



American Association of University Women AAUW Austin (Texas) Branch

“WHERE HAS ALL THE WATER GONE?”



Since about 2008 the Lower Colorado River Basin has experienced the driest conditions in its history. The economic impact of this record drought has affected the quality of life and the livelihoods of all Central Texans. Our speaker at the April 8 meeting will present an overview of the drought in our area and inform us of strategies to manage the situation. Tom Mason, who served as the General Counsel and later the General Manager of the Lower Colorado River Authority, has over thirty years experience in water, energy, and environmental law and is currently board president of the Texas Water Foundation. A Plan II Honors Program graduate of the University of Texas in 1975, he received his law degree from the UT Law School in 1980. He is past president of the Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Austin.

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center <www.wildflower.org> will be the lovely setting for the April 8th branch meeting. Located at 4801 La Crosse Avenue in southwest Austin, the Wildflower Center has a large visitor's parking lot where AAUW members and guests should park. There is no need to pay extra for admission to the Center. Our meeting will be held in Classrooms A and B located in the basement of the Visitor's Gallery; an elevator is available. Please allow a little extra time to locate Classrooms A and B upon arriving at the center; Diane's way-finding signs will be in place to help you locate the meeting room!

A buffet lunch will follow the meeting and program. The menu features three chilled salads: chicken salad, tricolor fusilli pasta salad, and spinach salad. Cookies are for dessert; iced tea and coffee will be provided. 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. There is a \$5 chair/service fee for attending the meeting and not staying for lunch. Reservations are needed for all options. Remember, no need to pay extra for admission to the Wildflower Center plus you are invited to walk around the Center before or after our meeting to enjoy the beauty of the wildflowers currently in bloom.

April 8, 2015 Wildflower Center

10 a.m. - Registration & name tags

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

The absolute reservation deadline is noon on Friday, April 3, 2015. Send email RSVP to Membership VP Diane Brewer at zdramamom@austin.rr.com or make your reservation by phone at 512.328.0474.

April 2015 Calendar of Branch Activities

April 3, 10 a.m. First Friday Book Review. Hyde Park Church of Christ. *The Romanov Sisters* (Helen Rappaport); reviewer Judy Reinhart. Hostess: Beverly Locklin. Chair: Gayle Smith (512.345.5585).

April 6, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Contemporary Literature: Old Quarry BL. *Dear Life; Stories* (Alice Munro). Discussion leader: Milli Stecker. Chair: Fern Chester, 512.345.1102.

April 8, 2015 Branch Meeting Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

10 a.m.- Registration & name tags
10:30-10:45 a.m - Brief business meeting (officer election)
10:45-11:45 a.m. - Speaker followed by Q&A
11:45 a.m. - Lunch
Reservations must be made by April 3, 2015!

April 8, 4 p.m. Second Wednesday Bridge. Contact: Lynn Cooksey, 512.477.2774.

April 11, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Girlstart Bag Stuffing. Girlstart STEM Center; 1400 W. Anderson Lane. See p. 3 for complete information.

April 11. Girlstart STEM Conference. Travis High School. See p. 3 for more information.

April 13; 1:30-3:30 p.m. Board Meeting. Lamar Senior Center.

April 13, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. SW Book Group. Home of hostess. *Madame Curie and her Daughters; the Private Lives of Science's First Family.* (Shelley Emling). Hostess is Inés García & facilitators are Marsha Endahl Kramer & Eugénie Whalen. Chair: Inés García, 512.444.5643.



(This month our presidential message comes from Jeannie Best, AAUW Texas President.)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

If we're lucky, by 2139 the gender wage gap will finally close. Women are more than half of the population, and to close the wage gap sooner, we must all work together to take action. Imagine the possibilities of living in a society that allows equal pay. Women would have more access to provide fundamentals for their families, like gas, groceries, healthcare, and have the deserved retirement.

Legislation for fair pay has repeatedly stalled in Congress, and most recently, has been vetoed as a state law in Texas. We aim to change that. Let's work together to shift these dynamics for our families and for our future.

This year Equal Pay Day falls on April 14. Equal Pay Day is the symbolic day when women's earnings finally catch up to male earnings from the previous year. It's unreal to think that since President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act, women have only received a \$0.19 raise, after 52 years! Together we can change this.

Plan on joining your AAUW Texas community on April 14 at 9:00 a.m. at the Texas State Capitol in Austin in Room Et.020. We will not have a rally, but we will have an AAUW information/resource table, and during the morning we will have Lobby Day Training and lobbying of each participant's state representative and senator. We are also planning to wear something red to symbolize that "Women are still in the RED when it comes to Equal Pay." Senator Kirk Watson has been invited and will try to stop in on his way to a committee hearing.

We will provide AAUW one-page fact sheets on the wage gap. In addition, we will be presenting our signed petition "Stand Up 4 Texas Women & Families" to Governor Abbot and Lt. Governor Patrick. We really need your support!! We'd like as many AAUW Texas members as possible to join us in Austin on April 14th. Plus, if the House or Senate is in session, several of us will be able to sit in and listen to the proceedings.

Also, please bring a toiletry item to donate to local women in need. Items can include, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste and makeup. Please make sure items are unopened. In an effort to help women advance in their careers and land better jobs we will donate these items to a local shelter.

For any questions or suggestions, please contact Melodia Gutierrez at gutierrezm@aauw.org. We look forward to driving meaningful change in the Texas legislature with you.

Sincerely,
Jeannie Best,
President AAUW Texas

March 2015 Calendar of Branch Activities

(continued from preceding page)

April 14, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Equal Pay Day. TX Capitol. See p. 6 for schedule and more information.



April 15, 10 a.m. Creative Stitchery. Hostess is Fern Chester; co-hostess is Jan Roberts. Chair: Fern Chester, 512.345.1102.

April 16, 6:30 p.m. Culture & Cuisine. Hostess: Delia Quintanilla. Eastside Cafe. Chair: Barbara Houston (512.633.9766).

April 18, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Latinitas Code Chica Conference: ACC Eastview Campus. See more details elsewhere this page. Contact: Lilac Bauer, 512.743.6338.

April 21, 11 a.m. Out to Lunch: Eastside Cafe. RSVP to hostess and chair: Ruth Falck 512.550.6449.

April 22, 4 p.m. Fourth Wednesday Bridge. Contact Sara Ezell (512.343.8494).

April 24, 8 a.m. Hiking. Leader: Mary Zeitler. Hamilton Greenbelt. Contact: Beverly Locklin at 512.343.0782 or blocklin@austin.rr.com.

April 26, 3 p.m. PEARS. Tour the LBJ Library followed by dutch-treat dinner. Mary Frances Rogerson, 512.394.5688.

April 29, Art Tour day trip. (Carpool arrangement TBD). A visit to the Winedale Historical Complex, an adjunct to the Dolph Briscoe American History Center at U.T. (3738 FM 2714, Round Top, TX). Tour two 19th century houses restored by Miss Ima Hogg and furnished with one-of-kind German immigrant cabinetmakers' creations, murals & stenciling dating from 1848, and some of Miss Ima's quilt collection. Lunch at JW'S Steakhouse, 122 Hauptstrasse St.; Carmine, TX. Planners: Mary Ellen Scribner and Adrian McCulloch. RSVP: Diane Brewer at 512.328.0474 or zdramamom@austin.rr.com.

STEM News

Summer Camp Scholarships in STEM

JANUARY: Send a Girl to Summer Camp!

Target amount: \$500

We support both Girlstart and Latinitas STEM organizations. They each have after-school programs and summer camp programs which have great impact on STEM education for girls.

Bring your check made out to Latinitas or Girlstart with AAUW written in the memo section to the April or May branch meeting, or mail to:

Lilac Bauer; 2621 Alcott Lane; Austin 78748

No amount is too small or too large—and it is tax-deductible! Collectively, as a branch, we hope AAUW-Austin can sponsor at least one girl in each camp!

\$300 - Girlstart Summer Camp for one girl

\$200 - Latinitas Summer Camp for one girl

Girlstart STEM News

We have almost enough for a goodie bag stuffing activity on Thursday, April 9th, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Girlstart STEM Center; 1400 W. Anderson Lane.

*Please call/email to add your name to the list.

Thanks to those who have already volunteered!

Latinitas News

Saturday, April 18, is the Code Chica Conference at Austin Community College, Eastview from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

We have been asked to bring snacks, as we did last year. They liked having a variety of things that are high protein, or salty/hot, or sweet.

*Please call/email to donate (items or \$\$ to buy)

Latinitas Summer Camp: Wednesday July 22 (tentative)

We have been asked to visit with the girls and tell our story of going to college, getting a job, managing a family or other responsibilities. More info next month.



Lilac Bauer, STEM liaison
512.743.6338
la_azucena@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP NEWS with VP Diane Brewer

AAUW Austin is growing and strong! Dozens of our members have submitted early renewal of dues which makes a certain membership VP and her successor very happy. Best of all, we added FIVE new members in the past month bringing our membership total to a whopping 185. They are **Charles Brewer** (he loves art tours, what can I say?), **Janie Alonzo**, **Tulis Escobar**, **Tommie Kozak**, and **Ilona Ho**. By joining in March, all five get to take advantage of 15 months of membership for the price of one year! Our newest members and recent changes in contact information for other members are all in the latest addendum to the yearbook which I hope you have downloaded!

Husband **Charles C. Brewer, Jr.**, is currently taking a hiatus from over four decades in residential construction. While he enjoys his time off, he has joined us in some branch activities. Charles is a 1964 graduate of Texas A&M, where he earned a B.B.A. in marketing. We moved to Austin in 1977 and raised three sons in the interim. Charles enjoys church, wildlife, travel, and our two spoiled pups, Sophie and Dickens. He looks forward to more art tours! We share the same address of course, but Charles's email is ccbrewerjr@austin.rr.com, and cell is 512.848.7219.

We first met **Janie Alonzo** when she visited the branch meeting on Tejana history in Mexican and Spanish Texas. She was invited by **Ruth Rubio** through her connections with Las Comadres, a group which connects through the internet. She liked what she saw and decided to join when she attended our next branch meeting on human trafficking. Janie and husband Arturo live at 9612 Spanish Wells Drive, Austin, 78717-3954; home phone is 512.373.8327, cell is 979.777.3737; email is janiealonzo4747@gmail.com.



Janie Alonzo

Janie graduated from St. Edward's University in 1972 with a B.A. in education. She later earned her M.A. at UT San Antonio in 1987 in education and guidance. Besides raising three children, now grown, Janie retired from a career as an elementary school counselor. She volunteers with the St. Vincent de Paul Society,

and we hope to include her in many of our interest group activities. Her enthusiasm for AAUW urged her to bring along her friend and new member **Tommie Kozak** to our last meeting.

Retired teacher **Tommie Kozak** and husband Gerard live at 15316 Valderamma Court, Austin, 78717-3846. She earned her B.S. in education at the University of Memphis in 1968; then in 1978, she earned her M.S.E.D. from the University of Southern California. She is poised to become involved with our many activities, and we look forward to knowing her better. Tommie gave me a wide smile when she handed me her membership form. Welcome, Tommie, you will find many others like yourself in our organization! Reach Tommie at home phone 512.244.1635 and cell phone 512.970.9533, or by email at tckozak@yahoo.com.

Sisters, sisters! Co-Prez **Inés Garcia** brought retired school principal **Tulis Escobar** to our February meeting. Then luring her away from a painting project in March, brought her again to our branch meeting on human trafficking.

Tulis recently moved to Austin to share her sister's pretty home at 6310 Abilene Trail, Austin 78749. Home phone for the duo is 512.444.5643, and Tulis's cell phone is 361.816.3219. Tulis lost her treasured husband Angel, with whom she raised three children, not long ago. Her move to Austin is a fresh start and joining AAUW will give her a jump start! She has served as an Engaged Encounter co-ordinator and has been honored with the HWNT-Estella Award. She volunteers with St. John Neumann and looks forward to art tours and culture and cuisine. Tulis earned her B.A. in elementary education in 1970 at Texas A&I, Kingsville, Texas, and received her masters in administration in 1980 at Texas A&M, Corpus Christi. We are delighted to have another member of this family with us!!



Finally, just days before this writing, new member and filmmaker **Ilona Rossman Ho** joined AAUW Austin via our website. Ilona currently lives in the Seattle area. Her address is 146 97th Avenue NE; Bellevue, WA 98004, and her email contact is ilonahopol@gmail.com. Ilona shared little personal information initially, but this true detective learned that she is associated with Canine Productions, an indie film group. I really like how they describe

(membership news continues on next page)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS with VP Diane Brewer

their mission (you will too!): *“Award winning indie shorts, music videos and documentaries. We're enthusiastic about making a difference in how women and girls are portrayed in media. We actively support women in front of and behind the camera and the men who collaborate with them. Located in Seattle - home to outstanding indie filmmakers.”*

Ilona's professional email address is bark@canineproductions.com. She serves as board secretary for Women in Film-Seattle. She is a very attractive young woman who loves making humorous films centered on women's issues. We hope her affiliation with us means a future move to Central Texas! Welcome, Ilona!

In other member news, we are sad to report that **Lala Niemeyer** recently lost her beloved husband Vic. Co-Prez **Anita Knight** attended the funeral service which she said was filled with people honoring him. He will be missed. In recent years, Lala was a primary caregiver, which kept her by his side most of the time. We hope that we will see more of Lala now and that she finds other ways to fill her life.

Rachel Flake is looking forward to a more active life after successful hip replacement surgery. Currently, she is recovering, but we hope to see her out and about soon!

Dorothy Ramsey is getting her inimitable strength back and looks forward to rejoining her friends at bridge soon. Dorothy was sidelined by a cranial mass, now removed and known to be noncancerous. We expect her return to the tables any day!

We are losing member **Anneliese Ellerton** soon, as she is leaving Austin. She has contributed many photos to our newsletters in the past and has been a frequent participant at branch meetings and other branch gatherings.

Ginny Tannebring, long a house manager at UT's Pi Phi Sorority House, is ending her stint there and moving to her home in Wimberly. As there are tenants there currently, she plans to summer by visiting family and friends until she returns to Wimberly in the fall. We are not losing her! She has already renewed her membership and cited ginnytann@mac.com as her new email.

Nancy and Gene Myers waited for months to obtain a spot at Buckner Villas. Recently, they were able to make the move and complete the sale of their Northwest Hills home. Nancy has a new

email address, ganvmyers@yahoo.com, and she is at 11110 Tom Adams Drive, Villa 14, Austin 78753-3354. She is already out and about, and made a relaxed appearance at a recent lunch gathering.

Karen Wood's home phone is her preferred contact number: 512.712.4539.

By the way, all of the above information is included in our latest addendum! Please print it out and stick it in your yearbook.

The April 8th branch meeting at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center should be delightful with a plate of fresh salads in a location filled with spring flowers. Get your reservations in to yours truly as quickly as possible! We have an early deadline.

Remember to bring a friend along to take advantage of our Shape the Future new member discounts of \$50.50 instead of the usual dues of \$75. It is a good deal that also benefits the branch. Over two dozen wonderful members have already renewed! Thanks so much to those early birds. It really helps us out!

Happy springtime, everyone,

Diane Brewer

Membership Vice President

zdramamom@austin.rr.com

512.328.0474

APRIL 8 MEETING IS A “DON'T MISS” EVENT FOR SEVERAL REASONS

We will be electing several new officers to fill vacancies left by executive board members rotating out of office. The nominating committee has put forward **Marina Rivers** and **Milli Stecker** as co-presidents, and **Elaine Penn** is the committee's choice for membership vice president.

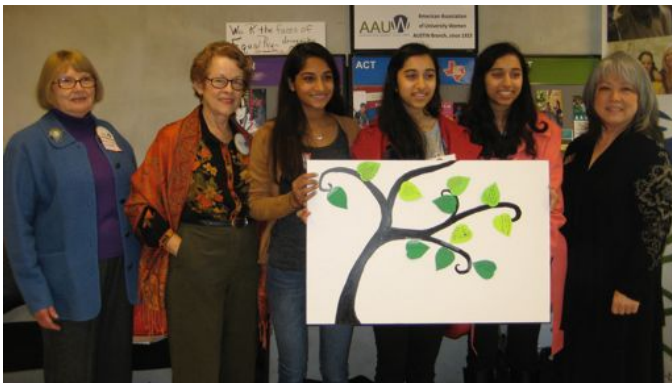
The program committee has selected an outstanding speaker on an important topic. Tom Mason will discuss “Where has all the water gone?”

For the first time ever, we will be meeting at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center which is requiring no extra admission from AAUW members who are not Wildflower Center members. Not only is there no extra admission, we are invited to walk around and view the many wildflowers now in bloom!

Make a reservation by **April 3** to **Diane Brewer** at zdramamom@austin.rr.com or by phone at 512.328.0474.

AAUW at WEConference

With its second successful conference in as many years, the Women's Community Center of Central Texas is having a significant impact on some underserved Austin populations. We are especially grateful to branch member and ACC employee **Soon Merz** for sponsoring the use of the AAC Eastview Campus for the conference. The AAUW table was at various times staffed by Jeannie Best, AAUW Texas President; **Anita Knight**, branch co-president; **Soon Merz**; **Judy Reinhart**; and **Mary Ellen Scribner**. We were successful in networking and attracting like-minded women. We will have a similar display at the Capitol on Equal Pay Lobbying Day, April 14th.



Pictured (l-r) at the AAUW table are Mary Ellen Scribner, Anita Knight, Smithri Mahadevan, Priya Ramamoorthy, Kavya Ramamoorthy, and Soon Merz.

AAUW daughters Kavya Ramamoorthy, Priya Ramamoorthy, and Smrithi Mahadevan presented "Game-Based Empowerment," a workshop aimed at 'Teen & Tween' audiences. On February 27 the team had been featured on an episode of KOOP Radio's People United in a conversation about the 2015 WE Con Austin. The three and Carrie Tilton-Jones of the Women's Community Center of Central Texas, which organized the conference, were promoting it on the radio. That conversation can be heard at <https://archive.org/details/PeopleUnited20150227>.

CONDOLENCES

We offer our deepest condolences to branch member **Lala Niemeyer** whose husband passed away on March 1st.

BRANCH EMAIL BRINGS OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN SEXUAL HEALTH RESEARCH

Selene Study

The Sexual Psychophysiology Lab at the University of Texas at Austin is recruiting women to participate in a study on women's sexual health. Study participation includes coming into the lab and viewing a short erotic film while physical and psychological arousal is measured. All data collected is completely confidential. Women who are over the age of 18 are eligible to participate. If you are interested in the study, please contact the Sexual Psychophysiology Lab for more information at **(512) 232-4805**, or selenestudy@utexas.edu. Participation takes 2 hours and participants will be compensated \$50 cash.

STEM OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

I would like to share information about our new STEM high school program: <https://www.tacc.utexas.edu/education/stem-programs/code-at-tacc>. Please share it with your network, applications are still open and we are trying to increase the number of female applicants.

Marisel Robles, M.Ed.
K-12 Education and Outreach
Senior Program Coordinator
Texas Advanced Computing Center
The University of Texas at Austin



The creative stitchery group (l-r) Rachel Flake, Martha Van Sickle, Jan Roberts, Kay Goodwin, Beverly Locklin, Karen Ellison, Lynn Cooksey, and Elaine Penn.



EQUAL PAY LOBBY DAY AT THE CAPITOL

April 14 <> 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and beyond if you can stay longer.

We need you to be there and wearing something red to symbolize that "Women are still in the RED when it comes to Equal Pay"!

Consider carpooling or using public transit. Parking is available in the Capitol Visitors Parking Garage at 1201 San Jacinto located between Trinity and San Jacinto Streets at 12th and 13th Streets. Parking is free for the first two hours and \$1.00 for each half hour thereafter (maximum daily charge: \$8.00). The parking garage fills up quickly during the session, especially on major lobbying days such as April 14 is. Ditto for parking in the Bullock Museum's underground parking garage. The Capitol Complex is well served by Capital Metro, so check out the possibility of riding the bus.

**AAUW Texas
Equal Pay for Women Lobby Day Schedule
April 14, 2015**

Time	Activity	Location
9:00 AM	Equal Pay Issue Briefing Future of Equal Pay in Texas (2 House Representatives) "Effective Techniques for Lobbying" ... Traci Jensen (West Harris Co. Branch President & Lobbyist)	E1.020
	State Senator Kirk Watson has been invited and hopes to stop by on his way to a committee hearing.	
10:00 AM	Material Distribution AAUW Texas President & Regional Field Rep	E1.020
10:15 AM	Lobby Time! Lobby your legislator and committee heads	Various
12:00 PM	Debriefing AAUW TX Public Policy Team	E1.020

Once Equal Pay lobbying efforts have concluded, participants are encouraged to observe House, Senate and Committee proceedings, and to enjoy lunch in the Capitol Cafeteria. Information will be provided of that day's proceedings in the morning issue briefing.



**American Association of University Women
AAUW – Austin, TX Branch
Membership RENEWAL Information 2015-2016**

Please make checks payable to AAUW–Austin and mail check with completed forms to:
Diane Brewer, 910 Dartmoor Drive, Austin, Texas 78746-5163
Or use PayPal option (Please add \$1 processing charge)
<http://austin-tx.aauw.net/join/>

Dues: (All but \$3.00 of National dues is tax deductible.)

Branch Member	\$75 (National - \$49; State - \$10; Branch - \$16)	\$ _____
Life Member	\$26 (paid 20x National dues one time)	\$ _____
Honorary Life Member	\$0 (member has completed 50 years continuous membership)	\$ _____
Student Affiliate	\$25 (non-voting) (National - \$17; State - \$1; Branch - \$7)	\$ _____

AAUW FUNDS donations: *

The Public Policy Fund #4337:.....	\$ _____
The Educational Opportunities Fund #4336:.....	\$ _____
American Fellowship in honor of Ann Richards #4324.....	\$ _____
The Legal Advocacy Fund #3999.....	\$ _____
The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund #9170.....	\$ _____
The Leadership Programs Fund #4339.....	\$ _____

LOCAL Donations:

Austin Branch Operating Funds.....	\$ _____
Girls in STEM.....	\$ _____
GirlStart.....	\$ _____
Mainspring Schools Scholarship Fund.....	\$ _____
Latinitas/ (please circle preference).....	\$ _____
Total payment:	\$ _____

* For a complete description of AAUW FUNDS, please go to <http://www.aauw.org/contribute/support.cfm>

Check your listing in last year's yearbook, and please fill in below if there have been any changes to your information in the past 12 months. If not, please just sign and date.

Name: Last _____ First _____ Middle (or initial) _____
 Preferred name if different _____ Name of spouse/S.O. _____
 Address: _____ Apt. _____ Zip _____
 Phone: Home _____ Mobile _____ Work _____
 Fax _____ Email _____ Website URL _____
 AAUW Membership: Renewal _____ Dual _____ (with which branch?) _____
 Current Interest Groups in AAUW-Austin where active _____

 AAUW member since _____ Austin Branch member since _____

Signature _____
 Date form completed _____

THANK YOU!

Permission to Publish personal contact info in newsletter and yearbook _____ (Y) _____ (N)
 You may also circle any specific item that you wish to keep private and not publish.