

AAUW Austin, TX Branch

Saturday, May 12

10:00 AM

Norris Conference Center
2525 West Anderson Lane,

\$25 lunch

RSVP by noon, May 7th
to Judy Reinhart
jareinhart@att.net

Page 2

Calendar

Pages 3-5

AAUW in Action

Page 6-7

BUZZzzzz

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

Meet 2018-19 UT Fellowship Recipients Installation of Branch Officers for 2018-19

The UT Fellowship Selection Team is made up of **Jean Bessent, Joyce Pulich, Ruth Rubio, Mary Ellen Scribner, and Janet Widoff**. Everyone, except Ruth Rubio, who is on "grandparent sabbatical", participated in selecting four fellowship recipients out of 16 extremely well-qualified applicants.

The following recipients will each receive \$2850.

Meghan Gorman-Darif from the English Department. Her dissertation topic is "Revisiting Resistance to Historical Violence in the Globalized Postcolonial Imaginary." Ms. Gorman-Darif will review novels romanticizing violence related to Indian and Kenyan uprisings to determine how we change our views on non-governmental violence. She intends to finish her dissertation this summer.

Maricarmen Hernandez from the Department of Sociology. Her dissertation topic is "Living in the Vicinity of Big Oil: Informal Settlements Environmental Inequity and Inaction in Esmeraldas, Ecuador". Ms. Hernandez, the daughter of migrant workers, is studying the 50 Casas settlement made up largely of Afro descendants who want to continue to live in a toxic environment near a petrochemical plant in Emeralds, Ecuador, where she is currently studying.

Seema Irani from the Chemical Engineering department. Her dissertation is "Structures and Function Studies of Enzymes in Ergothioneine Biosynthesis Pathways." Ms. Irani uses a new technique to crystalize the structure of a new antioxidant that could lead to medical advances in understanding autoimmune disorders and aging. Ms. Irani's technique is a green chemistry technique that will have applications in both the medical and cosmetic industries.

Emily Whalen from the History Department. Ms. Whalen's dissertation topic is "The Lebanese War: Civil Conflicts and International Intervention, 1976-1985." In 1982, Lebanon's eight year internal conflict became the staging ground for a new war with the intervention of the United Nations, the Palestinian Liberation Organization, Iran and Syria. Her dissertation analyzes how this international intervention changed the Lebanese Civil War. Her dissertation is very timely considering the international intervention occurring in Syria today. Ms. Whalen is fluent in many languages spoken in the Middle East and currently studies in Lebanon. We hope to Skype her into our meeting (God willing and the creeks don't rise.).

TACO BAR on MENU: Create your own taco with beef and/or shredded chicken, crispy corn & soft flour tortillas, lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream, pico, cheddar cheese, Spanish rice, boracho beans. Chips & salsa. Dessert bar.

When you RSVP, be sure to specify that you want lunch for \$25 or just program with beverages for \$5.

MAY CALENDAR

First Friday AM Book Review

Hyde Park Church of Christ

May 4 *The White Umbrella*

(10:00 AM) Author: Mary Frances Bowley
 Reviewer: Mary Frances Rogerson
 Hostess: Judy Reinhart

PEARS

May 6 Dinner at Marker 10 and Capitol
 (5:00 PM) Cruise Bat Tour (re-scheduled)
 Planner: Milli Stecker & Phillip Craft
 Contact: Milli Stecker
 mstecker@austin.rr.com

Contemporary Literature (at Fern Chester's)

May 7 *Homegoing, a Novel*
 (7:15 PM) Author: Yaa Gyasi
 Facilitator: Mary Ellen Scribner
 Contact: Fern Chester, 512-345-1102

Out to Lunch

May 8 Shady Grove – planning for next year
 (11:00 AM) 1624 Barton Springs Rd; 512-474-9991
 Hostess: Diane Brewer
 RSVP: Diane Brewer, 512-328-0474
 zdramamom@gmail.com

Southwest Books

May 14 *Fates and Furies*
 (10:30 AM) Author: Lauren Groff
 Hostess: Connie Levy
 Co-hostess: Ginny Tannebring
 Facilitator: Jennifer Swenson
 Contact: Jennifer Swenson, 512-288-2894

Central Books

May 14 *The Swerve:*
 (10:30 AM) *How the World Became Modern*
 Author: Stephen Greenblatt, Ph.D.
 Hostess: Mary Humke
 Facilitator: Barbara Fry
 Contact: Ann Marie Ellis, 512-282-9637

Creative Stitchery

May 16 Hostess: Fern Chester
 (10:00 AM) Co-Hostess: Kay Goodwin

Culture & Cuisine

May 17 Potluck BBQ
 (6:30 PM) Hostesses: Lynn Cooksey, Linda Bush
 Contact: Barbara Houston, 512-633-9766; barbyhouston@gmail.com

Art Tour

May 23 Brunch & planning at Mary Frances
 (10 AM) Rogerson's, 2022 Goodrich Avenue
 Contact: Diane Brewer, Zdramamom@gmail.com

New Mystery Group

May 28 Mysteries Prior to the 20th Century
 (11:00 AM) Read any mystery set before the
 20th century. It can be a classic that was
 written before the 20th century or
 written during the 20th or 21st century.
 Mimi's in the Arbor Walk
 10515 N. MOPAC
 Leader: Pam Wolfe, piwolfe@yahoo.com

MORE things to do

June 16 Latinitas **GALA** called "**Party for Chica**
 (6-11 PM) **Power**" at the NEW Austin Central
 Library – see page 3 for more
 information

**WANTED:****New Historian****New Newsletter Editor**

(Call a Co-President to
 volunteer yourself or someone you know;
 call current appointees
 to find out what these jobs entail)

FYI - May is **National Teen Pregnancy Prevention month**. Texas has the fifth highest rate of teen births and has pockets of teen pregnancy rates that are higher than the national average throughout the state.

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

STEM/STEAM News:

Per Lilac Bauer, 512-743-6338, la_azucena@hotmail.com

A BIG thank you to Katherine Staples and Anita Knight for GOODY BAG STUFFING for the Latinitas *Design Chica* on April 28th. They expected over 60 attendees!

Latinitas is looking for volunteers to help re-format their curriculum activities to standardize the volunteers who staff the After School Clubs. At your own time, on your own computer.

In addition, AAUW is invited to help with registration and check in for the Latinitas Gala on **June 16th** -- stay for the party if we wish. This is for adults in the Hispanic community, business and education communities, to raise money for Latinitas' work with girls. This would be a great opportunity for AAUW to network with these folks, and also support the Latinitas' work! (Spanish fluency not required.)

Contact Lilac if you are willing to do any of this!



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

Debbie Starr and Anita Knight, co-Chairs

Many of the funds raised by the branch have been targeted to help complete the Ann Richards American Fellowship started by AAUW-TX in 2008. This fund was completed at the State Convention in Houston, April 21st.

May Raffle / 3 Winners: 4 Paramount Movie Tickets for Summer Movie Series and 2 Pair of Alamo Movie Passes

- All Members who **Pay their Dues after the 4/11 General Meeting through the May 12 Meeting** will receive **one FREE raffle chance**.
- Need not be present to win; however, must complete back of ticket with name/phone so we can contact you.
- **One Greeting Card** will be given to anyone who also donates at least \$25 to AAUW with dues renewal onsite; 5 cards for \$100 or more donation.



We showed off our card project and our new display board at the State Convention.



Fifty Multi-colored Sunbrellas/Parasols from India.

- **Sunbrellas make great gifts for any occasion including outdoor events.** Plus the day after our May General Meeting happens to be Mother's Day, so take the worry out of what to get the Moms in your life, and give them this beautiful and unique gift. The summer heat is here, and we need to look cool for it!
- **The requested donation will be \$25 each** (\$18 tax-deductible if itemizing) **or 3 for \$65** (\$44 tax deductible if itemizing). **Arrive early** to the May meeting to have your choice. All are fabulous!

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

Co-President **MARY ELLEN SCRIBNER** writes: In my 53rd year of AAUW membership I finally went to my first state convention --- probably shouldn't have waited so long because the weekend of April 20-21 in Houston was special in a number of ways!

Accustomed to state and national library conventions that draw thousands, I was surprised and delighted by the friendliness and needle-sharp focus of the approximately one hundred women who gathered on the outskirts (thankfully!) of Houston last weekend. AAUW Austin was front and center with State President **Pam Wolfe** presiding and Central District Representative **Marina Rivers** looking out for the Central Texas branches. Our public policy gurus, **Sylvia Garcia Ph.D.** and **Jean Bessent J.D.** were the presenters for Texas Public Policy Priorities and Initiatives. **Pat Rehm** was a presenter in the leadership roundtable session. Our impressive table in the exhibits area was the result of planning and execution by **Linda Welsh, Ph.D., Anita Knight**, and **Marsha Endahl Kramer**. I got to bring home three AAUW Fund Awards and a MAP Award for the branch's overall efforts in **Membership-Advocacy-Philanthropy** in the past year. (see photo at right) We were in the Top Ten Total Gifts for both 2016 and 2017, and for 2016 we were also named to the Top Ten Per Capita Gifts list. Jean introduced the final convention speaker State Representative Senfronia Thompson. **Ann Berasley, Roberta Coffin** and **Carol Midboe** rounded out our delegation. The Georgetown Branch joined us in a full-page program ad thanking Pam for her service as state president the past two years. A half-page ad honored our fundraising efforts and our named gift recipients. Anita and Marsha honored our fifteen nonagenarian members with a quarter-page ad.

It has been a privilege to serve as your co-president this past year. The executive board has been a dream team with years of experience behind them and a 21st century vision for the future. At our first meeting, we decided that "Pay It Forward" would be our theme, and then we got to work doing just that. Money management and membership procedures have been updated and are more in line with National thanks mostly to Membership VP Linda and Treasurer Roberta. Program VP **Judy Reinhart** steered a committee that brought us outstanding programs every month, and Secretary **Resa Dunn** kept a record of it all. I thank my co-president **Elaine Penn**, who despite a tough year at work gave great assistance to all of us, especially Linda and Roberta as they untangled membership and treasurer responsibilities. Thanks also to the appointed members of the board who managed our efforts to support public policy, STEM, interest groups, and more.

Lastly, the board has a big "thank you" for all of you who shared your time, dollars, and talents to make 2017-2018 an outstanding year for AAUW Austin. When we asked you to be present, to donate money, to stuff Girlstart goodie bags, or whatever, you showed up!



Linda Welsh accepted the MAP award certificate for Austin.

Austin members in attendance at the state convention in Houston were **Ann Berasley, Jean Bessent, Roberta Coffin, Sylvia Garcia, Anita Knight, Marsha Endahl Kramer, Carol Midboe (not pictured), Pat Rehm, Marina Rivers, Mary Ellen Scribner, Linda Welsh, and Pam Wolfe.**

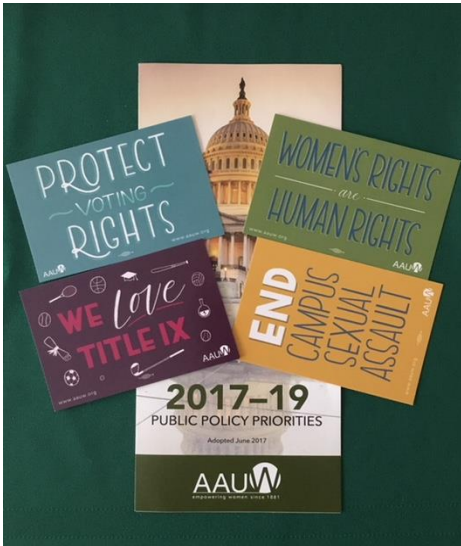


Presiding in style was our **Pam Wolfe**, State President, 2016-18.



National Board Chair, **Julia Brown**, challenged us to be change-agents.

Jean Bessent reports: *The best thing about the State Convention was learning how other women manage their branches and advocacy. I particularly enjoyed Joie Rasberry, House of Hope. She was a wonderful speaker with a great message about her mission to save young students in crisis.*

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

Public Policy:

Dr. Sylvia Garcia, gar04317@yahoo.com.....

pictured here with Elizabeth Holden, AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Manager, and branch members **Anita Knight**, **Mary Ellen Scribner**, and **Jean Bessent**.

There was high interest from attendees on public policy issues at the state convention in Houston. Two panels were presented: one on Public Policy Priorities and Initiatives from a state perspective and one from a national perspective. The state panel was moderated by Elizabeth Holden, AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Manager, and the panelists were Melodia Gutierrez, State Public Policy Chair, and Austin branch members **Anita Sylvia Garcia** and **Jean Bessent**. The discussion covered Pay Equity, Voter Registration, Title IX, sexual trafficking and strategies for achieving success in these issues. One innovative strategy currently being utilized by the Farmers Branch is to notify all members when the national office sends a two-minute advocate message that requires quick action.

Ms. Holden's presentation highlighted the importance of forging coalitions with other organizations and delivering Smart Messaging to an intended audience. She gave examples of other states and branches that have had success employing these strategies and reviewed the resources available from the national office such as the AAUW Washington Update, the Action Network, and AAUW in the Statehouse. Members are encouraged to sign up for these services. You can be informed, networking, and advocating.

On April 9, 2018, the Ninth Circuit Court held that using prior salary alone, as a "factor other than sex," or in combination with other factors, cannot justify a wage differential, further reasoning that this would allow employers to profit on this inequity and perpetuate a gender wage gap in direct contrast with the intent of the Equal Pay Act of 1963. AAUW will continue to support Aileen Rizo, a math consultant through our legal case-support program (LAF = Legal Advocacy Fund) as her case moves through any further appeal. This case matters. Pay inequity can have a domino effect on economic security.

WHY eliminate the **degree requirement*** for membership in AAUW?

Per **AAUW.org**: There are many passionate voices on the issue of the educational membership requirement, and one reason the AAUW Board of Directors felt it was important to include the current proposal was to help clarify member views. But, there are a number of other reasons too. The current membership requirement is at odds with our mission to advance equity for all women and girls and our efforts at inclusion and equity. It is counterproductive to recruiting a diverse membership and attracting support from corporations and foundations who view our requirements as exclusionary. What makes AAUW distinct is not our educational requirement for membership, but our abiding belief in ensuring every girl is empowered, and every woman can reach her full potential.

Per **Marsha Enahl Kramer**:

"The best part of the state convention was the opportunity of affirming shared values (such as the need to defeat the amendments that would eliminate a **degree requirement*** and allow people to serve on the national Board who were not willing to join our organization!)

The other was affirming the importance of giving members the "tools" they need to feel "affiliated" as soon as possible.....e.g. yearbook and interest group membership lists.

Years ago at the convention we heard from research done that people "join for the mission and stay for the friendships and/or sisterhood..." They find bright, educated interesting people who share many common beliefs and values."



Branch & Community BUZZzzzzz

Corrected phone number for **Mary Humke**: 303-517-8440

Terry Whaley is moving away from her @sbcglobal.net address to whaleyterry@gmail.com. She is also planning on a trip to Japan in November with Intrepid Tours, and she is looking for a roommate. It is a Japanese Food Adventure with stops in several cities.

Condolences to **Jennifer Swenson** on the loss of her brother.

Missing: Whereabouts of **Jenny Lind Porter Scott**??

If you know, please contact **Marsha Endahl Kramer**, (512) 906-6566, or MEKspirit66@gmail.com.

Central Book Group read *Train to Crystal City*. About a week later, **Mary Lou Bell** led us on a wonderful tour of the Zilker Japanese Garden. It was a beautiful day and lots of fun to be led by someone passionate about the Garden, which was designed and created by Isamu Taniguchi, the grandfather of Austin architect Evan Taniguchi. Isamu spent time in Crystal City internment camp during WWII.



The garden opened in 1969 and has one of the most outstanding views of the Austin skyline. Three acres of rugged caliche hillside were transformed into a garden in the late 1960s by Isamu Taniguchi when he was 70 years old. Taniguchi brought forth his gift to the city of Austin first in gratitude for the education that his two sons received here and second in an aspiration for peace.

At the April meeting, we presented Named Gift Certificates of Appreciation for each \$500 of contributions in 2017 to these 11 special members deserving of recognition and appreciation: **Roberta Coffin, Kay Goodwin, Betty Grubbs, Brenda Hahne, Jackie Hardee, Janie Maldonado, Carol Midboe, Debbie Starr, Jennifer Swenson, Linda Welsh, and Sue Worden**.

Several are new members, but all but Sue Worden are NEW honorees of the Named Gifts tradition.
(Missing from photo: Jennifer Swenson and Sue Worden)



Art Tours finished the year with a fascinating visit to Greg Davis' Photography Studio, followed by lunch at Shady Grove – with Funds Committee Parasols!



Guess who is soon turning **100** ???!
Betty Grubbs and Kay Goodwin.



MORE Branch & National BUZZzzzzz

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Renewal for 2018-2019 program year:

Dues Increase: In the first time for nearly a decade, our national dues for the coming year have increased by \$10 to \$59. Annual dues from the members represent an important 13% of the national budget. They help sustain and grow AAUW's programs and work that advances equity for women and girls. To learn more:

<https://www.aauw.org/resource/membership-dues-update/>

With the \$13 state and \$16 local dues, the total for the coming year is \$88.

Online Renewal Process: Our branch is becoming more tech-savvy; for the upcoming membership renewal our branch will be moving to the online national Membership Payment Program. This will save time and effort for our local branch volunteers.

Soon each member will be sent an individualized email for you to renew your membership online. Don't worry - If you prefer to do a paper process, you can still write a check.

➔ See renewal form attached to your email.

NATIONAL NEWS

2018 AAUW Bylaws Amendment Vote. The AAUW Governance committee is proposing these three Bylaw changes to be voted on by the members:

- 3 year staggered board terms
- Opening board service to those outside AAUW membership
- Eliminate the **degree requirement*** for membership (*see amendment and comments below and on page 5*)

Educate yourself on the proposed changes at:

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

Members can comment on the proposed amendments until April 24th. **Voting will begin on April 25 and continue through June 9, 2018.**

Strategic Plan. A new National Strategic Plan is under development. The Strategic Planning Task Force now needs **YOUR** input, as an AAUW member, to support the continuing refinement of the strategic plan draft. **Please complete your survey answers by 6:00 pm ET Tuesday, May 1.** You received a notice from AAUW in your email in April. To learn more: <https://www.aauw.org/2017/12/05/strategic-plan/>

Proposal 3 - Degree requirement for membership in AAUW

Amendment Description:

Article IV, Section 1. Composition. An Associate Membership will be offered to an individual who pays annual dues to AAUW and supports its mission shall be eligible to be an Associate Member, with the rights of participation in all activities except for voting and board representation.

The current language of eligibility requirements shall otherwise remain unchanged.

New Comment -- Submitted by your editor -- *"The proposed amendment for an "Associate Membership" is a good compromise to removing the degree requirement. My branch in Michigan had "Community Members" in the '70s - women who belonged to LOCAL study groups and attended meetings without voting privileges and national membership. There are many groups which support our mission and with which we can be in collaboration. Why remove our special distinction and credibility which serves us well when we advocate and promote our mission? At the recent AAUW-TX state convention, National Board Chair Julia Brown gave an impassioned argument for the proposed removal of the degree requirement when faced with prospective members who do not have a degree, but it is not clear why corporate sponsors believe we are inconsistent about removing barriers. They should not dictate our mission and purpose. We need to emphasize that research shows that higher education is the key to economic success and upward mobility."*