

AAUW Austin, TX Branch

Sunday, August 26

2-4:00 PM

Congregation Beth Israel

3901 Shoal Creek Blvd.

Austin 78756

EVITE coming!

Contact Linda Welsh

(lawelsh@gmail.com or

512-586-1575) if you need a ride.



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Public Policy

Our Mission. *Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.*

<http://austin-tx.aauw.net>

***AAUW-Austin: Changing the “pair ‘o dime”
for women and girls in Central Texas!***



Thinking paradoxically is key to creativity, which depends on the ability to hold divergent ideas in a way that opens the mind and heart to something new. – Parker J. Palmer

Kick off a great new year at AAUW-Austin’s summer social on Sunday August 26th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM in central Austin at the Congregation Beth Israel, 3901 Shoal Creek Blvd; Austin 78756. Look for an email invitation from **Linda Welsh**, your Membership VP, in early August.

After another long, hot summer, it will be a treat to come together to enjoy ice-cold pink lemonade, sweets and good conversation. Gather to connect with friends after our summer respite and welcome new and prospective members to our community. The summer social is a great time to share what AAUW has to offer, so invite your friends or colleagues to join us to learn more.

Interest groups will share their plans for the coming year and recruit new members. Remember – you only need three members to create a new interest group. Let **Brenda Hahne** (bwhahne@gmail.com) know if you want to start a new group. Learn what’s new in public policy and advocacy. Find out how you can help support women and girls in our community.

To encourage continued membership growth, the membership committee will be running a yearlong contest for one (or more) free national membership for next year. Bring a guest for a chance at a national membership. If your guest joins, you will get 5 more chances. Anyone who signs up as a member at the summer social will pay half-price for national membership for the year (total dues - \$58.50).

SUMMER CALENDAR, along with Branch & Community BUZZzzzzzz

Come to the summer social to learn about 2018-19 schedules for our interest groups, plans for FUNd-raising, and STEM activities. Only one interest group has an event in August.

HIKING GROUP

Aug. 30 Lady Bird Lake and Deep Eddy
<http://www.austintexas.gov/page/lady-bird-lake>
<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/deep-eddy-pool>
 Leader: Gail Boston
 Contact: Linda Welsh, 512-586-1575

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News from Texas Girls Collaborative Project

They are pushing STEM volunteer and mentor needs out to a wide network of STEM professionals on **September 6th**. If your classroom or organization has a need for a STEM volunteer or mentor (or a team of them!), enter your request into Texas STEM Connections by the morning of September 5th to be included.

SAVE THE DATE!

2nd Annual Texas Women and Girls in STEM Summit
Friday, December 7, 2018
 The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
 Information and registration coming soon!

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AISD Up close

Applications for UpClose are open to the Austin ISD parents and community members at
<https://www.austinisd.org/upclose>

UpClose offers a unique opportunity to learn about the Austin Independent School District. Through sessions from **September to May**, participants learn about the District's infrastructure, programs, services, and understand the challenges and opportunities inside Austin ISD. AISD UpClose graduates are challenged to become leaders and advocates for the District, to volunteer for service on committees and task forces, to speak up when misinformation is circulating, and to encourage other parents and community members to get informed and involved.

Applications deadline: **August 12**. Sessions will begin September 12th. Program is available for parents and community members only.

Guess who else is soon turning **100** ???!

We celebrated the 100th birthday of **Betty Grubbs** in May, and **Kay Goodwin** will celebrate her 100th in August.



Cards may be sent to Kay at
 4100 Jackson Avenue, #324
 Austin, TX 78731

Condolences to the family of **Nancy Greer Ellison**, who passed away July 4 at only 76. She enjoyed expanding her views and horizons through memberships in AAUW and Master Naturalist-Highland Lakes chapter, sailing the world with husband Dennis and her brother, Don, and his wife, Jane, gardening, worldly travels, numerous quilting bees, book clubs, needlepoint clubs (very accomplished member of the branch Stitchery group), investment clubs and many other endeavors. Nancy was an advocate of equal rights and opportunity for all.

Condolences also to **lilene Payton**, who recently lost her husband Ed. She draws a great deal of comfort from her daughter and son-in-law who live across the street from her, and the love and support of her other 3 children. She has been an active member of the Austin branch but now lives in Sugarland, TX.

Christina Ceballos, former Peace Corps Volunteer (in addition to other qualifiers) assumed the position of GlobalAustin ED on June 1, succeeding Margie Kidd.

Latinitas is moving up to a new headquarters located in one of 15 spaces that make up Springdale General - a nonprofit enterprise for Austin's creatives, musicians, makers, coders, and designers; and also home to major community creatives and change-makers such as: Texas Book Festival, Austin Parks Foundation, and AIDS Services of Austin. Latinitas is excited to better serve our community hosting summer camps and future workshops! Find them at 1023 Springdale Rd, Bldg. 9E, Austin 78721.

Speaking of Latinitas, STEM liaison **Lilac Bauer** reminds us that at August social we can sign up to volunteer with both Girlstart and Latinitas for the coming year. Also, please bring single subject spiral notebooks to be used in the AfterSchool programs for both Girlstart and Latinitas.

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

What do Bookspring, GenAustin, GirlForward, Girls Outside, and Latinitas have in common? They give a big thanks to AAUW Volunteer Extraordinaire, **Janani Janakiraman**. Through her volunteer work with the branch, Janani was awarded a \$2000 grant from IBM to support STEM work. Each of these non-profits benefitted with materials and equipment to support their missions.

Bookspring was delighted with a donation of hard-to-get STEM books in English and Spanish, delivered to Associate Director Jill Gonzalez by **Janie Maldonado** and **Linda Welsh** on July 12.



GenAustin will put the laptop received to good use by their new Associate Director of Philanthropy to build the funding base to reach more girls. Blair Stirek is shown holding the laptop, flanked by **Linda Welsh** and **Janani Janakiraman**.



GirlForward is thrilled to have a new projector (held by Arielle Levin) that will be used for everything from mentor and volunteer trainings to hosting movie screenings.



Girls Outside, a partnership between AISD and Westcave Outdoor Discovery can't wait to take AISD girls to Westcave and other natural watersheds to use their handheld microscopes and invertebrate field guides, presented here to Anne Muller of AISD by AAUW members **Janani Janakiraman** and **Linda Welsh**.



The staff at Latinitas was abuzz with ideas about how to use their new drone and drone kits. Sylvia Butanda and Laura Donnelly are on right, next to **Janani** and **Linda** on the left.

AAUW in ACTION – people and projects



NEW Co-President Joyce Pulich shares:

I joined AAUW in August 2010 after attending that year’s summer social at **Anita Knight’s** invitation. I was fascinated by the number of interest groups in the

local branch and the critical issues that the national organization is focused on. At that social, I learned that **Betty Owen**, a friend from church, was a long-time AAUW member. Betty got me involved as a bridge group Sub (even though I had not played in decades), and I became friends with many intelligent and interesting women who continue to tolerate my low-level bridge skills.

I retired as a City of Austin Financial Manager in December 2007. I taught one Introductory Sociology class each semester as an adjunct professor at Austin Community College while I was working full-time for the City. It seemed natural to continue teaching a couple of classes in retirement – so I did. Several friends warned me about taking on too many volunteer activities after retirement, but I am not good at saying no, which explains why I am now branch co-president.

I coordinate Prison Ministry at St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church, including handling ministry meetings, assisting with religious education for young men housed at the Giddings State School, giving communion to women housed in maximum security at Del Valle Correctional Complex, and working to end the death penalty in Texas.

I also volunteer with the Women’s Storybook Project. We visit incarcerated women with children under 12 and give them the opportunity to record stories for their children on the outside once a month for four months. The recordings and books are mailed to the children. It is the best prison experience I have had, and I encourage you to check it out.

Most of my volunteering is church related – eucharistic minister, lector, sacristan, pastoral council, providing lunches once a month to the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH), Catholic Daughters, and advocating for social justice. My secular volunteering includes serving as secretary on the board of the Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Austin for many years.

Besides playing bridge as an AAUW member, I’ve also joined **Fern Chester’s** book club and helped with the AAUW fellowship process. I look forward to working with my bridge buddy **Elaine Penn** as co-president and to meeting more of you.



**WANTED: DO YOU QUALIFY?
CAN YOU HELP? READY TO
VOLUNTEER?**

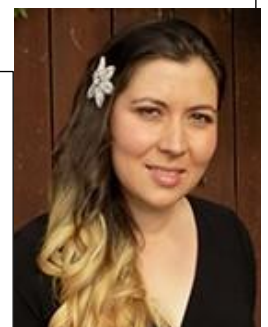
New Historian(s) needed

for updating Branch history and adding member accomplishments for the branch website. Board and committee members may furnish photographs and detailed writeups of key events for the Branch and pass along to Historian and Webmaster for updating webpage. Very worthwhile contribution for posterity!

New Newsletter Editor

Requires a 10-11 monthly commitment to collect, edit, and assemble AAUW and relevant information to share with members and friends. Board and committee chairs submit content, including photos. Experience needed in use of WORD, PUBLISHER, or similar desk-top publishing software. Regular use of email and database access required. Very satisfying creative endeavor!

*Both appointed positions will get training and mentoring! And have **FUN!***



Editor **Anita Knight** met Luz Sarmiento, last year’s AAUW International Fellowship recipient at UT, where she earned her Ph.D. in clarinet performance. She has participated in *El Sistema* in Syrian refugee camps in Sweden and Germany, as well as her native Colombia (on the border with Peru and Brazil). She believes in this program "*Music for Social Change*", founded in Venezuela as an effective way to achieve youth development goals that we all share, through the rigors and rewards of orchestral music instruction.

PUBLIC POLICY – Contact Dr. Sylvia Garcia, gar04317@yahoo.com



NATIONAL NEWS

2018 AAUW Bylaws Amendment Vote. The AAUW Governance committee proposed these 3 Bylaws changes to be voted on by us members this spring:

- 3-year staggered board terms – PASSED - Staggered terms will affect elected and appointed AAUW Board members starting terms in 2019.
- Opening board service to non-AAUW members - did not meet the percentage required to pass.
- Eliminate the degree requirement for membership - did not meet the percentage required to pass.

Voting officially closed the evening of Saturday, June 9. As you know, the AAUW National Board of Directors was strongly in support of all three proposals, as were several state AAUW Boards. There are many passionate voices on the issue of the educational membership requirement, as well as on the proposal to admit a small portion of current non-AAUW members to Board director positions. Opening the membership has been a highly debated issue in AAUW for many years. While neither proposal met the two-thirds approval of members required to pass, it's important to emphasize that of the members who voted, 48.7% did approve proposal #2, and 44.5% approved proposal #3 - not the two-thirds required by our bylaws, but a significant percentage to note. Meaning, our membership is grappling with different viewpoints about the future of the organization. National encourages branches and members to continue discussing these issues with fellow members and with valued community stakeholders to ensure voices and ideas are shared. Because our organization is a democracy, members may raise these proposals again, as well as other ideas for membership vote.

Remember that nearly 70% of Americans are in favor of protecting *Roe v. Wade* and our constitutional right to abortion. In late May, 66.4% of Irish voters chose to legalize abortion, with Irish citizens returning to their home country to vote. Ireland has one of the harshest anti-abortion laws in Europe. Now that the referendum has passed, the Irish government says it will enact legislation to allow abortion access up to twelve weeks.

Justice Anthony Kennedy's retirement from the Supreme Court marks a pivotal moment in our country's history. In recent years, the Supreme Court has decided cases that have weakened protections critical to the equity of women and girls throughout our country, including rolling back employment discrimination laws and labor rights, undermining reproductive rights, and restricting voting rights.

President Trump has nominated Judge Brett Kavanaugh to a lifetime appointment on the U.S. Supreme Court and the stakes are enormously high. If confirmed, Judge Kavanaugh will have a say in the health, education, and economic security of women and girls for decades to come.

President Trump has made it clear that he wants a justice who will overturn *Roe v. Wade* and roll back the Affordable Care Act and its lifesaving protections. We should all be concerned that the next Supreme Court justice could do grave harm by undermining protections for workers, access to birth control and abortion, LGBTQ rights, voting rights, and other hard-won gains.

That's why it is so important that as the Senate provides its "advice and consent" on Judge Kavanaugh's nomination, we demand that he clearly commit to upholding our fundamental rights. The Supreme Court should serve as a check and balance that protects us all. Our next justice must be an independent, fair-minded jurist who will uphold our fundamental rights to access healthcare, use contraception, have an abortion, and have the freedom to marry who we choose, among other vital rights.

AAUW asks us to Act now: urge your senators to only support a Supreme Court nominee who will uphold our fundamental rights. Anything less is unacceptable.