

AAUW Austin, TX Branch  
 Sat., February 9th  
 10:00 AM

Norris Conference Center,  
 2525 W Anderson Ln #365

**EVITE sent already!**

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



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Calendar

Branch and Community BUZZzzz

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

### FOOD AND EDUCATION

Join us for a **delicious** panel discussion with Molly Costigan, Program Manager of The Happy Kitchen / La Cocina Alegre, and Casey Smith of Cooking Up Culture. Ms. Costigan has worked for the Sustainable Food Center for seven years and now manages their Happy Kitchen / La Cocina Alegre which promotes community health by bringing people together to learn to cook yummy nutritious meals. Ms. Smith has a culinary program with a STEM perspective at Westlake High School.

**THE MENU:** pasta bar with jumbo cheese ravioli and bow tie pastas with marinara and alfredo sauces, chicken and a caesar salad with garlic knots. An assortment of small sweet selections will be presented for dessert. Lunch is \$25.00, or just beverages with program is \$5.00.

**Casey Smith**, Founder and CEO of Cooking Up Cultures, began teaching ESL by cooking, which quickly evolved into 4 other language programs. Cooking Up Cultures spawned out of a very personal experience living abroad in Santiago, Chile in 2008, where she knew zero Spanish and quickly had to learn and adapt to feel like a local. In the years since, Casey has taken on roles in the community all with a singular purpose of supporting Austin as a welcoming city that provides opportunity for all residents.

Currently she is shepherding the Epicure Academy curriculum for 9th-12th graders in Austin. Through its language programs, students learn about unique cultures, why particular recipes are significant, and practice speaking in their target language. In addition to five language programs (delivered via contract online or in-person: English, Spanish, French, Arabic, and Mandarin Chinese), the Epicure Academy is provided for high school students to educate and engage them in the multiple pillars of the food ecosystem, the science behind cooking, and over a dozen world cultures.

**Molly Costigan** has been with Sustainable Food Center (SFC) for seven years, and currently serves as Program Director for The Happy Kitchen program. She has previously worked as an AmeriCorps VISTA community health organizer for SFC and as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Valencia, Spain. She holds a BA in Spanish from Elon University in North Carolina. Molly grew up on a farm in Kentucky and loves being part of an organization that connects local farmers with community members who want to access and prepare healthy, local food.

Sustainable Food Center is an Austin-based non-profit organization whose mission is to cultivate a healthy community by strengthening the local food system and improving access to nutritious, affordable food. The Happy Kitchen program brings people together to learn skills and self-sufficiency in preparing delicious, healthy, affordable meals, with an emphasis on choosing seasonal, local produce whenever possible.



If you don't get the Evite, RSVP by February 1<sup>st</sup> to [jeanbessent@gmail.com](mailto:jeanbessent@gmail.com) or (512)328-2709.

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

**FIRST FRIDAY BOOK REVIEW**

- Feb. 1** *Own Her Own Ground, the life and times of Madam C. J. Walker*  
 Author: A'Leilia Bundles  
 Hostess and Reviewer: Gayle Smith

**CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE**

- Feb. 4** *The Glass Universe*  
 7:15 PM Author: Dava Sobel  
 Reviewer: Marian Wernicke

- Feb. 9** **Branch Monthly Program – see page 1**

**NEW AAUW WINE TASTERS**

- Feb. 7** Italian wines with Austin Wine Merchant  
 7:00 PM Hostess: Kate DiPronio

**PEARS**

- Feb. 10** Suerte, Oaxacan, chef-driven, locally sourced food with a full bar  
 5:00 PM 1800 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Leaders: Diane & Charles Brewer

**SW BOOK GROUP** (at Barnes & Noble on Brodie)

- Feb. 11** *My Own Words*  
 10:30 AM Author: Ruth Bader Ginsburg with Mary Hartnett  
 Hostesses: Inés García & Cherie Wilson  
 Facilitator: Inés García

**CENTRAL BOOK GROUP**

- Feb. 11** *Bless Me, Ultima*  
 10:30 AM Author: Rudolfo Anaya  
 Hostess: Mary Humke  
 Facilitator: Ruth Rubio

**HIKING GROUP**

- Feb. 14** Couples Hike at Canyon of the Eagles  
 Leader: Carol Blanchard

**OUT TO LUNCH**

- Feb. 19** Andiamo Ristorante  
 11:15 AM 2521 Rutland Drive  
 Planner: Karen Werner

**CREATIVE STITCHERY**

- Feb. 20** Hostess: Kay Goodwin  
 10:00 AM Co-hostess: Elaine Penn

**CULTURE AND CUISINE**

- Feb. 21** Soul Food for Black History Month  
 6:30 PM Hostess: Marsha McDonough,  
 Co-Hostesses: Myrtle Bell, Roberta Coffin

**MYSTERY INTEREST GROUP**

- Feb. 26** Lord Peter Wimsey Series  
 11:00 AM Mimi's Café, at the Arbor Walk

**ART TOURS**

- Feb. 27** Tour the Home & Studio of Valerie Chaussonnet, sculptor, metal artist, blacksmith and painter  
 10:00 AM 2008 Arthur Lane, Austin  
<https://valeriechaussonnet.com/>  
 Lunch: TBD  
 Co-Planners: Sue Ellen Jeffers, Mary Kate Fredriksen, and Linda Quintanilla

**NOTE:** Contact, aka Chair, of each interest group can be found in branch yearbook.

**MORE THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH**

Through **February 7**, submit an electronic version of your card design to the **AAUW Art Contest** web page. Your entry can be photography, a digital photo of your painting, drawing, sculpture, or any other form of visual art. AAUW members can vote for their favorite images once a day from February 12-26. The winning entries as well as the artists' biographies will be featured on a collection of AAUW notecards that will be mailed to members this spring. For more information, to submit artwork, and to see last year's art gallery, visit the AAUW Art Contest web page at <https://www.aauw.org/contests/>

**Feb. 12** Raheel Razza: "Preventing Violent Extremism", Carver Branch Library - See flyer on p. 4.

**Feb. 15** AWFC Luncheon with KLRU's Judy Maggio, "The Changing Media Landscape and Issues Impacting our Community Today" - More info on p. 4

## Branch &amp; Community BUZZZZzzzzzz



**Lilac Bauer** has had a rough holiday season, since her husband Tom was in and out of the hospital and is now in rehab. Give her a hug when you see her!

Congratulations to **Dr. Linda A. Welsh**, who will receive the first Legacy award by Camp Fire Central Texas at their annual Promise to Children Luncheon on January 30.

In January, AAUW celebrated two major accomplishments. First, the historic number of women joining the 116th Congress, many of whom — along with their male colleagues — ran and won on issues central to the economic well-being of families. AAUW Public Policy staff has sent them **AAUW's federal legislative priorities** for the 116th Congress and will be working with them to advance these critical goals. We are educating new legislators on the importance of the **Paycheck Fairness Act**, and reminding everyone that Americans at the local, state, and federal level, regardless of party, are demanding economic security for women and families.

Second, on January 29, 2019, we commemorated the 10th anniversary of the enactment of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

## Did you know?



**Line dancing was started by women waiting to use the bathroom.**



## Message from our Co-President Joyce Pulich

If one of your new year's resolutions was to find an interesting volunteer opportunity, the Women's Storybook Project may be for you.

I have been working in prison ministry through our church for many years, but I find the secular Storybook Project most rewarding. My experience is that you often get more out of volunteering than you give.

The agency's mission is to connect children with their incarcerated moms through the joy of literature. Since 2003, WSP has added prisons and mothers to its program. In 2018, nine prisons and over 2,500 women participated.

The project builds relationships between mothers behind bars and their children on the outside. Offenders who have children under 12 years of age must have good behavior for 90 days to qualify for the program. Volunteers who visit prisons are female. The volunteers schedule group visits to partner prisons and drive together as teams.

Each project session begins with an opening circle where the volunteer leader lays out the day's schedule. Then inmates and volunteers introduce themselves and talk about why they want to participate in the program. The meetings end with each woman sharing something about her child. Following the meeting, volunteers record the mothers reading books to their children. The children receive a copy of the recording and a new book each month for 4 months during a cycle.

To work directly with incarcerated mothers as a Women's Storybook Project volunteer, you must be a female 18 years of age or older and pass a criminal background check conducted by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ).

To see whether the Storybook experience is a good fit, you may enter a unit a maximum of two times prior to receiving mandatory training conducted by TDCJ. The four-hour training sessions are conducted at approved TDCJ facilities (listed in your approval letter) and must be completed within six months from the date on the letter.

If visiting prisons doesn't appeal to you, there are other ways to get involved such as the very important work of formatting recordings, mailing book packages and sorting donated books. For more information on the program and how to become involved visit the website [www.storybookproject.org](http://www.storybookproject.org).

**MORE Branch & Community BUZZzzzzzz**



**STEM/STEAM NEWS per Lilac Bauer, [la\\_azucena@hotmail.com](mailto:la_azucena@hotmail.com):**

If you have children or grandchildren interested in Girlstart STEM activities online, give them this website: [www.deSTEMber.org](http://www.deSTEMber.org)

**March TBA. Ginny Tannebring** organizes volunteers to assist Girlstart with Data Entry from the girls' STEM interest and confidence surveys (necessary for support for Girlstart's grant applications).

**Nancy Andren** will organize volunteers to be Lunch Mentors at various Girlstart and Latinitas events. It requires signing up online at the organization as a volunteer, and Nancy will advise of times that we can be role models for an hour at lunch with the girls at one of their events

Girlstart ED **Dr. Tamara Hudgins** writes that if you (or your team) have an interest in connecting with their programs or volunteering at some point, they will be adding new ways of sharing volunteer opportunities in the new year, and new options for volunteering for Girlstart to keep you connected. For example, Guest Speakers and Lunchtime Mentors are welcome at Summer Camps (June, July, and the first week or two of August).

**FUND\$\$ opportunities per Debbie Starr, [dbbstrr@gmail.com](mailto:dbbstrr@gmail.com), 512-771-4497**

Total AAUW contributions for 2018 were ~ \$6500!

That means 13 possible honorees for "Named Gifts". Do you have nominations of members who should be recognized and so honored?

A WORD form is on the front page of our website (<https://austin-tx.aauw.net>) and can be mailed or emailed to Mary Ellen Scribner by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

Judy Maggio, KLRU's Editorial Director for News & Public Affairs, Lunch for \$25 pp, 11:30-1:00 at Austin Woman's Club – RSVP to Carol Blanchard

**Preventing Violent Extremism**

**A conversational workshop with Pakistani-Canadian journalist / activist / author**



*(Their Jihad..Not My Jihad)*  
**Raheel Raza**

<http://www.raheelraza.com/about.htm>

**February 12, 2019**

**10:30 A.M. - Noon**

**Carver Branch Library**

**1161 Angelina St.**

This event is free and open to anyone who is interested in issues related to human rights and media. It is hosted by the American Association of University Women (Austin Branch) and Global Austin.



**GLOBAL AUSTIN**

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