUW-TX Legislative Chair; Mynda McGuire; Elka Jaross; and Melodia Gutierrez, State Organizer for Texas, on the steps with us.



AAUW Texas President Jeannie Best Speaks

The “Road Show to the Convention” was designed so the presentation of our petitions to the Governor’s Office would be seen as a statewide effort. Malinda Gaul; Jeannie Best; Maria-Luisa Popescu, AAUW Student Advisory Committee; Stewart Snider, co-president of the Austin League of Women Voters; and Lisa Paul, Deputy Communications Director of the Texas Democratic Party, spoke from the steps of the Capitol. Following this, we adjourned to a hearing room, and were motivated by Representatives Donna Howard and Elliott Naishtat to visit the offices of state senators and representatives, on a prearranged schedule.

Unfortunately, there was an insufficient number of petitions collected statewide to make a presentation. One plan is to collect more signatures (including an online push) and make a presentation in October; however, Freda Bryson (incoming Austin Public Policy Chair) and I think it might be better to aim for the next Pay Equity Day (in April). Although the statewide numbers are not available, I believe Austin did as well as any branch, even though our numbers were quite low.

Throughout the state, there are twenty-two branches without a public policy chair.

Our efforts over the next few years should be spent getting Texas women out to vote, if we hope to influence pay equity and other women’s issues. There is a large number of registered women in Texas who fail to vote. It is difficult to understand why this is so, but we need to solve this. My mother, in Pennsylvania, voted in every election since women got the right to vote, and continued this in Texas, voting two weeks before her death at age 104. She told how her friends went with her the first time she voted because they had never seen a women vote! I wish we could generate similar excitement.

Dr. Carol Fritz
Public Policy
bearcat@austin.rr.com

BRANCH MEMBER HONORED



Monica Benoit-Beatty (third from left) is pictured with Marsha Endahl Kramer, Shiphrah Meditz, Anita Knight.

Branch member **Monica Benoit-Beatty** received the Life Time Achievement award from the Greater Austin YMCA at its Women of the Year Awards Soiree on June 20, 2014, at the W Hotel. She has participated in numerous events, served on countless Central Texas non-profit boards, volunteering her time and leadership skills to such diverse groups as GlobalAustin, the Girl Scouts of America, and the Texas Tech Parents Association. Monica is a 1985 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin.

MEMORIAL BOOKS ADDED TO THE AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Austin Public Library reported that the books listed below have been purchased in memory of our recently deceased members and will be shelved in the collection at the John Henry Faulk Central Library. This is a branch tradition and takes place at the end of the program year.

- *A Sting in the Tale* by Dave Goulson – in memory of **Effat Mahmood Al Hossainy**
- *Voyaging in Strange Seas* by David Knight – in memory of **Patricia “Pat” V. Donnelly**
- *Enchanted Rock* by Lance Allred – in memory of **Annot Faye Millwee Littlepage**
- *Reading Style: A Life in Sentences* by Jenny Davidson – in memory of **Jane Smoot**

MAY 17 MEETING HAD FULL AGENDA

Branch members enjoyed hearing from and visiting with five of the 2014 fellowship recipients. The sixth was unable to attend because she was at a conference. Pictured below are (l-r) Ju Hee Lee and Jennifer Scott.



For each gift of \$500 to AAUW funds in 2013 from the Austin Branch, a member can be recognized for dedication to the mission of AAUW. This year the Branch was able to honor seven members. Named gift honorees were:

- **Wendell Harwell** (Marina's husband) for professional accounting with Treasurer **Marina Rivers**.

- **Linda Young** for Pelosi event logistics and representing us at the U.N.
- **Mary Ellen Scribner** for consistently professional newsletter.
- **Dr. Kay Keys** for creative help with the website and archives.
- **Dr. Mary Braunagel-Brown** for endowment of INSPIRE Leadership Program for women at U.T. Austin.
- **Lilac Bauer** for persistent mission action with Girlstart & Latinitas.
- **Dr. Carol Fritz** for dedicated public policy petitions and local & state advocacy events.

Pat Rehm, president of AAUW Georgetown (and dual member with our branch), did the installation honors of the officers we elected at the April meeting.



Those officers are (l-r) **Dr. Kay Keys** [secretary]; **Soon Merz** [co-treasurer]; **Diane Brewer** [membership vice president]; **Anita Knight & Inés Garcia** [co-presidents]; **Judy Reinhart, Ruth Rubio, & Janice Widoff** [a trio of program vice presidents]. **Pat Rehm** is behind Soon.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOSTS OF THE SUMMER SOCIAL

Please join us for light refreshments and meet our members. We are asking that you please bring a small item for one of our sponsored causes—Girlstart/Girls in STEM or Mainspring Schools:

- Copy paper, white
- Colored copy paper
- Pencils
- Duct tape
- Masking tape
- Multicolored paint pens
- Composition notebooks

ANN RICHARDS SCHOOL GRADUATES ITS SECOND CLASS AND SAYS THANK YOU FOR BRANCH SUPPORT

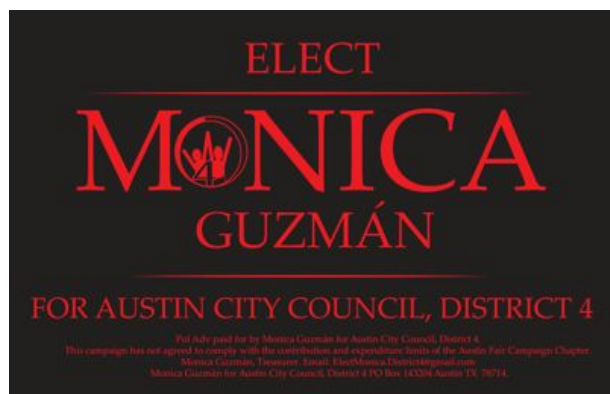
Jeanne Goka-Dubose, principal of the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, shared the successes at the school during the 2013-2014 school year. She reported:

- 52 Ann Richards Seniors
- 100% accepted into 4-year colleges
- 100% headed to college
- 100% completed FAFSA or TASFA (highest rate of any public school in Central Texas)
- \$6.1 million in merit-based scholarships/awards
- 6,000+ hours of service to the greater community
- 67% first generation in their families to attend college

Jeanne continues, "You had a BIG hand in this incredible success as we couldn't have done this without YOUR support, guidance, and help.... Thank you so much for all your enthusiasm, encouragement, and endeavors on behalf of our school."



BRANCH MEMBER IS A CANDIDATE FOR CITY COUNCIL IN DISTRICT 4



AAUW ACTION NETWORK

Lisa Maatz, AAUW's top policy adviser, writes:

It's time again for AAUW members to propose revisions to the AAUW Public Policy Program (PPP). As you know, this document <<http://www.aauw.org/resource/principles-and-priorities/>> establishes our organization's federal action priorities, and is updated and adopted every two years by One Member One Vote. The AAUW Public Policy Committee (APPC), chaired this year by Judy Pfeil of California, has begun the process. The feedback of members such as yourself is critical to a successful PPP.

I know the APPC is eager to hear from all of you. Thank you in advance – not only for your constructive comments on the current PPP, but for all you do for AAUW that improves the lives of women and girls.

Don't hesitate to be in touch if you have any questions.

Best, Lisa
AAUW

1111 Sixteenth St. NW
Washington, DC 20036

ROAD SHOW TO THE CONVENTION JULY 24, 2014



Melodia Gutierrez, State Organizer for Texas, speaks to branch members in a legislative hearing room at the Capitol as a part of the "Roadshow to the Convention" on July 24. Front to back: Lilac Bauer, Dr. Sylvia Garcia, Inés Garcia, and Dr. Kay Keys.

GIRLSTART & LATINITAS WITH LILAC BAUER



These girls admire the LED rings they made at a Girlstart summer camp.

Ready for another exciting year working with Girlstart and Latinitas, our two STEM projects? You will receive a list of items on your summer social invitation that Girlstart has on its website as a 'need' list for their award-winning After School Program. I hope to see a lot of items there at the social, and I will be glad to carry them over to Girlstart.

Anita Knight, **Inés Garcia**, and I spent a day driving and chaperoning the girls from three different Latinitas Summer Camps at the Dell Computer Plant in Round Rock. What fun! And thanks to **Ruth Rubio** and **Anita Knight** for helping Girlstart with data input from the girls' survey forms of their fantastic summer camps.

GIRLSTART: For this fall we are encouraging participation in Girlstart's major fundraiser, the Gamechangers Luncheon, on Thursday, October 30, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Westin Austin in The Domain. **Anita Knight** was on the selection committee for the Women in STEM Awards, and the winners will be honored at the

luncheon. We hope to reserve a table of ten as a show of support from AAUW, plus it is an incredibly fun event! Donations are tax deductible. We will also hold the January program at Girlstart's STEM Center located at 1400 W. Anderson Lane.

LATINITAS. There will be a number of volunteer opportunities to assist this fairly new girls' STEM organization, including help with registration and check-in at a Chica media conference, after-school mentoring, and other programs. They have a new, much larger and more girl-friendly headquarters at 4925 E. Cesar Chavez .

Please see me at the summer social, or send me an email, if you are interested in volunteering with Girls in STEM this year.

Lilac Bauer
Girlstart/Latinitas Liaison
la_azucena@hotmail.com