



American Association of University Women AAUW Austin (Texas) Branch

November 8 Branch Meeting Is at Austin Playhouse with Don Toner, Founder and Producing Artistic Director



With the heat of summer behind us and the prospect of the holidays ahead, there is no better time than November to visit with Don Toner at Austin Playhouse, the repertory theater he helped found in 2000. Toner is a veteran arts producer with over forty years of professional theatrical experience. He has been honored by Actors' Equity Association for his leadership among professional artists, and was recently nominated by State Representative Donna Howard to receive the Texas Medal of the Arts in recognition of his significant contributions to the arts in Texas.

Before founding Austin Playhouse, Toner spent thirteen years with Austin's Live Oak Theatre/State Theatre Company. He has also worked with some of the nation's most prominent professional theaters including Los Angeles Theatre Center, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and Bucks County Playhouse. With Austin Playhouse Toner is head of a theater company which includes his actress/artistic director daughter, Lara Toner Haddock, and his scene builder son, Mike Toner. The Playhouse is known for its stellar acting repertory company.

Historically, Austin Playhouse has been committed to building strong ties in the community. Throughout its past, the Playhouse has collaborated with other companies and worked extensively with local universities through co-productions, sponsored projects, internships, and student employment opportunities. Austin Playhouse also created a successful benefit performance program that has raised funds and awareness for over twenty Austin charities. Currently, the theatrical company is partnering with Austin Community College and makes it home in ACC's Highland Mall while fundraising and working to build a permanent home in the Mueller Town Center.



We will gather at the theater between 10 and 10:30 a.m. (a map and building access information on p. 2) on Saturday, November 8. A very brief business meeting will begin at 10:30, and then at 10:45 a.m. Mr. Toner will speak. The fun will continue with a picnic lunch eaten in and around the theater. Attendance does not require the purchase of a meal, but should you like to have a box lunch (catered by Jason's Deli), the cost of lunch is \$10.00, (cash or check at the door please). Lunch includes bottled water, chips, and a cookie. Your sandwich choices are chicken salad on a croissant; veggie sandwich on whole wheat; or ham and cheese on rye. Please let **Diane Brewer** know your sandwich choice when you make your reservation. The deadline for reservations is Wednesday evening, November 5, at 6 p.m. to Diane at zdramamom@austin.rr.com or 512.328.0474.



November Calendar of Branch Activities

November 3, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Contemporary Literature: Old Quarry BL. *Pluto Files: The Rise and Fall of America's Favorite Planet* (Neil de Grasse Tyson). Discussion leader: Dr. Carol Fritz. Chair: Fern Chester, 512.345.1102.

November 7, 10 a.m. First Friday Book Review. Hyde Park Church of Christ. *Delicious!* by Ruth Reichl. Reviewer: Evelyn Boyer. Host: Mary Frances Rogerson. Chair: Gayle Smith (512.345.5585).

November 8, 10 a.m. Branch meeting. A Conversation with Don Toner, Founder and Producing Artistic Director of Austin Playhouse, followed by a picnic lunch catered by Jason's Deli. The Austin Playhouse is located in Highland Mall. Make reservation by Wednesday evening, November 5, at 6 p.m. See p. 1 for complete program information.

November 10, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. SW Book Group. Home of hostess. *The Things They Carried* (Tim O'Brien). Hostess is Mary Lou Bell & facilitator is Dr. Ann Ellis. Chair: Inés Garcia, 512.444.5643.

November 12; 4 p.m. Second Wednesday Bridge. Contact: Lynn Cooksey, 512.477.2774.

November 18, 11 a.m. Out to Lunch: Green Pastures, 811 W Live Oak St. Hostess: Ruth Falck. RSVP to Chair: Ruth Falck (512.550.6449).

November 19, 10 a.m. Creative Stitchery. Home of hostess Elaine Penn (512.328.3100) and co-hostess Rachel Flake (512.343.1742).



Highland Mall is built into a hill. The Airport Blvd. (main) entrance is on the lower level. The South and North Entrances are on the upper level of the mall

The South Entrance (closest entrance): Take the escalator down to the lower level. Turn right. Austin Playhouse will be on your right across from the Express.

North Entrance: Take the escalator down to the lower level. Turn right. Austin Playhouse will be on your right across from the Express..

Main Mall Entrance from Airport Blvd: Turn left (North) at the Zales Jewelry Store; take a right at the next main corridor. Pass the restrooms and escalators. Austin Playhouse is on the right by the stairs and across from the Express.



November Calendar of Branch Activities

(continued from preceding page)

November 20, 6:30 p.m. Culture & Cuisine. Hostess: Barbara Houston; co-hostess: Elaine Penn. Theme is Cuba. Chair: Anneliese Ellerton (512.241.8425).

November 21, 8 a.m. Hiking. Turkey Creek Trail. Leader: Ruth Falck. Contacts: Ginny Tannebring (ginnyz@sbcglobal.net / 512.477.3579) or Beverly Locklin (blocklin@austin.rr.com / 512.343.0782).

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

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Not Meeting in November

Art Tour - Next tour is January 28, 2015.

PEARS - Christmas party is December 6.

4th Wednesday Bridge will not play in November.

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Pre-Election To-Do List for Women Voters



October 17, 2014 Ladies, are you ready to vote? Your role in an election is about much more than marking a ballot. You need to know your voting rights and learn about the midterm election before you vote.

Here's how to prepare:

1. Know what's at stake.

If you're a resident of Colorado, North Dakota, or Tennessee, your ballot will offer the chance to stand up for reproductive rights — and against restrictions on women's personal health choices. Also, in five states — Alaska, Arkansas, Illinois, Nebraska, and South Dakota — voters will decide whether to increase the minimum wage. Almost two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women, and raising the minimum wage would help shrink the gender pay gap.

2. Know the facts on the issues you care about.

Learn about the pay gap in your state and congressional district and about politicians' plans to close it. The AAUW Action Fund also offers important information leading up to the election.

3. Know what to bring on November 4.

Some states have made it harder for women, students, and minorities to access the polls. Look up what ID your state requires. Also, plug this phone number into your cell phone, or write it on a slip of paper: 866.OUR.VOTE (888.VE.Y.VOTA in Spanish). This is the number to call if you have trouble voting. Protect your vote!

4. Know where you're going.

Check out our at-the-polls resources, including a map to look up your polling location and hours, details on early voting, and information on voting by absentee ballot.

5. Know your power.

Women changed the outcome of elections in 2012. We can do that again.

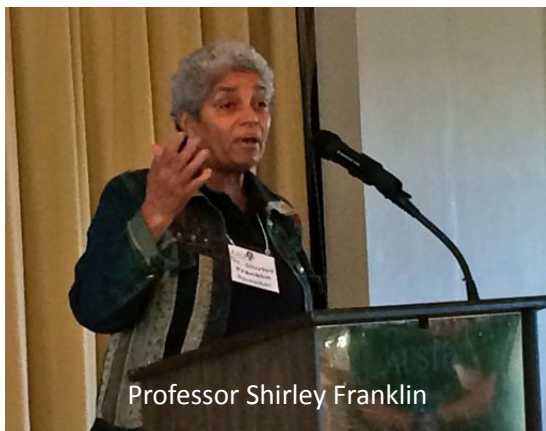
Study up, then speak up! Your vote is your voice. Be heard on Election Day.

<http://www.aauw.org/2014/10/17/to-do-list-for-women-voters/>

MEMBERSHIP NEWS with VP Diane Brewer

Our midweek October 8th Branch Meeting featuring Professor Shirley Franklin got off to a singular start when our much anticipated speaker was nearly a no-show! Planner **Dr. Carol Fritz** waited and waited, called and called, and yet got no response! It was iPhone maven **Marsha Endahl Kramer** who saved the day when she said, "Has anyone sent her a text?"

Well, texting is not on my list of skills, period, but Marsha is a master! Ms. Franklin, unknowingly shopping downtown in a computer store, answered the text immediately. She had mistaken her stint with us to be on Saturday, rather than our Wednesday! She was able to arrive in mere minutes!



Professor Shirley Franklin

Program VP **Judy Reinhart** arranged for the Woman's Club to serve a truly marvelous lunch a little early to allow Ms. Franklin, looking spiffy and quite undaunted by the surprise speaking engagement in her morning, to collect her thoughts! She then took the stage and spoke powerfully of her past roles as city manager, working with Mayor Andrew Young of Atlanta, Georgia, and of her own nine years as mayor of Atlanta. She spoke passionately about the transformation of the community of East Lake, outside of Atlanta.

This former crime-ridden, low-income area, a onetime urban failure, was transformed by a three-pronged approach involving dramatic upgrades in housing, education, and wellness. This community, once the worst in the country, remains a stellar example of positive change and possibility. She credited philanthropist Tom Cousins with having the vision and passion to effect the change, and longtime residents who demanded the exclusion of criminals in the new East Lake, Georgia.

She called herself the "sewer mayor" because she tackled the many violations of the Clean Water Act in her adopted hometown of Atlanta, working hard to make it green. She lightly touched on her back-

ground which is replete with accolades and honors, including a 2005 "Profiles in Courage Award," to talk about gender pay equity. She argued that a woman applying for a job should "ask for as much salary as she can get her mouth to say" and mentioned working with the U.S. Olympics Committee after making a fairly outrageous salary demand which they agreed to pay because they wanted her.

Our exciting branch meeting drew AAUW national fellow Anne Mikelonis, new members **Sue Ellen Jeffers**, Resa **Dunn**, **Jeanette O'Dell**, and **Judy Cook**. Members **Lynn Cooksey**, **Ruth Falck**, **Freda Bryson**, and **Asmahan Rasool** invited Merle Conley, Gayle Cannon, Tanya A. Long, and Faye Sigers, respectively. Freda's guest Tanya helped save the day as she had Ms. Franklin's cell number with her, leading to the helpful text. Even better, she also joined the branch, as did national AAUW member **Susan Morrison**, who also submitted her forms and dues for local affiliation at the meeting! We had four of our fifteen honorary members at the branch meeting, too: **Jerry Cassidy**, **Lillian Kwass**, **Nancy Myers**, and **Frances Tomlinson**. We are so fortunate to have these amazing women in our branch!

Crown jewel of AAUW **Fern Chester** recently shared some stories with me about another of our valued honorary members, **Betty Grubbs**, who turned 96 on May 15th! This treasured Taurus does not stay put even at her advanced age. She occasionally turns up for art tours and regularly attends UT sports events including football, women's basketball, and volleyball. She is a regular at a monthly gathering of friends at Kerbey Lane Café, and has been a happy participant in Quest and Nova. Though no longer driving, Betty loves to get around town whenever she can. She is known for writing lovely personal notes to friends in her exceptionally beautiful handwriting. Now, that's a skill that is disappearing, texters! Betty is a lifelong advocate for women's rights, stays mentally active, vibrant, personable, and courageous. Our incredible honorary members are all worth knowing if you have not yet met them.

Susan and Tanya, our two newest members, bring our current membership back up to 173. **Susan Morrison** has long been an AAUW supporter, and only recently realized the benefit of participating locally. She and husband John King reside in Central Austin, at 6005 Shoalwood Avenue, Austin 78757. Her home phone is 512.451.9808. Susan is a graduate of UT Austin in government and Spanish, earning her B.A. in 1980. She continued on to Baylor Law School, where she earned her J.D. in 1983, with a focus on administrative law. She is affiliated with the Fowler

(membership news continues on next page)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS with VP Diane Brewer

Law Firm, PC. Her email is kingmorr@aol.com. Susan has worked on the National Voter Registration Program in Austin and has been published in GINA (Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act) and through the National Council of School Attorneys. She has been recognized with the Secretary of State Community Service Award for voter registration, and as a path-finder for mentoring law students from Travis County Women Lawyers Association. She serves on the Texas Board of the League of Women Voters and serves as president and in the leadership circle for Communities in Schools, Central Texas. Besides the above, Susan is also active at St. John's United Methodist Church and is President of the Austin Kiwanis Club. She enjoys hiking, so perhaps she can find time to join our energetic hiking group. Welcome, Susan, and we certainly hope to see you at more branch meetings!

Ph.D. candidate **Tanya A. Long**, currently working with **Freda Bryson** in growing the new branch in San Marcos, took advantage of the Shape the Future campaign to join the Austin Branch. Tanya has a tantalizing musical background in opera! I am very excited about our growing number of accomplished musicians. Tanya lives at 112 West Avenue, Apt. 108 A in San Marcos, 78666. Her cell is 845.781.6146, and her email is tal57@txstate.edu. She earned her B.S. at New York University in 1990 studying elementary education. She continued on at NYU to attain her M.A. in music education. After finding her way to Central Texas, she began the work of earning a Ph.D. in school leadership at Texas State University. We can see a superintendent position in Tanya's future. The Austin AAUW board was recently very happy to show Tanya and Freda our support of their new branch efforts by ordering an AAUW banner for them to advertise their activities.

Elizabeth Newell, a former president consistently present at branch meetings, recently contacted me to apologize for having to miss the October 8 meeting. She related that only three weeks prior she had been diagnosed with breast cancer, had had surgery the week before the meeting, and though she wasn't yet up to attending our meeting, had been able to go to church the Sunday following her surgery. At the time of her writing, she had not yet received the pathology report, and so she was uninformed about her future treatment. Since that time we have learned that she is cancer free and will not have to undergo chemo. **Keep wearing pink**, folks!! Have you yet noticed the number of young people sporting hot pink socks this past month with their athletic gear? Breast cancer awareness is really going strong.

Former Program Veep **Sylvia Garcia** has had a rough month! She underwent total knee replacement, a procedure that has brought renewed vigor to many of us, but the healing process has been a challenge for Sylvia. Her intolerance to pain medications has made therapy difficult so her recovery has been slowed down a bit. We are rooting for Sylvia to find joy in ultimately moving without terrible knee pain. Get well fast, Sylvia!

Co-presidents **Anita Knight** and **Inés Garcia** have both been doing some major traveling most of October! The latter was in South America with her sister, but Prez Anita has been in Eastern Europe and amazingly keeping up with our branch via her iPhone! They are both to be back by publication and have been missed. Hope their travels were all they expected them to be.

It is very exciting to see our newest members showing up and getting to know branch members at lunches, hikes, book clubs, art tours, bridge, and branch meetings. I could go on and on about the deepening friendships I have acquired through this wonderful organization. Participation is the key, folks! My hat goes off to members like **Ruth Falck, Marina Rivers, Pam Wolfe, Brenda Scholin, Lynn Cooksey, Mary Ellen Scribner, Maggie Kadlecek, Elaine Penn, Judy Reinhart, Betty Owen, Dorothy Ramsey**, and others who consistently make it a point to offer a ride to those who live nearby or who need a ride. It is a benefit in so many ways. We lessen traffic, help the environment, get to know one another better, and offer a helping hand.

I hope to see lots of participation at our November 8 branch meeting featuring Austin Playhouse Producing Artistic Director Don Toner. Mr. Toner has graciously agreed to host us at his theater on the ground floor of the southeastern end of the ACC/Highland Mall facility. The marvelous theater is a transformed Fitting Stool about a hundred feet to the right of the escalator! Magical Don Toner has much to share about the challenges of operating a theater in Austin's rising real estate market. He has been determined, clever, and imaginative in meeting the challenge of rising rents in Austin. Many of our members are already fans of this theatre company, so come and learn why.

While on the subject of participation, it is not too early to consider how you might step up to leadership next year. The nominating committee will be working soon. On a personal note, two and a half years ago found me agreeing to do this job with absolutely no clue how to do it. It has worked out for me because of excellent help and guidance from those who have gone before. We all have so many different abilities, educations, and backgrounds. Nevertheless, we all have in common that we care about women and girls, and want AAUW to continue to help them realize their potential. Each of us brings a wealth of individual experiences to the table.

Each of us is capable of leadership, not necessarily exactly as it has been done before, but in a way that is appropriate for us. If you are called upon, please

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MORE MEMBERSHIP NEWS

don't consider why you cannot do, but why it just might be a singular growth opportunity that you CAN do!

Busy holidays and the ELECTION lie ahead! Don't forget to VOTE and support our own **Monica Guzman** in her Place 4 race for city council, or **Gigi Edwards Bryant**, who is in a race for Place 2 on the Austin Community College Board of Trustees! I was recently thrilled to see some well-placed yard signs supporting Gigi. Both women have strong roots in the community and AAUW, and deserve our support. And, while you are making your other candidate selections, please give all the women running for office a chance to show us that women can and will do it better. Remember Ginger Rogers's famous quip that she did everything Fred Astaire did, but backwards and in high heels? You go, GIRLS!!

We hope the coming weeks give you many opportunities to be with family and loved ones. Have a bountiful Thanksgiving! See you on November 8!

Diane Brewer
 Membership Vice President
zdramamom@austin.rr.com
 512.328.0474



MOTHER/DAUGHTER MEMBERS ENJOYED OCTOBER MEETING TOGETHER



Aurea Reyes and **Lillian Reyes-Gates** were already having a good time when Lillian won the door prize, a fruit cake from the Collin Street Bakery. Then, their smiles got even bigger!

“OUR GIRLS” RECEIVE ANOTHER HONOR



Date: Sun, Sep 7, 2014 at 7:39 PM

Subject: Myra Sadker Foundation

To: KMPS Title IX <97kmps@gmail.com>

Dear Kavya Ramamoorthy, Priya Ramamoorthy, Maanasa Nathan, and Smrithi Mahadevan
 Westwood High School
 Austin, Texas

The Myra Sadker Foundation Board is pleased to inform you that you have been selected as a recipient of a \$500 Myra Sadker Student Award. We are impressed by the quality of your project and your interest in pursuing and advancing gender equity. You have demonstrated determination and persistence in your efforts, qualities that will serve you well in the future.

On behalf of the board and myself, let me extend our congratulations. Your application reflects a thoughtful internet approach to help others understand gender issues generally and Title IX in specific. Your project follows in Myra's path of creating a more just and equitable society.

We would like to share your insights with others and describe your project on the Myra Sadker Foundation website next March 5, on Myra's birthday. Would you send us a two or three sentence description of your project suitable for posting on our web page? Please email it to dsadker@gmail.com.

Would you also send me the most appropriate mailing address to send you the \$500 award. We hope that you will continue to promote equity in your chosen career. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

David Sadker, President
 The Myra Sadker Foundation
 6988 N. Chula Vista Reserve Place
 Tucson, AZ 85704

ABOUT THE BRANCH NEWSLETTER

The newsletter that you will receive on or just before December 1 will combine the December and January issues. It will have information about branch events and meetings for both months as well as the interest group calendars for both months. The January branch meeting/program is on Saturday, the 10th, and you will receive an email reminder in time to make your reservation for what promises to be an excellent public policy program.

As Diane mentioned in her membership news, a nominating committee will soon be busy looking for a new president to serve for the 2015-2017 term. Although newsletter editor is not an elective office, I am also beginning a search for a replacement who would like to take over the job at the same time as the new president does. A new president and newsletter editor might want to change the format or method of delivery. For example, they might decide to follow the example of AAUW Texas and use Mail Chimp; or use simple emails a couple of times a month; or have it available online for members to access. I am happy to discuss the current job description, answer questions about the process I follow, etc. Give me a call or send an email if you are interested in becoming an important part of the new board beginning next summer.



Mary Ellen Scribner
maryescribner@gmail.com
 512.255.8428



The art tour interest group visited the studio of sculptor Augusto Brocca in September.

FRANCES MALMBERG ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The Frances Malmberg Endowed Scholarship for the 2014-15 academic year has been awarded to ACC student Maylin Molina in the amount of \$2500. Maylin is pursuing a degree in kinesiology at ACC and plans to transfer after graduation to earn a degree in nursing. She has a 3.87 cumulative GPA.

Maylin started volunteering at a nursing home through a class she took, and in that experience she found her calling in geriatric nursing. She continues to volunteer, and with the activities coordinator, created a Spelling Bee Tuesday event. They found that it exercised the residents' memory and improved their verbal skills. In addition to her volunteer service and her courses at ACC, Maylin also works a part-time job.

Upon learning that she had received the scholarship, Maylin wrote: "Thank you so very much for your generosity. It is a great privilege to receive a helping hand from the AAUW in my journey to become a professional. I hope one day I will be able to help other students achieve their goal just as you have helped me."



HERE'S HOW YOU CAN REALLY, REALLY HELP THE BRANCH!

Are you an organized, friendly, thoughtful gal who enjoys throwing a party now and then? If so, you would be a great Funds Chair for the branch. That position has been vacant since summer, and the co-presidents and the VPs have been trying to keep that ball rolling along with their own and are in need of immediate relief! A number of members are willing to "help" but they don't want to be the one "in charge." Please accept that challenge!

If you have any doubts about the importance of this appointed board position, take a look at this website: <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/>. In cooperation with all the other AAUW branches in the country, we are empowering women through legal advocacy, education funding, research funding, leadership training, and much more. "When we unite, our voices are much more powerful."

Mary Ellen Scribner
 Editor