



## American Association of University Women AAUW Austin (Texas) Branch

### Dr. Frank de la Teja to Speak at February 14 Branch Meeting

Historical writing on early Texas is dominated by tales of explorers, missionaries, and soldiers, all occupations exclusive to men. Yet, from the earliest days of the Texas frontier, women made up a considerable portion of the pioneer population. This month's presentation titled, "Hispanic Women in Early Texas," will present an overview of the status and roles of women in the birth and early development of the region we now call Texas through the time of the Texas Revolution. The speaker is Dr. Jesus F. De La Teja, noted historian and Director of the Center for the Study of the Southwest, Texas State University; San Marcos, Texas.



The Norris Center, located at 2525 West Anderson Lane (corner of Anderson Lane and Burnet Road at Northcross Center) will be the venue for this February 14 meeting and lunch. The Valentine's Day menu selection features lemon caper chicken in a white wine, lemon and caper sauce; scalloped potatoes; and a strawberry and pecan garden salad. Dessert will be a selection of mini pastries; iced tea and coffee will be provided. Vegan and gluten free needs can be accommodated, and this request should be indicated at the time you make your reservation. As a Valentine treat, the Center will provide complimentary scones and coffee at the beginning of our meeting. Parking is plentiful and free, and there is easy access to the facility.

The cost of the program and luncheon is \$30 payable at registration—check or exact cash are appreciated by the treasurer and the membership VP. A change in policy at the last board meeting was that members and guests attending only the meeting/program but not staying for lunch would pay a \$5 chair/service fee. Reservations are also needed for this option. The reservation deadline is midday on Monday, February 9, and can be made by email to Membership VP **Diane Brewer** at [zdramamom@austin.rr.com](mailto:zdramamom@austin.rr.com) or by phone at 512.328.0474.

Dr. de la Teja has published extensively on Spanish, Mexican, and Republic-era Texas, and most recently edited a volume of biographies, *Tejano Leadership in Mexican and Revolutionary Texas*.

"It is nearly criminal that we have had so little reliable biographical work on the major leaders of Mexican and Revolutionary Texas. With this book, that all changes. It is a major achievement."—Gregg Cantrell, professor of history, Texas Christian University

#### February 14, 2015

#### Norris Conference Center

**10 a.m.** - Registration & name tags; coffee, tea, & scones

**10:30-10:45 a.m.** - Brief business meeting

**10:45-11:45 a.m.** - Speaker followed by Q&A

**11:45 a.m.** - Lunch

## February 2015 Calendar of Branch Activities

**February 2, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Contemporary Literature:** Old Quarry BL. *The Sandcastle Girls* (Chris Bojalian). Discussion leader: Ginny Tannebring. Chair: Fern Chester, 512.345.1102.

**February 3, 10 a.m. Public Policy Rally for Equal Pay at the Capitol.** See announcement this page for more information.

**February 6, 10 a.m. First Friday Book Review.** Hyde Park Church of Christ. *State of Wonder* (Anne Patchett); reviewer Lilac Bauer. Hostess: Evelyn Boyer. Chair: Gayle Smith (512.345.5585).

**February 9, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. SW Book Group.** Home of hostess. *Warriors Don't Cry*. (Melba Patillo Beals). Hostess is Ruth Rubio & facilitator is Bari Sandstedt. Chair: Inés García, 512.444.5643.

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

**February 14; 10 a.m. Branch Meeting.** Norris Conference Center. Make reservation by **February 9** with Diane Brewer: [zdramamom@austin.rr.com](mailto:zdramamom@austin.rr.com) or 512.328.0474.

**February 17, 11 a.m. Out to Lunch:** Jack Allen's Kitchen. Hostess: Maggie Kadlecek. RSVP to Chair: Ruth Falck (512.550.6449).

**February 18, 10 a.m. Creative Stitchery.** Hostess: Kay Goodwin; co-hostess: Dorothea Berasley. Chair: Fern Chester, 512.345.1102.

**February 19, 6:30 p.m. Culture & Cuisine.** Hostess: Fern Chester. Co-hostess: Jan Roberts. Chair: Anneliese Ellerton (512.241.8425).

## PRESIDENTIAL GREETINGS

The new calendar year finds AAUW Austin in a great place. Our membership continues to grow, members have contributed time and effort to our two groups that develop young women, and members have volunteered to raise extra funds from the public in holiday events. Our website is the envy of other branches, thanks to our exceptionally talented tech professionals. The monthly programs have attracted large audiences for their stimulating themes, and our newsletter continues to impress with its timely content and visual appeal. "What else?" might you ask?

Beyond sustaining the zeal to keep our standards high, the remaining months of this fiscal year will see efforts by members in a variety of areas. The nominating committee will present a slate of officers for membership approval later in the spring. The Board would like to solicit funds from the public in an effort to support a young woman from one of our universities to attend a leadership conference in Washington. We would welcome one of our members taking the initiative to plan such a fundraising event. Another Branch fundraising goal is to continue to fund the Ann Richards American Fellowship Fund at AAUW. Our membership has been generous in their support of this fellowship, but raising funds in our community would greatly augment the potential growth of this Fund. Once again, anyone of our members is more than qualified to spearhead this type of effort.

We have an exciting program meeting planned in February. Dr. Frank de la Teja is an avid researcher of Spanish and Mexican Texas history. He will focus on the contributions of women in this period. Plan on attending a most informative and entertaining talk! The Norris Center will attempt to redeem its image with our group and promises to do a superlative job with our experience there. Come give them a try.

María Inés García, Co-President 2014-2015  
mig43@sbcglobal.net  
512.444.5643

### PUBLIC POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT

AAUW Texas Public Policy will lobby at the Capitol on February 3 at 10:00 a.m. Please meet at the south entrance of the Capitol. If you are unable to join us on that day, take a minute or two to call, email, or tweet your legislator to support equal pay in Texas on February 3. We are looking to raise awareness on equal pay in the State and plan to make a notable presence at the Capitol each month until the close of the session. **Tonya Long** and I are planning to write the editor of the San Marcos paper on the issues of equal pay and school choice, and we are asking Austin members to write their local papers on the same issues.

Freda Bryson, Public Policy Chair  
1.334.531.1157  
[fbryson@hotmail.com](mailto:fbryson@hotmail.com)

**February 2015 Calendar of Branch Activities**

(continued from preceding page)

**February 21, 1 p.m. PEARS.**

Attend the UT-Iowa St. men's basketball game with no-host dinner to follow. Contact Dixie/Arlo Schurle at [arlodixie.schurle@gmail.com](mailto:arlodixie.schurle@gmail.com) for \$20 tickets.

**February 25, 10 a.m. Art Tour.**

Emma Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River Street, Austin 78701; Lunch: Juan in a Million, 2300 E. Cesar Chavez Street, Planner: Louise Jordan. RSVP to chair: Diane Brewer at [zdramamom@austin.rr.com](mailto:zdramamom@austin.rr.com).

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

**February 27, 8 a.m. Hiking.**

Mayfield Park. Contact: Beverly Locklin at 512.343.0782 or [blocklin@austin.rr.com](mailto:blocklin@austin.rr.com).

**First two weeks of February** volunteers needed at Girlstart. See p. 9.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**March 16. Latinitas Spring Break Camp.**

Volunteers needed to help with registration 8:00- 10:30a.m. More volunteers needed morning and afternoon to chaperone activities.

**April 11. Girlstart STEM Conference.**

Travis High School. Some volunteers needed on day of conference but many more are needed to help get ready for it. See p. 9.

**June 18-21. National AAUW Conference.**

San Diego, CA. Several branch members are planning to go. Check with co-presidents Anita Knight or Inés García if you would like more information.

**LETTER FROM THE TREASURER**

Happy 2015 everyone! Just to let all of you know the 6-month year-to-date (YTD) status of the Austin Branch finances.

Overall, we have held our expenses in line with monies received. For the 2014-2015 forecast/budget, we predicted 160 members. Thanks to the efforts of **Diane Brewer**, VP of membership, our member count is at 180! I want to extend a big thank you to all of you who have invited guests to the various functions throughout the first half of the year and encouraged them to join Austin AAUW!

There has been a steady and generous stream of donations from the members to support our local organizations: Girlstart, Mainspring Schools, STEM and Latinitas. Additionally, thanks to the efforts of **Janani Janakirsmen**, IBM donated \$1000 towards the STEM program (see p. 8).

The biggest challenge is to keep our meeting costs in line with the prices charged. We do not try to make a profit, only to break even each month for the meals, speaker's lunch/gift certificate, and room costs (i.e., clean-up, set-up, etc.) Kudos to **Judy Reinhart**, **Ruth Rubio**, and **Dr. Janet Widoff** of the program committee for planning some excellent speakers and different venues.

Finally, I would urge you to renew your annual membership early (March) so the Board has an idea of the future income for 2015-2016. I have served as treasurer for the past two years and will step down in June for **Soon Merz** to assume the job. Thanks to all of you who have made these past two years so great!!

Sincerely,

Marina M. Rivers, Treasurer  
512.386.1905  
marinarivers@gmail.com

**Financial Summary for the Six Months Ended December 31, 2014**

Branch Income	\$4,916	
Branch Expenses	<u>-1,189</u>	
Net		<u>\$3,727</u>

**Cash in checking account December 31, 2014 = \$5,732**



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS with VP Diane Brewer

It has been so long since we last visited! Scribe Mary Ellen went on a holiday vacation necessitating a two-month newsletter for December/January, and since then, a lot has happened! We had a social in December; our own **Gigi Edwards Bryant** WON her run-off election to the ACC Board of Trustees, place 2; we gained five members; and our much anticipated January branch meeting on Austin's educational challenges had to be cancelled due to the threat of icy roads. Nearly fifty people were on board to attend this worthwhile session, which looks to be rescheduled for the fall.

At our December Former Presidents' Open House, we were royally entertained by the regal writer, Babette Hughes, who began writing in her eighties, and now, having reached her early nineties, has published her third book. Tall and beautiful, this admitted child of a bootlegger, entered the room in two-and-a-half inch heels, arranged herself on a chair, and read beautifully from her autobiography, *Lost and Found*. Her strong, expressive voice shared her childhood curiosity about her murdered father and the secret shame her mother felt at the manner of his death. She described her descent at the age of twelve into the moldy basement of the local library and shaking as she demanded to see archived newspapers detailing her father's death at the hand of the mafia. She was never able to share her knowledge with her mother, who persisted in holding her terrible secret.

Babette walks two miles and writes each day, and her lithe body is free of arthritis. She signed a half dozen copies of *Lost and Found* purchased by her excited audience. One of her two novels, *The Hat*, is making the rounds in our branch. Babette is one for the books for sure!

The open house included former presidents **Kay Goodwin, Judy Reinhart, Brenda Scholin, Pam Wolfe, Elizabeth Newell, Delia Quintanilla, Nancy Myers**, and current co-presidents **Inés Garcia** and **Anita Knight**. We forty attendees were joined by a brand new member, **Suong Vong**, who also happens to be an AAUW National Fellow, and **Martha Van Sickle**, who rejoined after a brief hiatus. New member **Suzy Lindeman Snyder** was there with her two daughters, member **Anne Wheat** and Carol Lindeman. It was a lovely occasion to kick off holiday spirits.

This election season was a tough one. One of our members, **Monica Guzman**, ran for the new 10-member city council and did not make it this go around, but **Gigi Bryant**, not only made it to the run-off, she was elected. I like to think that in a poor turnout like we saw in this election, a bloc of votes by our members might have made a difference.



Gigi Edwards Bryant with State Senator Kirk Watson at the swearing in ceremony for new ACC board members (Photo courtesy of Senator Watson)

**Martha** made her move to Westminster this past summer and thought she would be unable to participate very much in branch activities, so she did not rejoice as usual. Our crew of angels, **Ruth Falck, Lois Shaevel, Judy Reinhart, Lynn Cooksey, Mary Ellen Scribner, and Dr. Janet Widoff**, to name a few, have been making a big effort to scoot by and pick up some of our members who no longer drive to ensure they can attend our functions. Martha is very pleased to be back with us! She can be reached at 4100 Jackson Avenue, Apt. #510, Austin 78731. Martha is a great emailer ([marthavs@comcast.net](mailto:marthavs@comcast.net)), and her phone number is 512.243.7190.

**Sara Huff**, a busy mother, wife, and student working to complete her undergraduate degree from Texas Tech, contacted us in December and submitted her application and dues. Sara is employed with Preferred Association Management Company and works as a community association manager. She lives with her husband Carter and 3-1/2-year old Iris at 5917 Green Acres, Austin, 78727. Her cell is 512.745.1508, and her email is [sara.huff@ttu.edu](mailto:sara.huff@ttu.edu). Like several other of our members, she enjoys music and is involved with Chorus Austin! I hope we will get an opportunity to visit with her soon. Texas Tech is allowing her to complete her course of general studies at home via computer. Bravo to the information age!

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS with VP Diane Brewer

I first met new member **Alexis Ott**, when she was visiting with **Anita and Don Knight**. She came along to a couple of our branch meetings and just recently decided to join us officially! Alexis joined as a student affiliate, but according to Prez Anita, she has now completed her degree making congratulations in order.

Alexis is the granddaughter of Don's cousin. According to Anita, Don's Aunt Rosalia Knight Ott, was ahead of her time as both an adventuress and an athlete. In the 1920s she excelled as a college athlete, and this was prior to Title IX making this a real option for girls. A fun fact is that Aunt Rosalia, at 75 and deaf, went on a barefoot cruise. Anita says Alexis has inherited Rosalia's spirit and love of life. The Knights are basically New Englanders, but Alexis nevertheless found her way from Connecticut to Texas and is now a member of our branch. Alexis is working with a small startup now that she has completed her degree. Her address is 1515 Wickersham Lane, Austin, 78741; her mobile is 203.962.1469; and her email address is [luluott@gmail.com](mailto:luluott@gmail.com). Alexis earned her B.A. in art history and mass communication in 2013 from Assumption College. She completed her master's in interactive media in December, 2014, through Quinnipiac University. She is employed by Green Revolution Cooling, likes painting, drums, and running, and volunteers with Austin Pets Alive! She is also active with Austin Rowing Association. I bet Alexis would really enjoy hiking with our energetic hiking group.

When a new member suddenly appears on my computer, I call it dropping out of the sky! Certified Family Nurse Practitioner **Paula M. Coopwood**, did just that! Paula lives at 6717 Valburn Drive, Austin, 78731, and is married to Tom. Her home phone is 512.431.7445, her mobile is 512.431.7556, and her email is [mocoopwood@me.com](mailto:mocoopwood@me.com). Paula attended Central Texas College in Killeen and earned an associate nursing degree in 1977. At the University of Arlington, she gained a B.S. in nursing in 2010, and in 2013 earned her master of science in nursing, and was certified as a family nurse practitioner that same year. She works in emergency care at Capital Emergency Association. While Paula loves travel, art, and collecting art, DIY, and crafting, she also mentions that she likes extreme travel, which sends the imagination soaring. I would imagine extreme travelers really like having Paula along with her emergency medical skills! She had planned to attend our recent branch meeting and bring along her grand-daughter as a potential member. So sorry we had to cancel that, but perhaps the two of them can attend our next function. Busy Paula volunteers with County Medical Association, and the Austin Nurses

Association, Austin Art Alliance, the Settlement Home, Travis Association. Hiking group, you need to snag Paula, fast! I know she has been added to the art tour group!



Branch co-presidents Anita Knight and Inés Garcia are joined by former president Dr. Delia Quintanilla in enjoying the January Culture and Cuisine gathering.

And finally, **Eileen the Painter McGee Pestorius**, a delightful artist whose home and studio the art tour group visited last year, recently joined AAUW Austin because she felt she could have more time for us now that she is lightening her work load. Over the years Eileen has supported AAUW again and again. We hope she makes AAUW Austin her permanent affiliation.

Eileen is the artist behind "The Four Graces," an award-winning watercolor of four young swimmers sitting poolside that charmed our group. Eileen has a marvelous showing of her work at the Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart Lane. The exhibit is called *A Brush with Color* and can be viewed through February 22. We love her art because it is colorful, personal, and lively. We art tour folks climbed the stairs to her studio and saw hundreds of paintings reflecting Eileen's positive view of life and her travels. Her husband Mike (get this, a retired United States Navy captain and former submarine commander and himself a Ph.D. in electrical engineering) still teaches part time at UT's Pickle campus. The two of them raised three sons and a daughter and now enjoy eleven grandchildren. They

(membership news continues on next page)

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS with VP Diane Brewer

live across the road from Westlake HS at 512 Konstanty Circle, Austin 78746; her phone number is 512.328.3070, and her email address is (fun) [eileenthepainter@aol.com](mailto:eileenthepainter@aol.com). She also has a marvelous website, <http://www.eileenthepainter.com>.

Eileen graduated from Nazareth College in Rochester, New York, with a B.A. in English in 1961. She earned her master's in art education at UT Austin in 1992, and educating is what she does! She has taught hundreds of painters privately, through the Eanes ISD Community Education program, and has been an adjunct member of the faculty with ACC. She has traveled repeatedly to favorite haunts in Europe with students eager to learn by her example. She supports all things art in Austin including Austin Playhouse, the symphony, the opera, the Blanton Museum of Art, the Wildflower Center, KUT, KMFA, and KLRU. She is a past president of the Waterloo Watercolor Group, Plein Air Austin, and is a signature member of the Texas Watercolor Society, which honored "The Four Graces" last year in San Antonio. Since meeting Eileen a couple of years ago, I have really hoped she would take the step to join and she has!

Welcome to all five of our new members. What a group!

In other member news, **Christine Berkland** has been having a bad turn of late with her recurring renal disease. She recently resigned her presidency of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, a favorite commitment of hers, for health reasons. We hope an easier schedule will allow her to get well soon.

Bridge group chair **Dorothy Ramsey** has also been through some health issues with a benign calcified mass which put pressure on her brain causing seizures. The docs have a handle on that and are planning a course of treatment that does not involve surgery! We are glad for that. She has been ordered to return to her beloved bridge and bowling ASAP. Get well quickly, friends.

**Marsha Endahl Kramer** informs us that she would like us to use [HughMarsha@me.com](mailto:HughMarsha@me.com) as her preferred email address. Her other email has been giving her problems! Marsha and Hugh are guardedly getting back to regular activities now that Hugh is on the mend.

And last but not least, if you have come this far with me, please join us on Saturday, February 14 for our 10 a.m. branch meeting and lunch at the Norris Conference Center on the back side of Northcross Mall, Anderson Lane at Burnet Road. We love this

facility for its great central location, nice spaces, good service, and plentiful parking. Norris staff members Stephanie Shaw and Debra Lampkin have plans to treat us very well with nibbles and beverages as we gather. Later, an excellent lunch (their most requested meal and best caterer) of lemon caper chicken, mashed potatoes, a lovely strawberry pecan spring garden salad, with small pastries for dessert is planned. They promise us a very good experience for our \$30 lunch expense or \$5 seat fee for those not lunching. Planner **Dr. Sylvia Garcia** is back with us following successful knee surgery. "The Role of Tejanas in Spanish and Mexican Texas" should be very revelatory of a beautiful culture oft misunderstood by modern Texans. Come see and hear! Email me at [zdramamom@austin.rr.com](mailto:zdramamom@austin.rr.com) or call 512.328.0474 to make a reservation by midday on Monday, February 9. We hope to see all of our new members there!

Until then, have a wonderful February!

Diane Brewer  
Membership Vice President  
[zdramamom@austin.rr.com](mailto:zdramamom@austin.rr.com)  
512.328.04



AAUW's National Convention is the best place to get the latest updates on AAUW's mission and priorities. It's also a whole lot of fun. 2015 is shaping up to be our biggest convention year yet, and you won't want to miss it. We'll hone our skills in comprehensive workshops, engage with other members and supporters in Daily Dialogues, and hear inspiring speakers and awardees. And you can take the town by storm with other members, supporters, and friends on our exciting pre- and post-convention tours and activities. Join the AAUW community as we come together to connect, renew, and explore in sunny San Diego, June 18–21, 2015.

<http://convention.aauw.org>



**BRANCH BOARD POLICIES****POLICIES FOR THE AAUW AUSTIN BRANCH****COMMITTEES**

1. Committee members are expected to perform the tasks assigned to them. If for any reason, a committee member cannot serve in the expected capacity, she should inform the committee chair immediately. Either a reassignment to different duties or replacement of the committee member may occur.
2. Interested members should contact the nominating committee about executive board positions. Those names should be included in the list of potential candidates. The nominating committee should also give careful first consideration to those members that have served in an appointed position and attended board meetings when determining the list of potential executive board positions.

**FINANCIAL**

1. No member with a budget will exceed that budget without permission from the finance committee. And no member of a committee will exceed the amount she has been apportioned for a given project without first conferring and receiving approval from the committee chair. (Restatement of Bylaws, Article VI., Section 7)
2. Any expenditure for the branch that exceeds \$250, must have three (3) bids. The best value bid shall be selected.
3. At the time of approval of the branch budget by the board of directors, it will be determined how the disbursement of funds will occur to members attending conferences and conventions that fiscal year. It will be also determined which conferences and conventions will be eligible for fund distribution.
4. The Austin Branch of AAUW will assess a \$5.00 service/seat fee charge to those members who just attend a branch meeting without staying for the meal. (Jan., 2015)

**NETWORKING**

1. It is encouraged that chairs of branch events solicit co-sponsors with other organizations. However, it should be determined that those other organizations goals and policies do not contradict AAUW's goals and policies.
2. When the branch is requested to either co-sponsor or support activities of other organizations, it should be determined that those other organizations goals and policies do not contradict AAUW's goals and policies.
3. AAUW business, including newsletter distribution, emergency information such as cancellation of a meeting, and death notices, may be distributed via the branch e-mail tree.
4. No member may use membership emails for any purpose other than AAUW BRANCH business.
5. The newsletter will be the main channel of communication, but very occasionally the President with the chair of the relevant committee may approve the sending of timely notices of benefit to individual members and/or the Branch as a whole. Members have the option to OPT-out of this email information.

**STUDY GROUPS**

1. New study groups must abide by AAUW policies and principles. The Study Group Coordinator should coordinate the creation of new groups.
2. Attendees of Austin study groups are expected to be members of the branch. It is acceptable to invite non-members as part of recruitment, but the AAUW eligible non-members should attend no more than two (2) meetings of the same study group per fiscal year. One group, PEARS, is exempt from this policy since it is a longstanding group for which the grandfather clause is applicable.



**IBM GRANT**

Thanks to **Janani Janakiraman**, who donated many hours of community service to enhance our branch website, the Austin Branch of AAUW received a community grant of \$1000 from IBM. We could not use it to add to the national Ann Richards American Fellowship, so we decided to purchase technology products for two local non-profit educational programs. Laura at Latinitas first shopped for tablets. Then Dell tablets were on sale before Christmas, so they were ordered, wrapped with ribbon, and delivered to both Mainspring Schools and Latinitas. Everyone was delighted!

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Top photo: Grant winner Janani Janakiraman with Latinitas Co-Founder Laura Donnelly.

Bottom photo: STEM liaison Lilac Bauer, Mainspring Schools director Rudy Andrus, grant winner Janani Janakiraman, branch co-president Anita Knight.

**BRANCH POLICY CHANGE**

At the last Executive Board meeting the following motion was made:

*The Austin Branch will assess a \$5 seat/service fee charge to attend a Branch meeting only and not stay for the meal.*

Seconded

**RATIONALE:** Members who come for the meeting partake of water, tea, or coffee. The expense for these drinks and the cleanup of the empty containers and sometimes resetting of the table service and chair is absorbed by the branch. A set fee of \$5.00 will help the branch to break even on the meal expenses. Some other AAUW branches have initiated a fee also.

Motion approved.

Janie Maldonado, Parliamentarian  
[janie\\_maldonao@hotmail.com](mailto:janie_maldonao@hotmail.com)  
 512.339.7742

**Lovely notecard to AAUW Austin Branch from Gigi Edwards Bryant following her election to the ACC Board of Trustees and swearing in ceremony.**

*Ladies and the wonderful men who support us, thank you! I could not have had this wonderful opportunity to serve without your support.*

*As I get ready to be a trustee I want you to know that whenever I encounter an open heart, I will continue to know that God's grace is for everyone and education is a benefit to all. Please help me keep the spirit that AAUW espouses flowing!*

Gigi

(photo on page 4)



## STEM News

### Upcoming Girlstart Volunteer Opportunities

1. When: During the first **two weeks of February, anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.**

What: Need several volunteers to enter data from the girls' pre-semester surveys. Office hours are 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. It would be for one or two hours, your choice

More info: You should email [sharlym@girlstart.org](mailto:sharlym@girlstart.org) to arrange a convenient day and time. Call Lilac Bauer if you would like more information on this volunteer activity.

2. When: **Thursday, April 2. 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**

Where: At the Girlstart Center, 1500 West Anderson Lane

What: Need 4 volunteers to prepare postcard reminders to send out to those girls who have registered for the STEM Conference. Call me!

3. When: **Thursday, April 9. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Where: At the Girlstart Center, 1500 West Anderson Lane

What: Need 12-15 volunteers to stuff Goody Bags for the STEM Conference which is **April 11 (Sat) at Travis High School.** Call me!

More info: We must have the minimum 12 people to be able to do this. Any questions, call Lilac Bauer, as there are also opportunities to work at the conference in minimum 2 hr. shifts. Would you like to go out to lunch after?

#### Also for Latinitas...

6-8 people are needed for registration at their Spring Break Camp on March 16, 8:00- 10:30a.m. Individuals are also needed to work as chaperones for either morning or afternoon activities, 2 or 3 hour shifts depending on the activity.

Lilac Bauer, STEM liaison  
512.743.6338

[la\\_azucena@hotmail.com](mailto:la_azucena@hotmail.com)

## TITLE IX CHAMPIONS APPEARED ON NICK NEWS

We hope you had the opportunity to watch the half-hour special that focused on gender equality and featured our national Title IX Champion award winners as well as several other young people in the Austin area. You will recall that the Nick News crew shot video for this broadcast last fall on the ACC Highland Mall campus and at home with the girls.



Pictured: Smirthi Maja Davin, Maanasa Nathan, Kavya Ramamoorthy and Priya Ramamoorthy, of Austin, TX, are Title IX advocates and appeared on the NICK NEWS WITH LINDA ELLERBEE, report "What is Title IX and Why Do You Care?" on Nickelodeon. Photo: Martin Toub/Lucky Duck Productions.

### GlobalAustin

...invites you to a Citizen Diplomacy Reception and Networking Event on **Wednesday, February 11, 6 p.m.**, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Our guests will be five women focusing on 'Women in STEM Fields'.

\***Kenya** - Ms. Judith Owigar, Executive Director, Akirachix Association

\***Nigeria** - Ms. Adeola Idowu Adediran, Founder and Project Coordinator, Young Girls in Engineering (YGE) Project

\***Papua New Guinea** - Ms. Priscilla Kevin, Chief Executive Officer, In4net Limited

\***Poland** - Ms. Bianka Siwinska, Executive Director, Perspektywy Educational Foundation

\***Slovakia** - Ms. Petra Kotuliakova, Director, You Too in IT (a non-governmental organization)

These visitors are participants in the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program - the Department of State's premier professional exchange program.

WHERE: Marker 10 (cocktail lounge)  
Hyatt Regency Hotel  
Complimentary parking in the garage



**A TWO-DAY COMMUNITY  
CONVERSATION & RESOURCE FAIR  
ON MARCH 7th & 8th 2015**

**ACC Eastview Campus  
EMPOWERING WOMEN & GIRLS  
<http://weconaustin.org>**

The Women's Empowerment Conference is a two-day community event for women, girls, and those who care about them. The weekend will feature a wide variety of workshops and discussions addressing gender, race, sexuality, disability, health, and more. Learn new things, build skills, and make connections that will help you create the life you want!

**AAUW Activism Made Accessible  
AAUW's Virtual Branch Pilot Program**

In a time where everyone appears to have overwhelming priorities, it is critical we continue work that advances equity for women and girls. We have the solution. AAUW Texas presents: the AAUW Texas Lone Star Loop, a convenient solution for mass involvement in the movement for empowering women. The AAUW Lone Star Loop is a virtual space for participation that fits anyone's schedule; this is AAUW made accessible for the woman who does everything and still craves more.

This means that not only can you engage in AAUW when it makes sense for you, but all of those friends, family and colleagues that care about the same issues you do, can finally get involved too! The AAUW Texas Lone Star Loop, is a virtual branch pilot project that made its debut January 8 on Facebook! Yes, you can join AAUW's Virtual Branch Pilot Program, right now, for FREE. Join the AAUW Lone Star Loop now to find out more!

AAUW Texas is a leader in the effort to empower women and girls throughout the state through education, research, philanthropy, and advocacy. Now is the time to take our endeavors online, and advance equity via the convenience of the internet!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/aauwtxlonestarloop/>

**PEARS STEPS BACK IN TIME**

by Marina Rivers

On Sunday, the 18th of January, twelve members of PEARS met at the Palace Theatre in Georgetown to see *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Following the play, the group met for drinks at Wildfire Restaurant next door and then walked across the Square for dinner at Gumbo's. **Marina Rivers and Wendell Harwell** hosted the event.

Most of us were in our thirties when *JCSS* premiered in 1972. There was such an outrage over the theme and irreverent attitude of the production. The early seventies represented such a dramatic change in society, mores, and values.

**Marsha Endahl Kramer**, in keeping with the hippie theme, dressed in denim, beads and flowers. However, no pot! Hugh looked great and we were glad he could join us.

**Anita and Don Knight** had seats practically on stage and recalled that the earlier show was much "softer"—quieter? **Milli and Phillip** and **Mary Frances and David** found center seats and agreed the lead singers were very strong.

I first saw the production in London in 1972 and Wendell saw it in Las Vegas. I invited a member of the Georgetown AAUW, Mary Lou and her husband, Bill Wightman to join us.

Next month, **Dixie and Arlo** are hosting the February PEARS. See emails for the info. Many thanks to Mary Frances and David for keeping updates and emails going all this year. If any members are interested in joining the PEARS, contact **Mary Frances Rogerson**. You do not have to be a "PAIR" to join! It's a great way to see different events each month.



<http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>

Welcome to the 2015 AAUW National Election web page. Here's a sneak preview of the candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors. Check back soon for complete candidate bios, the voter guide, details on how to throw a voting party for your branch, and — next June — the election results. It's your AAUW, so make your voice count.