

AAUW
Austin, Texas Branch

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUMMER SOCIAL

Sunday, August 16, 2015

3:30 – 5:30 PM



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Membership Chair
Elaine Penn

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new Co-President
Marina Rivers

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Budget



Mark Your Calendars!! "MEMBERSHIP MATTERS"

Please join us for our annual summer social

Meet new members

Sign up for interest groups

Explore opportunities for participation

RSVP via your evite online invitation or
call Diane Brewer at 512-328-0474

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Parish Hall
2128 Barton Hills Drive

Parking plentiful
Handicap access

<http://stmarksaustin.org/directions/>

Membership News with Elaine Penn

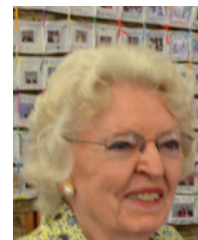
Welcome back to an exciting year in Austin AAUW 2015-2016! By the end of June our membership peaked at 192 and we ran out of yearbooks! We also had some inevitable changes, losses, and lovely recognition for our members.



In late spring the Austin American Statesman published a terrific article in praise of member **Tamara Hudgins**, Executive Director of Girlstart, Austin. There was a follow-up podcast interview between Tamara and Tolly Moseley. Austin AAUW, steered by liaison **Lilac Bauer**, makes gifts of time and treasure in support of this worthy organization which works with girls grades 4 – 8 to spur their interest and fuel possibilities in future STEM careers. Tamara was named Executive Director in 2009, and since then, great things have been happening under her leadership. The opportunities for after-school programs and summer camps have grown exponentially. Our branch voted to support several girls in summer camps this summer. Tamara is doing a great job!

Adding to an incredible array of notable honors, longtime Lifetime member **Dr. Beulah Curry-Jones**, who prefers to be simply called Aggie, was honored on May 24th, 2015, at her beloved Ebenezer Baptist Church with their 2015 Woman of the Year award. Aggie was very pleased, and we are pleased for her. This storied music educator has made endless contributions to church and community through her musical magic, and continues to help our branch through her amazing network of contacts.

Longtime member **Ilene Payton** and her husband Edwin sold their home in Great Hills and have now moved into a garden home across the street from her daughter Karen and her husband Jimmy in Sugarland, Texas. Karen called in early May, told them it was a great place for them and they bought it, sight unseen. On Mother's Day they finally saw the home and loved it. By mid-June they had moved. Sometimes life decisions happen quickly. We hope they are getting settled in. (I don't have a forwarding address yet).



In mid-May, **Susan D. James** contacted us about a dual membership in Austin AAUW. Susan came to us as a former Programs VP in her Hilo, HI Branch of AAUW. She and her husband Jay Curlee had moved to Austin mid-year, and golden island girl cooled her jets for a while before jumping back in. Attending the Art Tour planning meeting having just affiliated, she volunteered to co-plan a jaunt to Wimberley in spring, 2016. Susan is ready to be involved again and she is thorough and energetic when she plans an event. Empty nesters with two grown stepchildren, Susan and Jay have settled in South Austin. When Susan has the opportunity she will enjoy many of our interest groups. Since Susan is a music lover, she has come to the right place! Welcome to Austin, Susan!



Former VP Membership **Diane Brewer** ran into **Lala Niemeyer** and new Austin member **Kay Briggs** in the local HEB. Lala introduced them, and before the week was out, Kay, a professional pianist and public speaker, had decided to rejoin AAUW. She said, "Oh, I used to be a member years ago!" Kay enjoys music of course, joining a host of our talented

musical members, and bridge. She is planning to attend some art tours and play with our bridge groups when possible. Kay lost her husband not long ago, so the choices our branch offers and the camaraderie of our engaging membership is a perfect fit for her. Kay is already a member of PEO and is President of Toastmasters. She is a past owner of Blue Heron Speakers, and like our recently Statesman touted member Lynn Cooksey, loves to swim in Barton Springs pool. Adding to her piano and speaking skills, Kay is also a published author who penned several articles and the book, *The Magic Seashells*. We look forward to having Kay become a part of the AAUW Austin branch.

Membership News (continued)

Kudos to **Elizabeth Newell** who was awarded the Texas Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma's Society International State Achievement Award at the state conference in San Antonio on Friday, June 26, 2015. During the Birthday Luncheon, a member of the state award's committee read out the many contributions Elizabeth has made to the Society. At the local level she has served as chapter president, committee(s) chair, and participated in many chapter activities. At the state and international levels, she has served on committees. Elizabeth also served as the local arrangements chair for two years for the Golden Gift Leadership Management Leadership Seminar hosted by DKG and UT's Red McCombs School of Business. The State Achievement Award is the highest honor for a member in the state organization to receive.

New Co-Prez **Marina Rivers** recently encouraged her good friend **Sharon Lesikar** to become a part of the Austin branch, and she did! Sharon is a very friendly, open person who is married to the genuine article: physicist Arnold Lesikar, PhD, who graduated from Rice University with a BS at the age of 16! Stories like this are wonderful! He became a professor of physics at St. Cloud State University in his 20's, where Sharon was the university's news editor, basically a PR job for the school. She got a bee in her bonnet to write about the professor at the school who was doing the most significant research there, and the director of research pointed her to Dr. Lesikar as the obvious choice. Arnold never had a chance because Sharon knew he was the one the moment she met him 40 years ago. Sharon is energetic and charming and was the perfect antidote to the bookish life of Dr. Arnold Lesikar.

Sharon earned her BA at Mundelein College, now a part of the Loyola University system, in 1967 in English Literature, and her MA at the University of Minnesota in 1974, in Mass Communications. She and Arnold moved to the Sun City area not long ago.

We look forward to a wonderful new year. Make it a point to attend our Summer Social, where you can mingle and refresh yourself, while considering the many ways you can enrich your life through the opportunities available with AAUW Austin.

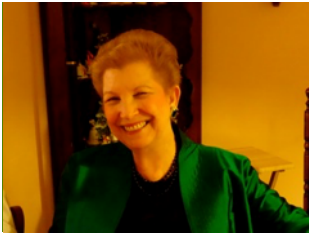
See you there!

In Memoriam

We want to begin with a tribute to our former President **Kay Minter Watson**, who led our branch in 2010-12. Kay was married to Tom for nearly 27 years and had three grown children who adored her. She passed away on June 4, 2015. She was 77 years old and had been in failing health for the past year or so. In her working life, Kay served as a counselor with the Texas Rehabilitation Commission. She and Tom enjoyed many travels together, and he was always by her side during her presidency and on art tours. They had moved from their Barton Hills home a couple of years ago to be closer to her daughter in Round Rock. We will miss having her and Tom in our lives.

On April 29th, AAUW Austin favorite **Marsha Endahl Kramer** lost her adored husband Hugh T. Kramer to complications of having lived a very long and vigorous life. He was 87 and had experienced a life of adventure and joy while living in 17 different countries working with IBM. He was fluent in three languages and remained physically, socially, and mentally active his entire life. With Marsha he enjoyed Great Decisions courses, the interest group PEARS, and being a grandparent. Marsha was with him when he slipped away peacefully.

We are very sorry for two members' loss of George T. Berasley, husband of longtime member **Dorothea Berasley** and father of lifetime member **Ann Berasley**. George transitioned in late May, 2015. We share their sadness at his passing.



A Message from Co-President Marina Rivers

SUMMER GREETINGS!

The month of July begins the new fiscal year for the Austin Branch. The membership had a very successful year in terms of memberships (193 in June), and income vs. expenses (\$2,000 overage). We are in very good shape going forward and I hope that ALL of you will continue your excellent participation.

The board is in the early stages of planning. The Program Committee has already lined up an array of interesting speakers in comfortable and convenient (Austin traffic) venues.

- ❖ What changes or ideas would you like to see happen?
- ❖ What suggestions do you have for membership growth?
- ❖ How can we gain more member involvement in branch activities?

The Austin Branch is YOUR branch and YOUR ideas add value to our joint successes this coming year. Contact me via phone: 512-386-1905 or email: marinarivers@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars for the Summer Social. See you then!

Interest Group Activities with Maggie Kadleck



Find your niche; whether it's the world of art you enjoy, reading carefully selected books, or playing an afternoon of bridge, there's an AAUW Interest group for you.

One group enjoys planning evenings in homes visiting other cultures/cuisines;

another prefers to search out Austin's best spots for lunch. The group, Pears, seeks weekend activities around the Austin area. Plays, symphony, ballet, museums exhibits, festivals, sporting events offer the opportunity for couples to enjoy an event in the company of friends. Creative Stitchery is open to members interested in meeting regularly for conversation and creativity. Find a group that speaks to you and you will surely be rewarded with new friends, new ideas and good company.

All the bright, talented AAUW members bring a wealth of experiences and knowledge to the branch. If there is a particular interest you would enjoy pursuing tell me about it. Perhaps there are others with the same bent. What fun to be on the planning side of bringing a new idea, a new interest group, to our branch. Your only requirement: membership. Participation is your reward. I look forward to hearing from you.



From the Editors

We first want to thank Mary Ellen Scribner for all her years of dedicated work on the newsletter – she worked tirelessly to keep us all informed.

We hope you like our new format! We welcome submissions and positive feedback! Study group chairs please remember to send the information you would like published no later than the 20th of each month to ruthfalck@yahoo.com.

Girlstart and Latinitas with Lilac Bauer

It was a great summer for **Girlstart Summer Camps!** There were over 20 total weeklong camps! Your donations this past spring sponsored



four girls locally for a fun-filled week of STEM activities at day camp.

We enjoyed **Latinitas Summer Camps**, which were held at the new Latinitas Center. They invited AAUW members to come one day each week in July and be interviewed by the girls about their education and careers, how they got there, what struggles they overcame to achieve their goals. Thanks to **Sylvia Garcia** and **Mary Braunagel-Brown** for being interviewed as the girls made a documentary film of them during *Cine Chica* Camp; to **Ines Garcia**, **Tulis Escoba** and **Lilac Bauer** for being in the filmed Panel



Discussion and Q&A session on *Fashion Forward*; to **Janani Janakiraman** (left) and **daughters Priya and Kavya** for their interactive presentation at *Tech Chica*; and for **Anita Knight** and **Mary Ellen Scribner** for positive role modeling at *Healthy Chica (Body and Soul)*.

More opportunities are coming in the fall with the Latinitas 'College Chica Day' at Austin Community College and the Game Changers Luncheon for Girlstart.

Contact Lilac Bauer at the Summer Social or directly (la_azucena@hotmail.com or 512-743-6338) to participate in these events.

African American Book Festival with Mary Ellen Scribner

The ninth annual African American Book Festival, held June 27 at the Carver Museum & Library, was a big success for its organizers and for AAUW Austin.



Our table in the authors' area drew visitors all day. Anita Knight and Mary Ellen Scribner were there for the duration and were joined part of the time by Myrtle

Bell and Lilac Bauer. Our very eye-catching table sported a tablecloth from Africa, our tri-fold display board, and stacks of colorful brochures and flyers—the equal pay reports went fast! A number of women expressed interest in membership, and we talked with two who had belonged to branches in other college towns where they had studied or taught. We told graduate students about our fellowships. We talked about Girlstart and Latinitas. One young woman who said she worked with foster children was really pleased to learn about the existence of Latinitas. Ever the networker, Anita



talked with local authors and storytellers who might present programs to the branch or the Women's Community Center of Central Texas. Mary Ellen shared information with beginning authors about the Library Foundation's Badgerdog writing workshops. It was a very productive, fun day!

**AAUW Austin Branch
Contact Information: 2015 – 16**

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	Milli Stecker		
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Girlstart/Latinitas Liaison/ Women's Issues	Lilac Bauer	la_azucena@hotmail.com	512-743-6338
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	Betty Owen		
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PROPOSED BUDGET
AAUW - Austin Branch
Fiscal Year 2016, July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

	Actual FY 2015	Projected FY 2016
Branch Income		
Dues	\$2,613	\$2,500
Branch Donations - Cash	598	600
Program Income (net)	0	150
Branch Lunch Income (net)	948	0
Branch Fundraisers	372	0
Corporate Grant	1,000	0
Interest Income	87	50
Total Branch Income	\$5,618	\$3,300
Branch Expense		
Officers		
President	\$33	\$100
Program VP	75	350
Membership VP	523	500
Secretary	-	25
Treasurer	-	25
Total Officers	\$631	\$1,000
Committee Expense		
Yearbook Expenses (Incl. Postage)	\$348	\$770
Seminars and Conferences	100	500
Newsletter Expenses (Incl. Postage)	153	250
Memorials	50	100
Committees (Bylaws & Public Policy)	-	25
UT Fellowships	-	25
Study/Interest Groups	-	25
AAUW Funds	-	25
Total Committee Expense	\$651	\$1,720
Non Committee Operational Expense		
Computer Software	\$217	\$0
Liability Insurance	175	180
Signage	45	-
P.O. Box Rental	80	80
Bank Charges/PayPal	32	40
Other	40	280
Total Non Committee Operational Expense	\$589	\$580
Contribution to UT CWGS Inspire	\$300	-
Total Branch Expense	\$2,171	\$3,300
Net Branch Income/(Loss)	\$3,447	\$0
Program Income (Expenses) - Net		
STEM	\$ 280	-
Latinitas	(462)	-
Girlstart	(960)	-
Mainspring	(190)	-
Net Program Expenses	\$ (1,332)	\$ -
Net Branch Income and Program Expenses	\$2,115	\$ -