

AAUW Austin, TX Branch
Wed., Jan. 9th
10:00 AM

Chateau Bellevue
708 San Antonio St.

EVITE coming!

Or RSVP to Jean Bessent
(jeanbessent@gmail.com or
512-328-2709)



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Branch and Community BUZZzzz

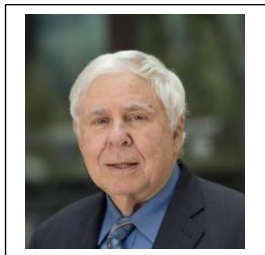
NEW Mission. To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Professor Sanford Levinson: “Our Undemocratic Constitution”

Professor Sanford Levinson currently holds the W. St. John Garwood and W. St. John Garwood, Jr. Centennial Chair in Law at the University of Texas Law School, which he joined in 1980. His books include *Constitutional Faith* (1988); *Written in Stone* (1998); *Wrestling With Diversity* (2003) and the edited volume, *Torture: A Collection* (Oxford University Press, 2004).

In his book, *Our Undemocratic Constitution*, one reviewer said: “Levinson argues that too many of our Constitution's provisions promote either unjust or ineffective government. Under the existing blueprint, we can neither rid ourselves of incompetent presidents nor assure continuity of government following catastrophic attacks.”

Levinson is a constitutional scholar of the highest regard. He finds the original Constitution of the US to be fundamentally flawed. The US Constitution does not promote equal representation of the people; it allows the popular vote to be overturned by an elite electoral college and allows states with huge populations the same representation as sparsely populated states in the Senate. He does not think Supreme Court Justices should be given lifetime appointments because they are political appointees, approved by the elite senators. Additionally, Justices time their retirements to benefit their political parties. Professor Levinson sees these undemocratic issues, and others, as impediments to a true democracy. He advocates convening a Constitutional Convention to rewrite the hallowed 1778 Constitution. **Do you agree with Jean Bessent that this is “A radical and thought-provoking idea”!?!?**



If you don't get the Evite,
RSVP by January 4th to
Jeanbessent@gmail.com
or (512)328-2709.

Sanford Levinson received a bachelor's degree from Duke University, a law degree from Stanford University, and a PhD degree from Harvard University. At one point he was a member of the Department of Politics at Princeton. Levinson taught law at Georgetown, Yale, Harvard, New York University, Boston University, Central European University in Budapest, Panthéon-Assas University, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, London, Auckland and Melbourne. In 2001, Levinson was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2010, he was given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association.

JANUARY CALENDAR

FIRST FRIDAY BOOK REVIEW

HOLIDAY HIATUS: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

Jan. 7 *On Living*

7:15 PM Author: Kerry Egan

Reviewer: Joyce Pulich

Jan. 9 **Branch Monthly Program – see page 1**

HIKING GROUP

Jan. 10 University of Texas Urban Hike

Leaders: Rolinda Carrington, Linda Welsh

NEW AAUW WINE TASTERS

Jan. 12 Malbec

4:00 PM Hostess: Elaine Penn

SW BOOK GROUP (at Barnes & Noble on Brodie)

Jan. 14 *Code Girls: The Untold Story*

10:30 AM Author: Liza Mundy

Hostess: Marsha Endahl Kramer

Facilitator: Mary Kate Fredriksen

CENTRAL BOOK GROUP

Jan. 14 *Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice*

10:30 AM Author: William Browder

Hostess: Mary Humke

Facilitator: Sue Ellen Jeffers

OUT TO LUNCH

Jan. 15 **Twin Lion** - 4815 W Braker Lane (@183)

11:15 AM Planner: Barbara Worley

512-794-8772; twinlionchineseresaurant.com

CREATIVE STITCHERY

Jan. 16 Hostess: Jackie Hardee

10:00 AM Co-hostess: Beverly Locklin

PEARS

Jan. 18 Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe

Happy hour, then dinner with the Therapy Sisters

Leaders: Dixie & Arlo Schurle

MYSTERY INTEREST GROUP

Jan. 22 Reader's Choice: Try a new author!

11:00 AM Mimi's Café, at the Arbor Walk

CULTURE AND CUISINE

Jan. 24 Norway (anything but Lutefisk)

6:30 PM Hostesses: Anita Knight, Ann Gibbs

ART TOURS

Jan. 30 Day Trip: Liberty Hill International

10:00 AM Sculpture Garden, 101 Loop 332, Austin

Lunch: Dahlia's Café

2450 RR 1869, Liberty Hill (512) 515-7772

Co-Planners: Sally Scott, Milli Stecker, Lala Niemeyer

MORE THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

JAN. 4 Deadline to apply to become a UNA/USA

delegate to the 2019 63rd Session on the UN

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63)

JAN. 20 Deadline for **Girls Impact the World Film**

Festival, a FREE-ENTRY, international film festival that

wants to hear about how you and your local

community are advancing women and girls.

See <http://www.connecther.org/gitw/guidelines>

HAVE A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR!



Here's a toast by **Judy Reinhart**, **Phyllis Folarin**, and **Gail Boston** at the December Sparkling Wine Tasting.

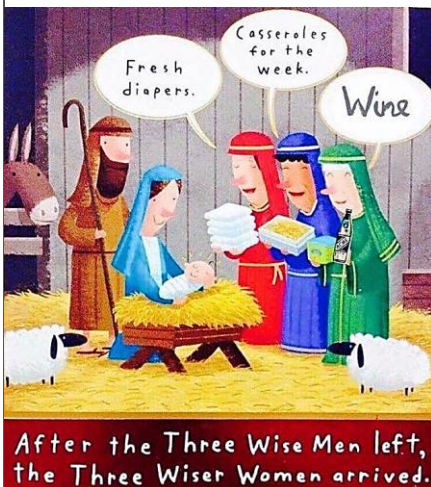


Diane Brewer reported that her neighbor and our co-President **Elaine Penn** suffered several TIA (mini-strokes) while at work on December 4th. She was taken to Dell Hospital by ambulance, and on Wednesday cardiologists performed an 8-hour surgery to carefully remove plaque from her carotid artery. Dr. Marissa Kopatek, her accomplished daughter, came home from Virginia to care for her mother for the week of the operation. Elaine came home to a grateful Presley, her dog, on Friday the 7th. Taking over from Marissa, Elaine's brother Sam cared for her for the next week.

Elaine feels better each day, but tires easily. She hopes to get back to her life soon, because she is not good at doing nothing! She is planning to carefully return to her bridge schedule on Thursday the 20th; and she told Gail Boston that she plans to drink some red wine as part of her recovery, so the Malbec tasting is still 'on' at her home in January.



Through it all Elaine has maintained her sunny can-do attitude. Way to go, Superwoman!



Many thanks to all our "Wise Women" who helped make the Dec. social a success!

Mainspring receives AISD charter!



Updates from the little school doing big things

Winter 2018 Newsletter
www.mainspringschools.org

We're proud to have a strong, long-standing relationship with the Austin Independent School District (AISD), and in recent months, we have taken that relationship to a new level. In July, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) approved our status as an in-district charter school within AISD!

What does that mean? We are still an independent, nonprofit organization, but now we are also considered an AISD campus that receives additional state funding (through TEA) for our preK-3 and preK-4 classrooms. In addition, AISD provides materials and educational support for our 3-5 year-olds' classrooms.

We're excited! Mainspring is one of only two early childhood schools in Texas to attain this status and others are hoping to follow our lead in the coming years as a way to increase funding for at-risk children.

We'd like to take this time to wish all of you a very happy holiday season. We hope you get to take a breath and a break, and spend it with friends, family and loved ones. Thank you for being part of this team effort to help kids and families learn the skills necessary to succeed in school, at work and in life.

The annual branch December social celebrated friendships. About 80 attended and were treated with oodles of beautiful food, background piano music, and door



prizes of poinsettias and a Collin St. fruitcake. Pam Wolfe had thought-provoking, conversation-starting material on the tables. Pictured here L. to R. are **Mercy Sosanya, Jean Bessent, Barbara Houston, Sally Scott, and Mary Frances Rogerson**. Thanks **Mary Ellen Scribner** and our past branch presidents!



MORE Branch & Community BUZZzzzzzz

STEM/STEAM NEWS per Lilac Bauer:

Resa Dunn, Jean Bessent & Lilac Bauer had great fun at the Girlstart DeSTEMber Extravaganza at the STEM Center!

That's Resa on right in photo.

If you have children or grandchildren interested in Girlstart STEM activities online, give them this website:

www.deSTEMber.org



Stay tuned for opportunities to be a "Lunch Mentor"---One Hour, One Time at both the Latinitas and Girlstart conferences this Spring! More information in future newsletters, or text **Lilac** at 512-743-6338.

FUND\$\$ opportunities
per **Debbie Starr**,
dbbstrr@gmail.com,
512-771-4497

Annual Gift-Wrapping at Barnes & Noble stores raised ~ \$300 in optional tip\$\$.

Thanks to **Nancy Andren, Lilac Bauer, Roberta Coffin, Ann Marie Ellis, Evelyn Farmer, Susan James, Anita Knight, Beverly Locklin, Suellen Meyers, Elizabeth Newell, Judy Reinhart, Katherine Staples, Debbie Starr, Jan Watson, Pam Watson, and Marian Wernike!**

Total AAUW contributions for 2018 were ~ \$6500!

Stay tuned for more FUNdraising events in 2019. And join this creative, worthwhile committee to help plan & raise FUNds.



Note that **Betty Grubbs** chaired many special outreach efforts as a member of AAUW-Austin. She remembers raising money by selling magazine subscriptions and fruitcakes. Lifetime supporter!

Did y'all see the wonderful obituary for our centenarian member **Betty M. Grubbs** in the Austin American-Statesman on Sunday, December 16? It is inspirational, because Betty was a PHENOMENON.

Marsha Endahl Kramer had a wonderful visit with Betty less than a month ago, and she reported that Betty was as sharp as a tack! Marsha and others will never forget Betty's spirit and zest for life!!! She attended our April branch meeting where we recognized her upcoming 100th birthday and thanked her for her contributions over the years to our branch.



Betty lived a full century overflowing with a long and happy marriage, deep and enduring friendships, a remarkable career, teaching, public service, travel, art, theater, music, and golf. And she still managed to fit in a full schedule of University of Texas athletics for more than 65 years.

Women's sports programs at UT will benefit from Betty's advocacy for years to come as funds from her estate will be dedicated to scholarships for women athletes, as well as support for the baseball and softball programs. This is in keeping with Betty's strong belief in the importance of education for women—a topic she was invited to share with the UT women's basketball team less than a month before she passed.

A celebration of Betty's remarkable life will take place on January 31, 2019, from 1-3:00 p.m. at the Gary and Silvie Crum Touchdown Club in the North End Zone of Darrell K. Royal Texas Memorial Stadium.

In lieu of flowers, Betty would encourage **donations to AAUW** along with her other favorite charities.

Condolences also to **Nancy Andren** who reported that her dear husband of 46 years died on Wednesday, Nov. 21, after he had been suffering from cancer for almost 2 years.