

**AAUW Austin, TX Branch**

Hope you received the EVITE for this month. IF NOT, contact Jean Bessent. RSVP due by March 8th.

Lunch is \$25 and coffee only \$5.

Please specify if you are staying for lunch and have any special dietary need. Guests are always welcome, but please include guest's name in reply.



Page 2  
Calendar

Page 3  
Women in Action

Page 4-5  
Branch BUZZzz

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



AAUW interest groups have more fun!



Hiking group out with food and stargazing at Enchanted Rock with Venus



PEARS group celebrating Valentine's Day with dinner & Dixie's special dessert



***“Evolution to Revolution”***

**Wednesday, March 11, 10:00 AM at Chateau Bellevue**

Join us for a fascinating talk by John McCready, President and Founder of Reclaim Trilogy, LLC, an organization dedicated to healthy food choices, preservation of the environment and a more compassionate world.



He is also a Founder of Austin's revolutionary community, *Casa de Luz*, a green paradise with community meeting spaces, and "Habitat Suites Hotel" an urban sanctuary on 3.5 acres, recently selected as one of the Top Ten "Earth Friendly Hotels" in the world.

McCready speaks about an overarching exploration of our shared awareness and agreement that we are One. We are interconnected and interdependent in the web of life. Despite this knowledge, we live our lives "disconnected" and in direct conflict with Nature's Order, Nature's Design and Nature's Intelligence. This disconnection is potentially leading to the extinction of the human race.

**PARKING:** free parking lot behind the building between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> on Nueces.

**MENU** – see next page



## MARCH CALENDAR

### CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE (usually 1<sup>st</sup> MONDAY)

**March 2** *The Clockmaker's Daughter: A Novel*

Author: Kate Morton

Leader: Ann Berasley

### HIKING

**March 5** St. Edwards Park

<https://trailroots.com/routes/st-edwards-park>

Leader: Cathy Werner

### FIRST FRIDAY BOOK GROUP

**March 6** *Trustee from the Toolroom*

Author: Nevil Shute

Leader: Beverly Locklin

Host: Evelyn Boyer

### SW BOOK GROUP

**March 9** *The Library Book*

Author: Susan Orlean

Hostess: Mary Braunagel-Brown

Facilitator: Mary Braunagel-Brown

### CENTRAL BOOK GROUP

**March 9** *The Alice Network*

Author: Kate Quinn

Facilitator: Ann Marie Ellis

### MARCH 11<sup>th</sup> PROGRAM – MENU:

*First course: Carrot ginger soup with chives (GF)*

*Entrée: Seared red fish with tomato ginger sauce, served with brown rice tabbouleh and seasonal vegetables (GF)*

*Dessert: Old-fashioned cherry pie, vanilla whipped cream*

### PEARS

**March 14** Happy Hour & Dinner, Jack Allen's 360

Hosts: Betty (Schmidt) & Bob Damron

### OUT TO LUNCH (3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAY, 11:15 AM)

**March 17** Cafe Blue at Hill Country Galleria

12800 Hill Country Blvd, Ste G-115, Bee Cave

Host: Elaine Penn

### CREATIVE STITCHERY

**March 18**

Host: Jackie Hardee

Co-host: Elaine Penn

### CULTURE & CUISINE

**March 19** Spain

Hostesses: Roberta Coffin

### WINE TASTERS

**March 21** Hill Country Wineries

Hostesses: Judy Reinhart & Roberta Coffin

### MYSTERY GROUP (4<sup>th</sup> TUESDAY)

**March 24** New Author to You

BJ Brewhouse, The Shops at Arbor Walk

### ART TOURS (4<sup>TH</sup> OR 5<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY)

**March 25** Dr. Jes and Cis Dickson's home & studio, 303 Golf Crest Lane, Lakeway, TX 78734

Lunch: The Grove Wine Bar & Kitchen, 3001 Ranch Rd. 620 S., Austin, TX 78738 (in Lakeway)

Planner: Margaret ("Maggie") Kadlecek

### HIKING

**March 28** Bellterra Monarch Trail

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/texas/bellterra-monarch-trail-live-oak-loop-andwhitetail-run>

Co-leaders: Ginny Tannebring and Brenda Hahne

*For more information on venues, etc., contact the Interest Group chairs per the branch yearbook.*

## OTHER EVENTS

**March 4** International Woman's Day Celebration  
In partnership with Whole Planet Foundation –  
AAUW members invited as partners for \$40 pp.  
6-9:00 pm – dinner & program at Chateau Bellevue  
See panel info: <http://www.unaaustin.org/march-4th-international-womens-day-celebration/>

**March 5** 6:30 PM - Briscoe Center will open its new exhibit, "On with the Fight!" – see page 4

**April 17-19 Texas AAUW 2020 Convening**  
**A CENTENNIAL OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE**  
Deadline for reservations: March 27, 2020  
See page 5.

## Women in Action



**STEM** Science, Technology,  
Engineering, Mathematics

**STEM NEWS** per **Nancy Andren**, [texasnancy@austin.rr.com](mailto:texasnancy@austin.rr.com)

I hope all of you saw the Super Bowl commercial from Olay with the theme of "Make Space for Women". The star was a former engineer and NASA astronaut, Nicole Stott. She is hoping to get more girls into computer, mathematical, architecture and engineering fields.

Four of our members donated a total of 16 hours to Girlstart on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Bullock Museum. We had fun helping the participants, who ranged in age from about 3 to 12, make mini core samplers to show them how petroleum engineers sample the soil before drilling. If you would like to join in the fun, see below:

1. Monthly evening volunteer nights to help with various projects at Girlstart Headquarters (1400 Anderson Ln., Austin, 78757) from 6 to 8 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. The dates for the first 5 months of the year are: March 17<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>. **RSVP on their website:** [girlstart.org](http://girlstart.org).
2. **Ginny Tannebring** is heading up a group of our members to do data entry for Girlstart. Contact her if you are interested in doing this vital service. [Ginnytann7@gmail.com](mailto:Ginnytann7@gmail.com)

Volunteering at Latinitas:

1. Media Chica on March 6-18 will need volunteer Field Trip leaders.
2. Future Chica is on May 2. This is a one-day conference held at Oracle Riverside Campus. We provide snacks for this event and volunteers. There will be 9 stations that the girls rotate between to learn about new technology.
3. April 25<sup>th</sup> - Latinitas Purple Gala. This is a fund-raising event and will include dinner. Volunteer at the event, beforehand or attend, or all three.

**###**

**FUND\$\$** - **Jan Rooker**, FUNDS Chair, 203-613-8060

Over \$6600 was the 2019 total for contributions to National AAUW, thanks to fund-raising events like gift-wrapping, the Collin St. Bakery commission, Valentine pretzel donations, holiday ornaments from 10,000 Villages, successful raffles and the October wine tasting event. Also thanks to one very generous individual who donated \$1000. This total makes us the 3rd highest branch in Texas in fund-raising for 2019.

The funds committee is off to a great start again for 2020 by hosting a fun chili tasting party and offering Valentine pretzels. A big shout out goes to **Debbie Starr** who both hosted the chili party in her lovely home and organized the pretzel-making.

The funds committee is now planning a visit soon to Kendra Scott's Jewelry Store to buy Mother's Day gifts, daughter and niece gifts, aunt and grandmother gifts, and, possibly personal gifts. Kendra will be giving us 15% of all purchases, as well as supplying sips and sweets for the occasion. We do not yet have a date, but we will let you know when we do, and we hope you all will come. The more folks who buy things and come out, the more fun we will have and the more money AAUW will be able to donate to National to support women's education, women's employment equality and women's rights in general. So bring all your friends to have some treats and do some shopping.

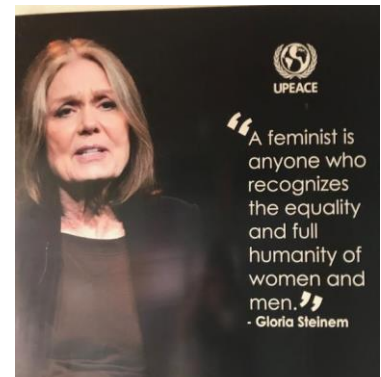
**Branch BUZZzzzzz**

**CO-PRESIDENTS’ MESSAGE - Joyce Pulich and Larayne Dallas**

Women join the Austin Branch of the American Association of University Women for different reasons. Some join because of our outstanding branch meeting programs. Someone I recently recruited joined because of interest in a book group and the hiking group. I originally joined so I could play bridge again. The interest groups are definitely a draw. Some women join because of their passion for our issues like equal pay, Title IX, and general gender equality. For the organization to remain viable and to continue to support these activities and causes, we need to staff leadership positions.

During the past few years, it has been increasingly difficult for the nominating committee to locate members to fill elected leadership positions. As co-presidents, we have the same problem in filling appointed positions like newsletter editor and public policy chair. Thankfully right before the newsletter was published, four members have agreed to serve in the elected positions:

- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Co-president:                     | <b>Evelyn Farmer, Ph.D.</b>   |
| Vice-president for programs:      | <b>Phyllis Folarin, Ph.D.</b> |
| Co-vice president for membership: | <b>Gayle Kanies</b>           |
| Secretary:                        | <b>Marian Wernicke</b>        |



Many thanks to these women who are willing to serve the organization. Thanks to the nominating committee members: **Elaine Penn, Judy Reinhart, Marina Rivers, Ruth Rubio, and Connie Munoz**, especially **Elaine Penn and Judy Reinhart** who made lots of phone calls and contacts.



On **March 5** at 6:30 p.m., the Briscoe Center will open its new exhibit, *“On with the Fight!”* with a reception and program featuring activist Alice Embree. *“On with the Fight!”* documents over 150 years of women’s activism since the Civil War and is drawn from the center’s extensive social justice and women’s history collections. Together these collections help illustrate the achievements, contradictions, and complexities of women’s activism in Texas and across America since the 1860s. Space is limited. RSVP at: [briscoecenterevents@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:briscoecenterevents@austin.utexas.edu)

**In Memory of Iilene Marie Payton, 1933-2020**

Long time AAUW member and branch member **Iilene Payton** died in February. She had moved to Sugar Land to be near family but maintained her Austin Branch membership. In earlier years, she helped with fund-raisers and was an active member of the AAUW community. She is especially remembered as a member of Pears and of the Art Tours Group.

Iilene was a 1955 graduate of the University of Nebraska with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education and joined AAUW in 1973. Her daughter Karen shared some interesting perspectives on Iilene’s life as follows on next page.



lilene Marie was born in the Sand Hills of Nebraska on October 23, 1933. lilene’s growing up years, based on an abundance of passed-down memories, read like a classic Midwestern story. Patchwork quilts, canning vegetables, baking, sewing, crocheting and embroidery – all of these were part of her world. Her English and Scandinavian backgrounds encouraged a strong work ethic, early rising, self-sufficiency and simplicity. Her mother Iris and well-loved Aunt Avis grew up as the daughters of college-educated parents. As a matter-of-fact, her grandmother Cookie attended college before 1900 – putting her in the .001 % of educated female Americans at the turn of that century.

Her family made frequent trips to the Mayo clinic for treatments of her younger brother’s neck tumor, so his health and the uncertain economic climate following the Great Depression cast a shadow on her young life, causing her to accept more responsibility and grow up more quickly. She was a stellar student and read voraciously, including the newspaper. She attended the University of Nebraska where she earned a degree in Education and a minor in Art. She intended to major in art, but as a landscape painter and an outstanding charcoal artist, she found herself frustrated with the abstract and modern art movement so popular in the early 1950s. Her early teaching career in Lincoln Nebraska, allowed her – a brand new art teacher – to have a new art studio and state of the art equipment that she would reminisce about the remainder of her life.

She met her husband Ed at a Christmas party, and married him on August 15, 1959. The two would share nearly 60 years as a married couple – Ed died in May 2018, just a couple of months before their cardinal anniversary. All four of their daughters were born in Borger Texas, where Ed worked as an engineer at the Phillips’ plant. After the family was uprooted to Bartlesville, OK, where the family lived until Ed’s retirement, lilene established herself – as she did in Borger – in church groups, as a leader in the local AAUW, and in more carpools than most people can imagine.

After lilene and Ed moved to Austin, Texas in retirement – she had a chance to do more activities of her own interest: she joined art groups, book clubs, dinner clubs, and she attended church circles and participated in AAUW. Her final move to Sugar Land, facilitated by her youngest daughter Karen, allowed her to enjoy her old age in a way that she had not been able to before.



Donations in her memory will be appreciated to St. Jude’s or National AAUW.

*One voice can make a difference.  
Many can do even more.*

**Come be inspired by our sister suffragists and learn how through the power of AAUW and our branches we can drive forward meaningful change for all women and girls.**

The Austin and Georgetown branches are delighted to welcome you to central Texas for our 49<sup>th</sup> Convening on **April 17th and 18th** – this year celebrating 100 years of Suffrage. With the 2020 vote rapidly approaching and the many challenges facing our communities, states, the nation, and the world, it is even more vital that AAUW members speak and act with passion, power, and persistence. The 2020 Texas AAUW Convening promises to educate and inspire you and your branch members. Registration forms will be available at the March general meeting or you can register and pay online at the state website: <https://aauw-tx.aauw.net/>.

**FYI** - Educational achievement, not race, is the primary factor in predicting longevity, according to a new study co-led by the Yale School of Medicine.

Life expectancy in the United States has been in decline for the first time in decades, and public health officials have identified a litany of potential causes, including inaccessible health care, rising drug addiction and rates of mental health disorders, and socio-economic factors.

Now, a multi-institution study led by the Yale School of Medicine and University of Alabama-Birmingham has attempted to tease out the relative impact of two variables most often linked to life expectancy — race and education — by combing through data about 5,114 black and white individuals in four U.S. cities.

The lives and deaths among this group of people — who were recruited for a longevity study approximately 30 years ago, shows that the level of education, and not race, is the best predictor of who will live the longest.