

AAUW Austin, TX Branch
Wed., March 13
10:00 AM

Chateau Bellevue,
708 San Antonio St.

EVITE coming!

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



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Branch & Community BUZZzzz

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Women in Action

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

IN CASE YOU MISSED:

1. More FOOD news to follow up after the interesting program at February meeting.

Casey Smith has shared her slides and here is a link for those who want to make kombucha:

<https://www.thekitchn.com/how-to-make-kombucha-tea-at-home-cooking-lessons-from-the-kitchn-173858>

Here's "imperfect" but healthy produce for sale, with expanded distribution areas in Austin.

<https://www.imperfectproduce.com/>

2. Wonderful conversation with Raheel Raza – thanks, **Mary Ellen Scribner** and GlobalAustin! Check out the **Clarion Project** to combat violent extremism:

<https://clarionproject.org/>

3. Judy Maggio spoke at AWFC about her successful 3-decade TV news career, which now entails a multi-platform reporting project for KLRU. Check out **DECIBEL**:

<http://www.decibelatx.org/>

OPERA-TUNE-ity to learn more about local music

Come meet Debra Carmack-Erck, who serves as the Director of Education for Austin Opera, overseeing all educational programming and strategies. Mrs. Erck's extensive experience teaching music to children of all ages spans 30 years in the public schools, 28 of those at Hill Elementary. During that time, she was named Hill Teacher of the Year twice, as well as semi-finalist for AISD Teacher of the Year. Her K-12 Certification in Music includes specialization in choral music, flute performance and voice instruction.

Mrs. Erck instituted numerous fine arts initiatives during her tenure in AISD, including the Create Opera program in partnership with Austin Opera. Mrs. Erck's other musical endeavors have included directing the Children's and Youth Music at University United Methodist Church for over 15 years, preparing the Children's Chorus for Austin Opera productions and directing the Elementary Honor Choir at the AISD Choral Festival. She currently participates in the music program at Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown Texas, and is now serving on the board of directors for the Austin Jazz Workshop. She also teaches musicianship classes at the Orpheus Music Academy and leads the Vintage Voices. She is an avid lover of Broadway musicals and opera. (Come celebrate music in ATX.)

Mrs. Erck believes that one of the best ways we prepare our children to make a difference in the world is to engage children in artistic endeavors, nurturing their musical skills and encouraging them to find their own unique voices.

MARCH CALENDAR



FIRST FRIDAY BOOK REVIEW

March 1 *One Damn Blunder from Beginning to End*
 Author: Gary Dillard Joiner
 Facilitator: Beverly Locklin
 Hostess: Evelyn Boyer

HIKING GROUP

March 2 Shirlene Justice Ranch
 10:00 AM Leader: Shirlene Justice

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

March 4 *News of the World*
 7:15 PM Author: Paulette Jiles
 Reviewer: Roberta Coffin



March 8 International Women's Day – see page 6

CENTRAL BOOK GROUP

March 11 *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*
 10:30 AM Author: David Grann
 Hostess: Mary Humke
 Facilitator: Eugenie Whalen

March 13 Branch Monthly Program – see page 1.
 (Lunch is \$25, or \$5 for just beverages with program)

NEW AAUW WINE TASTERS

March 14 Bordeaux
 7:00 PM Hostess: Dr. Mary Braunagel-Brown

SW BOOK GROUP

March 18 *A Piece of the World*
 10:30 AM Author: Christine Baker Kline
 Hostess & Facilitator:
 Dr. Mary Braunagel-Brown

OUT TO LUNCH

March 19 Las Palomas
 11:15 AM 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122
 Planner: Elaine Penn

CREATIVE STITCHERY

March 20 Hostess: Nancy Ellison
 10:00 AM Co-hostess: Mary Ann Leitz

CULTURE AND CUISINE

March 21 Rites of Spring
 6:30 PM Co-Hostesses: Pam Watson, Cindy Darilek

MYSTERY INTEREST GROUP

March 26 Texas author or setting
 11:00 AM Mimi's Café, at the Arbor Walk

ART TOURS

March 27 Contemporary Austin Laguna Gloria
 10:00 AM "A lovely sculpture garden in Spring"
 Lunch: Santa Rita Cantina, 1206 W. 38th St.
 Co-Planners: Ruth Rubio, Nettie Plueckhahn, Sally Scott

PEARS

March 30 Ballet Austin GRIMM TALES
 6:15 PM Long Center
 Leaders: Myrtle & Don Bell

NOTE: The contact, aka chair, of each interest group can be found in branch yearbook.

MORE THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH & next

See STEM dates on page 4.

March 6 UNA Austin dinner for International Women's Day, Austin Woman's Club
6:00 PM #BalanceforBetter
 Building a Gender Balanced World
 Register at <http://www.unaaustin.org/events/>

March 23 Georgetown AAUW 8th Annual Style Show Luncheon & Silent Purse Auction – see p. 4

April 2 Mainspring Schools "Learning Starts Here"
 11-1:00 Luncheon, The LINE Austin Hotel (\$75 tax deductible registration fee)
 RSVP at: <https://www.mainspringschools.org/learning-starts-here-luncheon/>

April 23 Legislative Day in Austin – SAVE THE DATE!

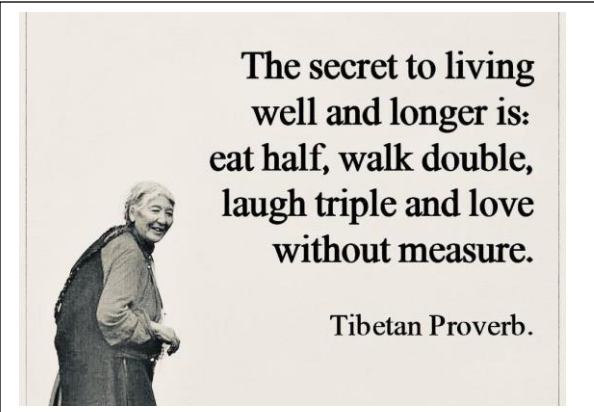
Branch & Community BUZZZZzzzzzz



Many of us do great volunteer work for various organizations that are local or even national. Last month our co-President **Joyce Pulich** shared her passion for the Women’s Storybook Project (a prison ministry). Can we save books?

Congratulations to new member **Rolinda Carrington**, who received an Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award from Therapy Pet Pals of Texas which provides visits that enhance the lives of the elderly and ill through pet therapy (therapypetpals.org).

And who saw **Carol Midboe** on evening news after she hosted a candle light prayer vigil in front of St. William Catholic church on the eve of the Texas Catholic Diocese release of names? Carol is an advocate for survivors of child sexual abuse and the Austin SNAP self-support group leader. Carol is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering, a US Army Operation Desert Shield veteran, a mother of three, an engineer and a survivor.



Georgetown AAUW’s 8th Annual Style Show Luncheon & Silent Purse Auction (for scholarships) will take place on Saturday, March 23rd, starting at 10:30 AM at the Berry Creek Country Club.

Order your tickets (\$35 each) from **Elaine Novak** at enovak12001@yahoo.com.

Bring items for the purses (e.g. scarves, jewelry) to the branch meeting, Monday, March 18th. OR contact **Brenda Scholin** at 512-731-6627 for your purse donations.

The nominating committee (**Anita Knight, Connie Munoz, Judy Reinhart, Marina Rivers, and Ruth Rubio**) presents the following slate for a vote at the April business meeting:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Co-President, 2019-21 | Larayne Dallas |
| Co-Membership VPs | Suellen Myers
Roberta Coffin |
| Treasurer | Jackie Hardee
(Assistant Nancy Andren) |

See the bios for these ladies below and continued on p. 5.

Larayne Dallas grew up on a farm near Tuscola, Illinois — about 20 miles south of Champaign-Urbana. From the University of Illinois (Urbana), she holds an A.B. and M.S. (Library Science). She joined AAUW in 1978 after moving to Jonesboro, Arkansas for her first “permanent” job. In the Jonesboro branch she served as treasurer in the days when one of the duties was to check that each potential new member graduated from a college which met AAUW’s requirements for support of women. For four years, while she worked at Rutgers University, she was an AAUW member-at-large. She regrets now that she did not join a local branch in New Jersey. In Austin, she has been a member of the branch since 1987. In her early days in Austin, she was more active in leadership and served as Program V.P. For a number of years since, she has been our branch Archivist. In her day job, she is a librarian at UT-Austin.

Suellen Finer Myers grew up in northwestern Illinois and graduated from Carthage College in Kenosha, WI (Speech/Theater/ English - 1972) and Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA (1993). She was ordained an ELCA Lutheran minister in 1994. In her 25 years of ordained ministry she has served two parishes as solo pastor, was Assistant to the Bishop, was an interim pastor to seven parishes, and served as Visitation Pastor at St. Martin’s in Austin until her recent retirement in January 2019. Suellen moved to Austin in July, 2016, where she re-joined AAUW (she was a member of the Torrance, CA branch in the 80’s). She enjoys reading, writing, lectures, sewing, walking, theater, movies, music, art, travel, chocolate and wine! She also is a struggling “minimalist!” She has two adult sons: Thomas, who is married to Alicia, and Robert. She is grandma to Sloane and Austin.

Women in Action

STEM/STEAM NEWS per **Lilac Bauer**, la_azucena@hotmail.com:

If you have children or grandchildren interested in Girlstart STEM activities online, give them this website: www.deSTEMber.org. Thanks to all our members for support of STEM!

March TBA: Ginny Tannebring will organize volunteers to assist Girlstart with data entry from the girls' STEM interest and confidence surveys (necessary for support for Girlstart's grant applications).

Friday, April 5th, 10am-12pm. **Jackie Hardee** will organize the goodybag stuffing at Girlstart.

Various times TBA: 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.

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

The hand-made, caramel-wrapped, dark chocolate drizzled pretzel rods with sprinkles on top sold well in February and netted a little over \$200.



In March there will be a raffle for 2 Austin Symphony tickets.

Come join this creative, worthwhile committee to help plan & raise FUNds.

Collin St. Bakery sales in 2019 provided a commission of \$152, thanks to about 12 of us. Did your order count? See list on right

The Bylaws Committee (**Pam Wolfe, Janie Maldonado and Carol Midboe**) recently reviewed the Austin Bylaws (2016) and determined a few updates are needed. (These proposed bylaws changes are attached to the email with this newsletter.)

The primary focus of the review was **Article X. Officers. Section 4.** Several years ago, our branch went from having one term to two terms. At the time we did not have "Co-Executive Officers." Times have changed and the schedule of when executive officers will be replaced is no longer valid. Now it is more important that we have staggered terms, so we do not have two new co-officers beginning their term at the same time. Further investigation of the bylaws found that we needed to align our bylaws to match those of AAUW and also to make adjustments as needed to better reflect the way we currently do AAUW Austin business.

If you have any questions, please contact Pam Wolfe at 512-388-5433 or piwolfe@yahoo.com. We will be voting on these amendments at the April branch program and business meeting, along with the slate on p. 3.

Thanks to the following members and friends who ordered from Collin St. Bakery and contributed to our sales commission for FUNDS. If you are not included here, please let Anita Knight know so you can be added as a customer on the branch account: **Myrtle Bell, Judith Bergum, Kay Binder, Larayne Dallas, Phyllis Folarin, Betty Grubbs** (thanks post-humously), **Anita Knight, Rosemary Morrow, Eileen Pectorius** (don't have to be a member to be on the account), **Judy Reinhart, Marina Rivers, and Mary Ellen Scribner.**

(FYI - The Collin Street Bakery is located in Corsicana, Texas, USA. Its products are shipped to all US states, overseas possessions and 195 countries. The Bakery was the recipient of the President's "E" Award for export trade.)

MORE Women in Action

Moving from Southern California to Austin in May of 2016, **Roberta Coffin** is currently completing her two-year term as Treasurer of the Austin Branch. She also assists with various STEM undertakings and is a member of several interest groups. A relative late-comer to AAUW, she joined the Tustin (CA) branch in 2011 and quickly became involved in Tech Trek, a math/science camp program for seventh grade girls. She went on to head up several committees and served on the Tustin (CA) branch board in various positions, including that of president. She also served for four years as a member of the AAUW California Branch Support team, working with the Orange County Inter-Branch Council and 12 local branches under that umbrella. In that capacity, she organized three region-wide Job-Alike Training Days, as well as served on the AAUW CA's marketing committee. A marketing communications consultant and digital marketing strategist, with a B.A. degree from U. of CA Irvine, Roberta was the owner/principal of an Orange County (CA) advertising/public relations agency for 25+ years. In both Southern California and in Austin, she has continued to be actively involved in several professional organizations and various non-profits.

Jackie Hardee is a native Texan who was born on the Texas coast, but moved to the Austin area in 1970. She attended high school in South Austin, then went to the University of Texas to earn her BS in Civil Engineering. She later took night classes at Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University) in San Marcos where she was awarded an MBA with honors. As an engineer, Jackie worked for 27 years with the Texas Department of Water Resources (now the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality), and was one of the first female employees who worked for this agency to receive a Professional Engineering license. Before retiring in 2010, she was Division Director for Waste Permits and managed the administration of programs associated with low level radioactive waste, municipal solid waste, and underground injection wells. As a volunteer, Jackie has mentored eighth graders in mathematics, planted trees in state parks, helped in political campaigns, and became a Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) in various Texas counties to help individuals get registered to vote. After joining AAUW in 2016, she got involved with the STEM committee, Creative Stitchery, and the Hiking Group. Eager to get involved, she offered to assist the finance officer of the Austin branch, Roberta Coffin, and worked with Linda Welsh, the Membership VP. In her spare time, Jackie enjoys quilting, geocaching, reading, kayaking, international travel, and playing Maj Jongg with friends. When the opportunity arises, she likes to combine some of these interests, like when she got to play Maj Jongg in Xian, China. Now that her husband of 35 years, Robert More, has retired, she's looking forward to visiting national parks in the US and hiking segments of the *Camino de Santiago* (also known as the Way of Saint James) in Spain.

Nancy Andren was born and raised in California. She has a BS in Mathematics from the University of Redlands in California and an MLIS from UT Austin. She worked as a software engineer at Rockwell International before having 2 sons. She lived in Austin from 1987-1995 where she went back to school to get the library degree. She worked as a reference librarian at the Texas State Library, ACC, MCLIS (a library cooperative in Los Angeles), and at community colleges in California. Retired to Big Bear Lake, in the mountains of Southern California before moving back to Austin in 2018. She has been a member of AAUW since 1975 in California and Texas. In California, she was the state project co-coordinator for Tech Trek Math & Science camps for girls from 2007-2012. She has been a dorm mom at Tech Trek camps for over 10 years and was a camp director for 3 years. Branches she has belonged to include: Placentia-Yorba Linda, Austin, Big Bear Valley and again Austin. She enjoys hiking, reading and doing Tai Chi.

In the 116th Congress, there are 126 women serving; 47 are women of color. Women now make up 23% of Congress, up from 20.6% in 2018. In the Senate there are 24 women serving. In the House, the freshman class of women is now 36, largest ever. A record 102 women won their races; the previous high was 85 in 2016. Iowa elected its first women reps; 4 states have never been represented by a woman: Alaska, Mississippi, N. Dakota and Vermont. Newly elected from Texas are Veronica Escobar, Lizzie Pannill Fletcher, and Sylvia Garcia. Nine women now serve as governors - first time in 3 states: Maine, S. Dakota and Iowa.

In Recognition of International Woman's Day

When God created **Woman**, He was working late on the 6th day.....An angel came by and asked, *"Why spend so much time on her?"*

The Lord answered, *"Have you seen all the specifications I have to meet to shape her?"*

- She must function on all kinds of situations.
- She must be able to embrace several kids at the same time.
- Have a hug that can heal anything from a bruised knee to a broken heart.
- She must do all this with only two hands.
- She cures herself when sick and can work 18 hours a day.

The angel was impressed. *"Just two hands.....impossible! And this is the standard model?"*
The angel came closer and touched the woman. *"But you have made her so soft, Lord."*

"She is soft," said the Lord,
"But I have made her strong. You can't imagine what she can endure and overcome."

"Can she think?" The angel asked...

The Lord answered. *"Not only can she think, she can reason and negotiate."*

The angel touched her cheeks....

"Lord, it seems this creation is leaking! You have put too many burdens on her."

"She is not leaking...It is a tear." The Lord corrected the angel. *"What's it for?"* asked the angel.

The Lord said. *"Tears are her way of expressing her grief, her doubts, her love, her loneliness, her suffering and her pride."*

This made a big impression on the angel, *"Lord, you are a genius. You thought of everything. A woman is indeed marvelous."*

Lord said *."Indeed she is."*

- She has strength that amazes a man.
- She can handle trouble and carry heavy burdens.
- She holds happiness, love and opinions.
- She smiles when she feels like screaming.
- She sings when she feels like crying, cries when happy and laughs when afraid.
- She fights for what she believes in.
- Her love is unconditional.
- Her heart is broken when a next-of-kin or a friend dies but she finds strength to get on with life.

The angel asked, *"So she is a perfect being?"*

The Lord replied, *"No. She has just one drawback. She often forgets what she is worth."*

