

AAUW Austin, TX Branch  
Next Meeting  
**Saturday, February 17**  
**10:00 AM**  
Norris Conference Centers  
2525 West Anderson Lane,  
Suite 365  
RSVP by Feb. 12th  
to Judy Reinhart



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BUZZzzzz

**Our Mission.** Advancing equity for women and girls through  
advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.  
<http://austin-tx.aauw.net>

## Racial Gerrymandering in Texas 1991-2016:

### Still Crazy after All These Years

**Professor Henry Flores, St. Mary's University, San Antonio**  
**Director of the Master of Public Administration Program**

Over the years, the State of Texas has characteristically redistricted in order to affect and suppress minority voting and therefore minority representation in supporting minority interests. Professor Flores will trace the history of the redistricting practice through three lawsuits against the State of Texas. In each lawsuit, he has served as expert witness for the plaintiffs. Professor Flores' investigative research into redistricting has attracted some unwelcome attention from the Ku Klux Klan, among others. He persists in his research and his testimony. Early this February, Professor Flores plans to testify in the Supreme Court case which, if the plaintiffs win, can end racial gerrymandering in Texas. It can also be an essential legal step toward ending this discriminatory practice in other states.

**Henry Flores** received his doctorate in Political Science from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He is currently serving as Distinguished University Professor of International Relations and Political Science in the Institute for Public Administration, Politics, and Public Policy at Saint Mary's University in San Antonio. At Saint Mary's he also served as Dean of Graduate Studies. Since 1986, Professor Flores has served as an expert witness in more than 50 federal voting and civil rights cases. He is the author of *The Evolution of the Liberal Democratic State* (2004) of *Latinos and VRA* (2015) and co-author of *Mexican Americans and the Law* (2004).



Raffle for Funds: 2 tickets to Verdi's La Traviata Opera in Austin in May. Value: \$185

**MENU: Chicken Picatta** (lightly breaded chicken filets in a white wine, caper, and lemon sauce) with scalloped potatoes and a strawberry & pecan salad. Dessert choices on buffet with beverages.  
\$25 cash or check for lunch or \$5 for just program and beverages

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR – Interest Groups and MORE

**Contemporary Literature** (at Fern Chester's)

**Feb. 5** *The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II*  
(7:15 PM) Author: Denise Kiernan  
Facilitator: Fern Chester  
Contact: Fern Chester, 512-345-1102

**Out to Lunch**

**Feb. 6** *Asti Trattoria*  
(11:00 AM) (in the heart of Hyde Park)  
408 E. 43rd Street; 512-451-1218  
Hostess: Pam Watson  
RSVP: Diane Brewer, 512-328-0474  
zdramamom@gmail.com

**First Friday AM Book Review**

**Feb. 12** *At Home*  
(10:00 AM) Author: Bill Bryson  
Reviewer: Beverly Locklin  
Hostess & Contact: Judy Reinhart,  
jareinhart@att.net

**Southwest Books**

**Feb. 12** *Americanah*  
(10:30 AM) Author: Chimanda Ngozi Adichie  
Hostess: Mary Braunagel-Brown  
Facilitator: Cherie Wilson  
Contact: Jennifer Swenson, 512-288-2894

**Central Books**

**Feb. 12** *In the Darkroom*  
(10:30 AM) Author: Susan Faludi  
Hostess: Mary Humke  
Facilitator: Milli Stecker  
Contact: Ann Marie Ellis, 512-282-9637

**Culture & Cuisine**

**Feb. 15** Cuba  
(6:30 PM) Hostesses: Shirlene Justice,  
Glenda Summers  
Contact: Barbara Houston, 512-633-9766; barbyhouston@gmail.com

**Feb. 17** **February General Meeting** – bring a friend, pick up Voter Guides, RSVP to Judy Reinhart, jareinhart@att.net

**Creative Stitchery**

**Feb. 21** Hostess: Nancy Ellison  
(10:00 AM) Co-Hostess: Kay Goodwin

**Reception**

**Feb. 23** Meet with Raheel Reza, a Pakistani Canadian journalist, activist and author  
(10:30 AM) North Village Branch Library  
➔ See Mary Ellen's message, page 4.

**Hiking Club**

**Feb. 24** Blue Hole in Wimberley  
(9:30 AM) Leader: Ginny Tannebring  
512-922-9645  
ginnytann7@gmail.com

**PEARS**

**Feb. 24** Dinner & Classical Guitar Concert  
Contact: Milli Stecker  
mstecker@austin.rr.com

**New Mystery Group**

**Feb. 26** Agatha Christie  
(11:00 AM) (February is her birthday month)  
Zuzu's Mexican restaurant,  
5770 N. Loop 1 (2222 exit)  
Leader: Pam Wolfe, piwolfe@yahoo.com

**Art Tour**

**Feb. 28** A visit with sculptor Cat Quintanilla  
(10:00 AM) (Dr. Linda Q's sister)  
43 Pillow Road, Sunset Valley  
Planners: Ruth Rubio, Linda Quintanilla  
Contact: Diane Brewer  
Zdramamom@gmail.com

**MORE things to do this month and next:**

**Feb. 16** Join Austin Woman's Federated Club  
(11:00 AM) for program on Population Health (by Alexandra Garcia, PhD, RN, PHNA-BC, FAAN), a tour of the Dell Medical School, with lunch at the Flik Café.  
\$20 with lunch. Contact: Carol Blanchard,  
blanchardc56@gmail.com, 512-971-0197

**SAY YES TO YOUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE!**

AAUW in ACTION – see more at <http://austin-tx.aauw.net/>



### STEM/STEAM News:

from Lilac Bauer, 512-743-6338, [la\\_azucena@hotmail.com](mailto:la_azucena@hotmail.com)

**February 4,** Sunday 12 Noon -3pm WEATHERFEST at the Bob Bullock Museum. Contact **Judy Reinhart**.

**March 16:** (time TBA) GOODY BAG STUFFING for Girlstart's Girls in STEM Conference on March 24. Contact **Jackie Hardee**.

### VOTER/VOTING update – Dr. Sylvia Garcia, Public Policy Co-Chair

The last day to register to vote is Monday, February 5, 2018 for the upcoming election. The first day of early voting is Tuesday, February 20, 2018 and the last is Friday, March 2. The general election is Tuesday, March 6, 2018. During Early Voting and on Election Day, you may vote at any polling location where you see a "Vote Here" sign. Our branch is continuing its efforts to get voters registered to vote. Members are encouraged to be trained as voter registrars and then to participate in various activities upon request.

For Travis County, the training is offered on the first Tuesday of every month at one of these times: 10:30 a.m., 12:30, and 6:30 p.m. Contact Gretchen Nagy at 512-854-7987. The training is held at the Travis County Clerk's office, 5501 Airport Blvd. Once trained, contact **Sylvia Garcia** at 512-826-1371 or email at [gar04317@yahoo.com](mailto:gar04317@yahoo.com).

### Continuing to put the FUN in FUNd-rai\$ing for AAUW!!

**Debbie Starr and Anita Knight, Co-Chairs**

Bring cash or checkbooks for another raffle at our February meeting: 2 tickets to Verdi's La Traviata Opera in Austin in May. Value: \$185. Chances will be \$3 each, 2 for \$5, or 5 for \$10.

Many of the funds raised by the branch are and have been targeted to help complete the Ann Richards American Fellowship started by AAUW-TX. In March we will have a used book sale.

→ **Save your used books to bring to the March meeting for sale as FUNdraiser for Funds.**

At the April meeting, we will present **Named Gift Certificates** of Appreciation for each \$500 of contributions in 2017 – that will be TEN special members deserving of recognition and appreciation.

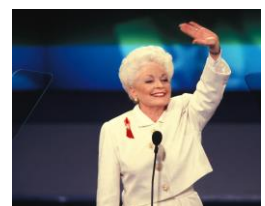
→ **Please send your suggestions of deserving members to us.**

For donations to the Ann Richards American Fellowship Fund between January 1, 2018 and March 1, 2018, individuals will receive a yellow rose pin to signify you as a *Sister of Ann* and recognition in the 2018 State Convention program. All branches that donate during this time will receive special recognition at the 2018 State Convention. Donations will be matched by AAUW-TX board.

Individual *Sister of Ann* Member--- \$250 and higher

Branch *Sister of Ann* Member-- \$500 and higher

Donate online at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org), click on Donate, search for a Specific Program, select Fellowships, then select Ann Richards American Fellowship. Or mail your check to AAUW National designated for fund #4324. OR contribute to your branch's FUNd-raising events.





**Co-President  
Mary Ellen Scribner's  
Message**

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it could turn out to be one of the busiest for AAUW Austin. We are really on a roll for outstanding programs, and our branch meeting on February 17 promises to continue the streak with its hot topic of racial gerrymandering in Texas, thanks to Program Committee member **Dr. Katherine Staples**. We hope to have copies of the League of Women's Voter Guide for the March 6 joint primary available for everyone at this meeting. Early voting begins on Tuesday, February 20.

Then on Friday, February 23 we have a special opportunity to host Raheel Raza, a well-known Pakistani-Canadian journalist, activist and author. An outspoken advocate for gender equality and an activist for women's rights internationally, she has appeared many times in print, radio and television media to reveal and debate issues related to media, diversity, gender and immigration. You can learn much more about her on her website [www.raheelraza.com/](http://www.raheelraza.com/). She will be speaking to and with us at the North Village Branch Library (2505 Steck Avenue) beginning at 10:30 a.m. until noon. The public is invited, and the event is free, so please pass the information along to other groups of which you are a member. It is an opportunity to inform the public more about who and what AAUW is!

Longtime branch members will remember **Dr. Sue Worden**, our original webmaster, who chose to remain a member of our branch when she moved to Warrenton, VA, several years ago. Sue will be here to attend the Raheel Raza presentation on the 23rd. She hopes to get together with branch members over lunch afterward. As luck would have it, **Pam Wolfe** was already planning such a lunch get-together. We have since learned that both Pam and Sue have a February 24th birthday, and lunch will be something of a celebration! If you would like to join the celebration, continue visiting with other branch members, or don't need a reason to have lunch with friends, get in touch with Pam at [piwolfe@yahoo.com](mailto:piwolfe@yahoo.com).

Greetings from **Marina Rivers**,  
our Central District Rep.

Through the early summer of 2017, I was able to visit 5 of the 8 branches: Austin, Georgetown, Polk County, San Antonio and Nacogdoches. Your collective efforts for fund-raising methods and membership recruitment gave me many new insights and best practices to share with the branches.

August marked the beginning of the new calendar year and I was on the road again. I visited the Hill Country Branch and met so many members who hail from all over the US, lured by the charm of the Texas Hill Country. I made repeat visits to Austin, Polk County and Georgetown branches, and finally had a lovely visit with the Huntsville Branch President,

During the calendar year, I attended 3 State Board meetings: Round Rock in January, Ft. Worth in July, and Houston in November. The emphasis of these board meetings was planning the 2018 State Convention. *Blast off for E3-Education, Equity and Empowerment* is the theme for the convention that will be held in Houston April 20-22, 2018. The State wants to encourage all 34 branches to attend. Therefore, the Board is offering a free Early Bird registration to each branch for participating. A keynote speaker will be Lisa Falkenberg, a recipient of the Pulitzer Prize and a noted columnist.

Make sure you donate to the Ann Richard Fund, slated to be completed in early 2018. The Texas Board will donate \$ for \$ to every branch and individual donation.

As we begin 2018, I wish for each of you continued success in your branches, and I look forward to meeting and working with even more of you. Don't miss the detailed info in the January issue of UWT.





## Branch BUZZzzzzz

Longtime AAUW Honorary member **Barbara Allen Wedel** passed away last month. There was a remembrance of her at the Towers of Town Lake, where she lived for a very long time. She joined AAUW in 1952 and was an active member of a bridge group. She had both bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from Case Western Reserve.

### Membership Update from Dr. Linda Welsh, our Membership VP

Welcome to our new 16 members since Fall 2017! This group brings our total to 198! Check their backgrounds out in your yearbook or wait for an addendum to the directory soon.

**Jonesie Abernathy, Naomi Baker, Marion Barber, Dr. Judith Bergum, Rolinda Carrington Rhone, Kate DiPronio, Daija Dolmetsch, Signe Fourmy, Ann Gibbs, Kathleen Hall, Donna Kaelke, Dr. Marsha McDonough, Suellen Mills, Jennifer Poteat, Marian Wernicke, Katy Woodbury**

The Membership Committee wants you! We have short and long-term projects to engage all our members. Let **Linda Welsh**, VP Membership (lawelsh@gmail.com), know if you can help on any of these projects:

- **Buddies Wanted:** Are you willing to be a buddy for a new member to our branch or to reach out to a member who is ill or is no longer able to get to meetings? The membership committee wants all members to feel welcomed into our AAUW-Austin Family. We are starting a Buddy program to connect members who are new or who want a buddy - - to those who want to be a buddy.
- **Design Help Wanted:** Are you a wiz at designing display boards? AAUW has a new display board for outreach events and needs some help in designing an attractive board that communicates our message well.
- Help us meet our membership goal of 200 members! Volunteers are needed to help **Brenda Hahne** staff the AAUW outreach table at WeCon, the Women's Empowerment Conference on April 21 at ACC- Eastview. Learn more about the conference at <http://www.womenctx.org/wecon2018/>. You don't need to register to help staff our table. Contact **Brenda Hahne** (bwhahne@gmail.com) if you can help.

Culture & Cuisine honored Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January with a southern dinner and a visit with Judge Harriet Murphy (friend and sorority sister of our **Myrtle Bell** AND "ML" himself.)



Above are Judge Murphy with **Fern Chester**, and with **Myrtle Bell** and **Lynn Cooksey** below. More members surrounded Harriet after her talk.



Enter AAUW Annual Art Contest:  
see <https://www.aauw.org/resource/art-contest-rules/>